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Firm Explains Flights
For U.S. in Cambodia

OAKLAND, Calif., Jan. 17
— Crews flying unmarked American planes over Cambodia for the United States Air Force perform only freight chores and airdrops and "they don't even carry a .45 pistol," says the man who hires them.

"And we don't have anything to do with the C.I.A.," Willis H. Bird added. "I don't know anybody in the C.I.A."

Mr. Bird, president of the Oakland-based Bird and Sons, Inc., said in an interview yesterday that his contract with the Air Force requires him to "furnish crews for unmarked C-130's, based in Thailand, that fly over Cambodia." The contract began four months ago.

Mr. Bird, who lives with his wife in Bangkok, said that his company employs 72 pilots, navigators and other crew members in Asia who fly helicopters and four-engine DC-6 cargo airplanes.

He said his \$1.4-million contract with the Air Force stemmed from a law that the United States limit its military personnel in Cambodia to 200.