

Senate Panel Calls Rogers on Cambodia

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 —

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee decided today to investigate whether the Administration was complying with Congressional restrictions in expanding the American military role in Cambodia.

Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, the committee chairman, announced after the committee's first meeting of the new session that Secretary of State William P. Rogers had been asked to testify in closed session next Thursday. The session may lead later to public hearings with Secretary Rogers and Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, the Senator said.

The hearings were requested

by Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, co-authors of an amendment to a foreign aid bill last year prohibiting the President from sending ground combat troops or military advisers to Cambodia.

With the recent expansion of air activity, the question has been raised whether the Administration was violating the spirit and intent of the amendment.

The Administration contends that the use of planes and helicopters over Cambodia does not violate the amendment, which was revised to drop a prohibition against the use of air power in support of Cambodian forces.

Senator Church told reporters that the committee had been misled by Administration officials who testified in December that air power in Cambodia was limited to the interdiction of Communist supply lines. It was on the basis of that testimony, he contended, that the prohibition on the use of air power was dropped from the amendment.

Senator Church observed that Congress "clearly intended that American involvement in Cambodia should not be greatly expanded."

The same point was made by Senator Fulbright, who said that "the spirit of the amendment is quite inconsistent with our greatly enlarged role in Cambodia."

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