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## NEW CAMBODIA AID IS ASKED BY FORD

President Formally Urges  
Congress to Allot Funds for  
Vietnam and Cambodia

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 28—Despite new warnings of strong Congressional opposition, President Ford formally asked Congress today to appropriate \$300-million in additional military aid for South Vietnam and \$222-million more for Cambodia.

"With adequate United States material assistance, they can hold their own," Mr. Ford said of South Vietnam and Cambodia in a special message to Congress seeking the additional funds. "We cannot turn our backs on these embattled countries."

The request for additional aid in this fiscal year, which had been expected, was sent to Congress shortly after leaders of both houses told the President at a bipartisan meeting at the White House that it would be "extremely difficult, if not impossible" to get the votes to approve the President's request.

The assessment of the Congressional leaders' views was relayed by Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the Senate Democratic whip, who said that Mr. Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger had described the requested aid as "imperative."

Mr. Byrd said the Congressional leaders had been told that if additional ammunition and other aid were not provided to Saigon, "The North Vietnamese will take over little by little."

### Cut by Congress Noted

The request for additional aid came just over two years after the Paris cease-fire accords, but Mr. Kissinger said at a news conference later today that he hoped the request would not rekindle the entire debate on Vietnam, because, he said, "that is emphatically not involved."

fiscal year, which ends June 30 but that Congress had cut the authorization to \$1-billion and had actually appropriated only \$700-million. He said the Administration was asking Congress to appropriate the \$300-million to bring aid up to the authorized \$1-billion level because of "stepped-up military operations" in Vietnam.

Congress also had imposed a \$200-million ceiling on military aid to Cambodia.

In his message to Congress, Mr. Ford said that North Vietnam had violated "most of the major provisions" of the Paris agreements, had built up its army in South Vietnam to a strength "greater than ever," with close to 289,000 troops, and had sent in tanks, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft weapons "by the hundreds."

"Recent events have made it clear that North Vietnam is again trying to impose a solution by force," Mr. Ford said. "Our intelligence indicates, moreover, that their campaign will intensify further in coming months."

### 'Serious Reversals' Feared

He said the \$300-million additional "does not meet all the needs of the South Vietnamese Army" and would not allow "for replacement of equipment lost in combat."

However, he said, it is the "minimum needed to prevent serious reversals by providing the South Vietnamese with the urgent supplies required for their self-defense against the current level of North Vietnamese attacks."

Turning to Cambodia, Mr. Ford said that a refusal to provide aid would "undermine the chances for peace and stability in the area."

"The Cambodian Government forces, given adequate assistance, can hold their own," he said. "Once the insurgents realize that they cannot win by force of arms, I believe they will look to negotiations rather than war."

Discussing the needs of both South Vietnam and Cambodia, Mr. Ford said that unwillingness by the United States "to provide adequate assistance to allies fighting for their lives would seriously affect our credibility throughout the world as an ally."

"And this credibility," he said, "is essential to our national security."