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Ford Said to Seek Way to Increase Aid to S. Vietnam

President Ford and his senior advisers are giving "intensive consideration" to how they might persuade the new Congress to increase U.S. aid to the South Vietnamese government, a State Department spokesman said yesterday.

That was the first official acknowledgment that the Ford administration is pondering the strategy of making what the spokesman described as a request for "a supplemental" aid appropriation for South Vietnam.

Spokesman Robert Anderson said he was unable to amplify at this time whether the administration will seek new military or economic aid funds or both.

Other sources have acknowledged that administration planners are contemplating supplementary aid requests for both South Vietnam and Cambodia. U.S. officials say that Cambodia can run out of daily military supplies, especially ammunition, this spring, unless it receives new American aid.

The fall of the South Viet-

namese provincial capital of Phuocbinh to Communist forces earlier this week is expected to be cited by the administration as added reason for supplying greater amounts of U.S. aid to the Saigon government.

On aid to both South Vietnam and Cambodia, the administration admits that it faces a difficult fight in the incoming Congress. The strategy for handling an increasingly rebellious Congress is now pre-occupying the administration.

For the current fiscal year, the administration requested \$1.4 billion in military aid to South Vietnam. Congress authorized \$1 billion, then cut the appropriation to \$700 million. The administration is likely to try to get that \$300 million difference restored.

Military aid for Cambodia similarly was approximately cut in half, compared with authorizations for the previous year. A \$200 million ceiling was put on U.S. aid to Cambodia, plus another \$75 million worth of military equipment that can be drawn from existing stocks of the Defense Department.