

64 IN HOUSE SEEK CURB IN CAMBODIA

Democrats Offer Bill to Bar
Funds for Air-Sea Support
—Senate Protests Grow

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 21—Legislation to ban the use of funds to "provide United States air or sea combat support for any military operations in Cambodia" was introduced in the House by 64 Democratic Representatives today as a concern mounted in the new Congress over further American involvement in the Indochina war.

Earlier, Senators Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, demanded that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee promptly hold hearings to determine whether the Nixon Administration had violated last year's legislative restrictions on direct use of American forces in Cambodia by ferrying South Vietnamese troops into battle in helicopters and otherwise supporting them and the Cambodians by air.

Senate Majority Leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, urged "even greater vigilance" by Congress regarding United States activities in Southeast Asia. He warned a Democratic caucus, "We meet at a time when the sounds of war in Indochina again grow ominous."

A new element in the contro-

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versy over Indochina was raised by Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, who contended in a letter to President Nixon that the United States had airlifted more than 1,000 Thai troops to southern Laos.

The State Department refused to comment on Senator Mondale's contention, but Senior Administration officials privately conceded that it was essentially accurate.

The protesting Senators and Representatives took issue with a statement yesterday by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird that the expanded use of United States air power in Cambodia was authorized by existing legislation and that it was "crucial to the success" of the policy for withdrawing American forces from South Vietnam.

Senators Church and Cooper, who co-sponsored last year's legislation banning the employment of funds for American ground forces or advisers in Cambodia, said that recent administration actions had violated the ban at least "in spirit."

The proposed legislation introduced today to ban the use of American air and sea power in the Cambodian conflict is designed as an extension of the original Church-Cooper amendment on ground forces.

It was based on the reports that aircraft and helicopters from navy carriers stationed off the Cambodian coast had been used for the strikes in Cambodia.

Bingham Introduces Bill

Introducing the legislation as the 92d Congress convened, Representative Jonathan B. Bingham, Democrat of the Bronx and a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, "The air war now being carried on by the United States in Cambodia clearly violates the intent of the Congress in adopting the substance of the Cooper-Church amendment."

Also in the House of Representatives, a group of 13 Democratic Congressmen led by Representative William F. Ryan of Manhattan presented a resolution calling for the "immediate halt of all offensive actions by the United States in Southeast Asia" and demanding the withdrawal of all American troops by next June.

The proposed hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee demanded by Senator Church and Cooper were not

likely to open before next week at the earliest, pending the body's organization for the new Congressional session.

Senator Mondale, in his letter to Mr. Nixon, said the reported United States role in supporting Thai units in Laos after airlifting them there raised the threat of "growing American embroilment" in Indochina, jeopardizing hopes for further withdrawals of United States troops from Vietnam.

End New Lead PU 10th graf of The Mondale letter followed reports from senior Administration officials that North Vietnam had infiltrated at least 20,000 troops into southern Laos over the mountain trails since last September.

Objectives of Infiltration

These officials said that the deployment in southern Laos represented the bulk of Communist infiltration in Indochina in the last three months.

They said this move was probably intended both to protect the infiltration trails from the north, which lead into Cambodia and South Vietnam, and to protect Communist sanctuaries in Laos from any allied incursions similar to those into Cambodia last spring.

Because the Administration did not categorically deny Senator Mondale's contention, the belief in informed quarters here was that the United States may indeed have dispatched Thai troops to Laos to support the American-directed Laotian army against the Communist reinforcements.

Lowenstein Urges Total Pullout

Allard K. Lowenstein, former Democratic Representative from Nassau County, said here yesterday after a tour of Indochina that total United States withdrawal of armed forces was the only road to peace there.

Mr. Lowenstein said at a new conference at the Overseas Press Club that if the United States continued to escalate its air strikes in North Vietnam and other parts of the region, "we will tie all of Indochina into one war."

Mr. Lowenstein, who was defeated for re-election last November after one term in the House, began his visit to South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia Dec. 25 and returned last Saturday.

He said peace could be achieved without defeat by the withdrawal of all United States forces from Indochina, withdrawal of all non-Cambodians from Cambodia and unconditional release of all Americans held prisoner in the area. He said the Vietnamese could then settle their own political problems.