

# Ford Says He'd Stop Big Aid To Viets After 3 More Years

CHICAGO, Feb. 8 (UPI)—President Ford said he is prepared to stop large-scale military and financial aid to South Vietnam within three years if Congress agrees to appropriate sufficient funds during that time.

In a 50-minute interview with four representatives of The Chicago Tribune published in Sunday editions, Mr. Ford also:

- Warned of the continuing dangers to South Vietnam and Cambodia.

- Said the congressional cut-off of aid to Turkey is "completely senseless and probably undermines NATO."

- Maintained that he, not Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, makes the final decisions on foreign policy.

- Criticized his former congressional colleagues for slow action on his economic and energy programs.

- Maintained that there had been no fundamental change in the American commitment to Israel.

- Predicted an upturn in the economy in the last half of 1975.

"I happen to feel very

strongly, and I have consistently felt strongly, that it was important for South Vietnam and Cambodia to survive and have an opportunity for free choice," Mr. Ford said.

The President then rejected a suggestion that his support might commit the United States to an "endless succession of rescue operations there."

He said it was the "best judgement" of U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin—"who everyone tells me is an outstanding ambassador"—that "two years of the kind of financial

aid [recommended] and military as well as economic, would in effect end or terminate sums of this magnitude."

The new budget calls for \$1.3 billion in aid for South Vietnam and \$497 million in military assistance for Cambodia over the next two years. Mr. Ford later changed his timetable to three years.

He said: "I would be willing to take sufficiently large amounts over a three-year period and say, 'This is it—if the Congress will appropriate it, I would agree not to ask any more.'"