

A Plan to Block Aid to Indochina

By Kevin Leary

Senator Alan Cranston said yesterday that he is drafting a bill to plug loopholes through which the United States continues to be involved in combat operations in Southeast Asia.

Despite existing American laws that ban U.S. forces from participating in combat activities, the senator said, "advisers" are still flying resupply and reconnaissance flights supporting South Vietnamese troops.

"This is in violation of the intent of the laws, even if it is apparently not violating the letter of the laws," the California Democrat said during a brief meeting with the press at the St. Francis Hotel.

Cranston said his bill, to be introduced next week, would ban the financing "directly or indirectly, of any participation by U.S. military forces in combat or combat-support activities" in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

The proposed bill would ban all air transport flights, even those under civilian

contracts, supplying South Vietnamese and Cambodian troops. And it would prohibit further use of U.S. military advisers in Indochina.

The bill would cut off all financing for U.S. aerial photography of military targets and electronic intelligence of troop movements, air traffic and naval maneuvers.

"Any American citizen who violates, or in any way assists in the violation of this provision shall be subject to a \$10,000 fine and up to ten years in prison," according to a draft of the senator's bill.

"We are not going to permit this country to be dragged back into that war either financially or militarily," Cranston said.

Cranston said he was confident that Congress will turn down a request by President Ford for an extra \$522 million in military aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia.

"We have had enough," he said.