

SENATE UNIT BACKS AID FOR CAMBODIA, BUT BARS TROOPS

Foreign Relations Committee
Also Asserts That Funds
Are Not a Commitment

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 —

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today approved the Administration's \$255-million program of military aid for Cambodia but with a restriction prohibiting the President from sending American ground troops or advisers to Cambodia.

The committee also stipulated that the aid should not be interpreted as a commitment by the United States to defend the Cambodian Government.

These restrictions, which apparently are acceptable to the executive branch, were incorporated by the committee in an amendment attached to a bill passed by the House, authorizing \$535-million in supplementary military and economic aid for several countries in Asia and the Middle East.

Restoration of Funds Sought

The most controversial item in the Administration's package is a request for \$85-million in military aid and \$70-million in economic aid for Cambodia, plus restoration of \$100-million for military aid funds previously transferred to the Government of Premier Lon Nol.

The authorization measure for foreign aid is scheduled to be considered by the Senate tomorrow. With the Administration apparently prepared to accept the Foreign Relations Committee's restrictive amendment, the bill is expected to be approved quickly by the Senate and then accepted in a Senate-House conference committee.

Another foreign aid measure, this one an appropriations bill, was approved by the Senate today. The \$2-billion supplemental appropriations bill contained \$1.03-billion in aid funds requested by the Administration, including \$500-million for military credit sales to Israel. The Israeli funds have already been authorized by Congress, but the appropriations bill specified that the other funds cannot be spent until they have been authorized in separate legislation.

The committee amendment, adopted by a unanimous voice vote, was offered by Senator John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and co-sponsored by Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, Senator George D. Aiken, Republican of Vermont, Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, and Sena-

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tor Mike Mansfield, Democrat of Montana and the majority leader.

In its essential features, the amendment corresponds to the Cooper-Church Amendment on Cambodia, which was resisted by the Administration when the Senate attached it last summer to a bill on foreign military sales. Because of Administration opposition to the amendment, the military sales bill has since become deadlocked in a Senate-House conference committee.

But this time the Administration is apparently prepared to accept a modified version of the Cooper-Church Amendment as the price it must pay for getting the foreign aid authorization legislation through Congress.

Senator Cooper said that he had advised "high sources" in the Administration that the restrictive amendment would be offered and that "thus far, there have been no objections."

Another indication of the Administration's willingness to accept the amendment—while not openly endorsing it—was a telephone call Saturday from Secretary of State William P. Rogers to Senator Javits. In that call, according to Senate sources, Mr. Rogers in effect accepted restrictive language and in turn asked Senator Javits's help in getting the legislation out of the Foreign Relations Committee.

In part, Mr. Rogers's attitude seemed to be influenced by a

debate going on in the Administration over whether to bypass the Foreign Relations Committee on future legislation on military aid. Mr. Rogers was said to have told Senator Javits that the State Department, in its argument with the Defense Department, wanted to work through the Foreign Relations Committee and that its case would be greatly strengthened if the committee would send to the Senate the emergency foreign aid legislation requested by President Nixon in mid-November.

The amendment approved today does not, in effect, place any Congressional restrictions on the Administration, which has emphasized that the aid program did not represent a defense commitment to the Cambodian Government and that there were no plans to send advisers or combat troops to Cambodia.

Thus the Administration was in a position where it could accept the amendment and the Cooper-Church forces could say that they had established the principle that the President

should not commit the nation to a war in Cambodia without the consent of Congress.

Two provisions opposed by the Administration were eliminated from the original Cooper-Church Amendment. One would have prohibited the United States from contracting with third countries—such as Thailand or South Vietnam—to provide military advisers or troops to Cambodia; the other would have prohibited the United States from providing combat air support for Cambodian troops.