

# FORD AND KISSINGER WARN CAMBODIA WILL FALL SOON IF CONGRESS DENIES FUNDS

## URGENCY STRESSED

### Effort to Win Approval of \$222-Million in Aid Is Intensified

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25—President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger said today that the Cambodian Government would fall in a few weeks to Communist-led insurgents unless Congress soon approved the Administration's request for \$222-million in supplemental aid.

In separate remarks, both marked by an urgent tone, Mr. Ford and Mr. Kissinger intensified what has become a desper-

*Text of the President's letter  
to Albert, Page 9.*

ate Administration effort to persuade a reluctant Congress to come to Cambodia's support.

"An independent Cambodia cannot survive unless the Congress acts very soon to provide supplemental military and economic assistance," Mr. Ford said in a letter to Carl Albert, Speaker of the House. "If additional military assistance is withheld or delayed, the Government forces will be forced, within weeks, to surrender to the insurgents."

#### 'Immediate Emergency'

Mr. Kissinger, referring to an "immediate emergency" in Phnom Penh, said at a news conference that "if a supplemental is not voted within the next few weeks, it is certain that Cambodia must fall because it will run out of ammunition."

Speaking in slow, deliberate manner, Mr. Kissinger said:

"Therefore, the decision before us is whether the United States will withhold ammunition from a country which has been associated with us and which, clearly, wishes to defend itself. This is a serious responsibility to take."

Mr. Ford, after listing Cambodia's urgent military and economic needs, said, "This is a moral question that must be faced squarely. Are we to deliberately abandon a small country in the midst of its life and death struggle? Is the United States, which so far has consistently stood by its friends through the most difficult of times, now to condemn, in effect, a small Asian nation totally dependent upon us?"

#### Responsibility Cited

"We cannot escape this responsibility," Mr. Ford continued. "Our national security and the integrity of our alliances depend upon our reputation as a reliable partner. Countries around the world who depend on us for support—as well as their foes—will judge our performance."

Mr. Kissinger covered a wide range of issues at his news conference. But the main focus of attention was on the Administration's effort to convince Congress that American credibility demanded a continuation of aid.

"I know it is fashionable to sneer at the words 'domino theory,'" Mr. Kissinger said. "I think this is a very grave matter on which serious people have had a divided opinion. And we've been torn apart by the Vietnam war long enough. But I do not believe we can escape this problem by assuming the responsibility of condemn-

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ing those who have dealt with us to a certain destruction."

The "domino theory" was so named as a result of a comment by Dwight D. Eisenhower that if one country in Southeast Asia fell to Communists, others would fall like dominoes.

Mr. Kissinger, in his remarks today, sought to draw a distinction between Cambodia, for which the Administration is seeking \$222-million in supplemental aid, and South Vietnam, for which it is asking \$300-million in further appropriations this fiscal year.

He said that Saigon did not face the kind of short-term emergency that Cambodia did, and he seemed to say that South Vietnam was in a better position to save itself than was Cambodia.

On long-term aid to South Vietnam, Mr. Kissinger was asked about Mr. Ford's suggestion that a cutoff of three years might be set, provided the aid was very large in those three years. A figure of \$3-billion to \$6-billion has been suggested.

#### 3-Year-Limit Acceptable

Mr. Kissinger said that he would prefer there not be a finite cutoff, but that the three-year limit would be an acceptable fall-back position.

Other areas covered by Mr. Kissinger included:

**MIDDLE EAST**—He stressed that to achieve an Egyptian-Israeli agreement on Sinai, there must be a "visible" document that can be presented to the Israeli Parliament for approval. But he said it was up to the negotiations next month to decide how much of the accord would be in "visible" form and how much in "indirect" form, which might be, for example, Egyptian assurances to him.

This was the first time he had publicly stated that Egypt would have to agree in writing to concessions that she would have to make in exchange for the return of the Abu Rudeis oil fields and the strategic mountain passes of Mitla and Gidi.

Mr. Kissinger called the statement by the Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad, to Newsweek magazine that he was willing to sign a peace agreement with Israel "a major step forward" because Syria at one time refused to recognize Israel. But Mr. Kissinger sidestepped a question on whether he thought an additional Syrian-Israeli interim accord was possible. Israel has rejected such a move, saying she wants only a final peace but refuses to give up the entire Golan Heights, sought by Syria.

INDIA — Mr. Kissinger said the comment by Foreign Minister Y. B. Chavan in New Delhi today on the lifting of the American arms embargo to Pakistan was "restrained and statesmanlike" and allows for a continued improvement in Indian-American relations.

But he said the statements made at a Washington news conference yesterday by the Indian Ambassador, T. N. Kaul, were "unacceptable." Mr. Kaul was severe in his criticism of the United States.

Mr. Kissinger said that the United States had ended the embargo because it was "morally, politically and symbolically improper," but that this did not mean there would be a vast supply of arms to Pakistan. He said that the United States placed "great stress" on relations with India.

SPAIN—Asked about reports published in Spain saying that Madrid was asking Washington to give up rights to use some air bases, such as Torrejón near Madrid, in the current security negotiations, Mr. Kissinger said that the United States had not been asked to give up any bases.

ETHIOPIA — Mr. Kissinger said the United States "had not come close" to making a decision regarding the Eritrean rebels. He said the Washington Special Action Group, a top-level crisis body, would meet tomorrow to sort out the issues on whether to aid an old ally or indirectly support the rebellion by not sending additional military aid.

CONGRESS — Mr. Kissinger repeated his concern for dealing with problems caused by disagreements between the executive and legislative branches on foreign affairs and he pledged a willingness to be conciliatory. He expressed concern over Congress' failure to support the Administration on Southeast Asia and on aid to Turkey, but said that he had found no slackening of Congressional support for Israel.

OIL—He was asked about reports of a split between the Treasury and the State Department on his recent proposal for a guaranteed high price for oil to insure the development of alternate sources of energy. He said that this policy had the full backing of the President and the rest of the Administration.

Mediator in Oil Crisis