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## U.S. Teams Out of Uniform To Check Aid in Cambodia

By ALVIN SHUSTER

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Jan. 28—The United States military teams that are to move through Cambodia to check on the use of American military aid are to travel in civilian clothes with instructions to remain out of combat areas, official sources said today.

But the sources could not rule out the possibility that these military equipment delivery teams would provide some advice to Cambodian soldiers. They stressed, however, that the men would be unarmed and would be directed to "avoid slipping into an advisory role."

Given the nature of the war here, the sources said it was possible that the members of the teams would find themselves in battle. They added, however, that the purpose of civilian clothes would be to show that they were not in a combat advisory role. Congress last year prohibited the use of funds to introduce American combat troops or advisers into Cambodia.

### Civilian Clothes Worn

Nineteen Americans soldiers wore civilian clothes when they arrived here earlier in the week to pick up two helicopters damaged in the Communist attack on Pnompenh's airport last Friday. The sources said there was no reason for them to wear uniforms because it has long been policy here for all visiting military personnel to dress in civilian clothes to avoid dramatizing American involvement.

The sources said that 16 members of the military equipment teams were to operate out of Pnompenh and 44 other team members would work out of Saigon. The 16 in Pnompenh would be in addition to the 34 servicemen now assigned here to the military attaché's office, which gather intelligence and observes Cambodian operations.

The type of advice team members might give would pre-

sumably involve the most efficient use of the equipment arriving here under this year's \$185-million military aid program. Officials insisted that the team members would not remain in the field with Cambodian troops but would return in a day or two.

In short, the team members were described as neither instructors, advisers or trainers, but as military men who would draw up plans for delivery of the equipment, check on its final destination and report on its use. The sources said Congress wanted such checks.

### Ambassador's Approval Required

Officials said the teams would be ultimately responsible to the headquarters of the United States Pacific Commander in Honolulu, but they added that each trip by a Saigon team member into Cambodia would need the express approval of Ambassador Emory C. Swank.

Aware of the political storm in Washington over the possibility that the team members would develop into advisers in violation of Congressional prohibitions, officials said that every precaution would be taken to remain within the law.

Ambassador Swank, however, would have little control, if any, over what the United States military command in Saigon deemed necessary in the way of air support and logistical help for Cambodians or South Vietnamese troops in battle in Cambodia. Those high level military decisions would continue to be made in Saigon.

### Embassy Is Expanding

Officials also disclosed the extent of the expansion of the American embassy here. The embassy, staffed by 11 persons when Prince Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown last March, is to increase to nearly 100, they said. Six more military-team members are due to join the 10 now here under Jonathan Ladd, the political-military counselor.

An economic counselor, Miles Wedeman, is to arrive here Tuesday to head a new group of six or seven aides, including representatives of the Agency for International Development. A \$70-million economic aid program, including food, drugs and wheat flour is to get under way in the spring.

Moreover, the embassy is to obtain the use of a helicopter from Vietnam whenever needed to fly personnel around the country. Its "U.S. Army" markings are to be replaced with the designation "United States of America." The helicopter, it is said, will be in addition to the plane requested by the military attaché's office to replace one destroyed in the airport attack.

## U.S. Role in Route 4 Drive

By IVER PETERSON

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnamese, Jan. 28 — The United States command made public today a general summary of American involvement in last week's joint Cambodian-South Vietnamese operation to clear Route 4 south of Phnompenh provide a specific count of American bombing strikes or other air missions.

The command reported that since the first supply and communications support mission was flown from the deck of the helicopter carrier Cleveland on Jan. 13, United States Army flew "less than 25 sorties a day" until American involvement in the operation ended last Monday. A sortie is one flight by one aircraft.

In addition to the United States Army aircraft, the command said, United States Air Force planes—including B-52 bombers—flew "less than 15 sorties a day."

See NYTimes, 27 Jan 71,  
Hedrick Smith,  
paragraphs 1 and 4.