

# U.S. WILL OVERSEE CAMBODIANS' USE OF ARMS SUPPLIES

Delivery Teams Will Tour  
Countryside to Assure  
Proper Deployment

## ADVISORY ROLE BARRED

But Pentagon Says Aides  
Might Show Allies How  
Equipment Works  
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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Jan. 25 — American officials have developed a program for a "military equipment delivery team" that would send United States military representatives through the Cambodian countryside to check on deployment of American military equipment.

Qualified American officials who disclosed the plans said the Americans "would not fall into an advisory role."

[In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said, however, that those military men working out of the American Embassy in Pnompenh who turn over military aid equipment to the Cambodians might from time to time show them how it works.]

Officials said the program was still being discussed between United States authorities in Washington, Saigon and Pnompenh, but it was understood that plans were well advanced and awaiting final American approval and agreement of the Cambodians, who have not yet been informed of the program.

## 16-Man Force

It was described as an effort by the United States to make "end checks" of the nearly \$200-million allocated since last spring to the Cambodian military effort to defeat the Vietcong and North Vietnamese invaders.

As authoritatively described here, the program would involve at the start about 16 American military men under the jurisdiction of the United States Ambassador, who would check on how effectively American military aid was being used by the Cambodians.

The Americans would have no authority to advise the

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Cambodians on how to use that equipment more effectively, the sources said. They asserted the program would not conflict with the Congressional prohibition against United States ground combat forces or advisers in Cambodia that was adopted last month in a \$1-billion supplemental military aid bill.

In fact, the sources asserted Congress would probably welcome the program as a check on the deployment of United States military aid in Cambodia. At present, they said, the United States has no way of ascertaining what happens to the American military equipment granted the Cambodians.

"We only know what the Cambodians tell us," one high official said. The program would be centered in Saigon, seat of the United States military command for Vietnam as well as Cambodia and Laos. The program would use the accounting facilities of the command in Saigon while operating

under the Ambassador, Emory C. Swank, in Pnompenh through the office of his military-political counselor, Jonathan F. Ladd.\*

## Rapid Increase in Program

The program was made necessary, officials said, by the rapid increase of the United States military assistance program for Cambodia.

When started last spring, shortly after the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk by Premier Lon Nol, the United States military aid program totaled less than \$9-million. It soon increased by \$40-million, then by \$50-million, and finally by \$100-million.

Officials said there now was no accurate way of determining how the military equipment bought with that money was being used by the Cambodians.

In anticipation of the program's start, the embassy's military political office under Mr. Ladd, former commander of special forces in Vietnam, has recently been increased from three to nine with prospects of adding seven more.

Those Americans, described as military men by qualified sources, would travel around the country wherever United States equipment was being sent to make sure the equipment reached the proper hands.

## Drawing a Fine Line

They would not be authorized to advise the Cambodians how to use the equipment, the sources said. However, they conceded there was a fine line between overseeing the use of the equipment in the field and suggesting how it might be better employed.

The 300-man program, the sources said, was "nothing" compared with the United States military advisory assistance program installed here since 1963. The sources said the date for the start of the program would probably be decided upon in the next few weeks.

Cambodian officials have for some time asked the American Embassy for an advisory program but they said they were always rebuffed by the Americans.

Meanwhile, it was learned

today that the United States had already flown in two helicopters to replace two of the four destroyed in the Friday raid on the Pnompenh airport. Another two helicopters will be flown in soon, authoritative sources reported.

In addition, the sources said, the United States will replace most of the 15 aircraft destroyed in the attack. However, the replacements will come out of the \$185-million military aid budget for Cambodia this fiscal year and thus the Cambodians will have less funds for other military purchases.