

KISSINGER IS COOL ON EFFORT SOUGHT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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He Is Called Unenthusiastic Over Proposals of Congress Team on Indochina Peace NYTimes

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 3

Secretary of State Kissinger was reported today to be unenthusiastic about suggestions from members of a Congressional fact-finding mission just back from Indochina that he make a new major diplomatic effort to settle the conflicts in Cambodia and South Vietnam.

A State Department official who conferred with Mr. Kissinger this morning said that the Secretary appreciated the suggestions but felt that there was little sense in trying when the situation, especially in Cambodia, was weighted so heavily in favor of Communist-backed forces.

The eight members of the delegation returned to Washington this morning from a week-long trip to South Vietnam and Cambodia. They withheld any formal group recommendation until they have had a chance to meet among themselves and report to Congress and to President Ford in the next two days.

Ambassador Returns

The eight-member Congressional delegation was accompanied back to Washington by Graham A. Martin, the Ambassador to South Vietnam, who is expected to make a strong effort on Capitol Hill to press for stepp-up aid to the Saigon regime.

At least two of the members of Congress, Senator Dewey F. Bartlett, Republican of Oklahoma, and Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of Manhattan, felt that Mr. Kissinger should undertake new diplomatic initiatives.

Mr. Bartlett, who by his comments seemed sympathetic to the Ford Administration's request for \$300-million in additional military aid to South Vietnam and \$222-million to Cambodia this fiscal year, said, "we need to solicit the full energies" of Mr. Kissinger to persuade China and the Soviet Union to reduce the level of their military aid to North Vietnam to allow a cut in American aid to South Vietnam.

Mrs. Abzug, who said she was "more firmly convinced" than ever not to vote for any further military aid to Indo-

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Trip To Mideast Set

Mr. Kissinger, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 together with North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho for the negotiations that produced the January 1973, Vietnam cease-fire agreements, leaves on Wednesday on a new trip to the Middle East to seek a further Sinai accord between Egypt and Israel.

Generally, the returned delegation seemed somewhat more sympathetic to the argument for additional aid than might have been expected, although Mrs. Abzug, who takes a strong antiwar position, was adamant in her opposition to the Cambodian and South Vietnamese Governments.

Representative Millicent Fenwick, Republican of New Jersey, said, "I think all of us have been deeply shaken by what we've learned.

"It was a very moving and

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China, said that "the only honorable path left for the United States Government is to seek direct negotiations" to end the Cambodian war, to fly the members of Marshal Lon Nol's Government to safety and to insure that internationally supervised food and medical aid shipments went to Cambodia.

When asked at his regular news conference about the requests that Mr. Kissinger become active again in the Indochina negotiations, Robert Anderson, the State Department spokesman, said the United States had been making major efforts to get negotiations started in Cambodia and continued to stand ready to do what it could.

But he added, reflecting Mr. Kissinger's view of the futility of the current situation, that "with the situation on the ground becoming more and more difficult, this is not an inducement to getting negotiations started."

An aide to Mr. Kissinger said the Secretary had been gloomy about the prospects for a negotiated end to the Cambodian fighting since the summer of 1973 when Congress forbade further American combat support of the Cambodians.

At present, he believes that even if Congress appropriated the additional funds sought, the insurgents, nominally led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Peking, would probably continue to refuse to negotiate, hoping for complete victory.



Associated Press

Graham A. Martin, Ambassador to South Vietnam.

very widening experience."

Representative John J. Flynt, Jr., Democrat of Georgia, said he was sure that "eight sets of eyes and eight sets of ears had been opened," but declined to say what his own recommendation would be. He is expected to support the aid request.

Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr., Republican of California, who is well-known for his antiwar views, said he believed that "it's just a question of how do we get the fewest Cambodians killed and get out of there as quickly as we can."

He said there would probably be a "bloodbath" in Phnom Penh if American ammunition were cut off now.

"I'm not prepared to just abandon that perimeter around Phnom Penh and those people without food or medicine or ammunition," Mr. McCloskey said. "I think we owe them that much as a result of what we've done to them."

But Mr. McCloskey said the American aid should continue only until the rainy season begins about June 1 and the United States should then pull out completely from Cambodia.

Mr. Bartlett also said he believes there would be "a blood-bath" if emergency funds were not voted quickly.

Other members of the delegation were Representative John P. Murtha, Democrat of Pennsylvania, who favors aid; Representative William V. Chappel, Democrat of Florida, who said he would also support the Administration's aid request, and Representative Ronald M. Fraser, Democrat of

Minnesota, who has been a long-time critic of the Indochina war.

Meanwhile, the State Department, in response to criticism that not enough was being done to provide food to Cambodia, announced that 22,000 tons of rice were being supplied as a grant to charitable organizations in Cambodia at a cost of \$10.5-million from stockpiles in Saigon.

The announcement said this rice would be airlifted to Phnom Penh because the current insurgent offensive "has increased the number of affected refugees."

The State Department also was asked about the reports during the weekend that President Lon Nol of Cambodia had offered to step down if he was a barrier to peace.

Mr. Anderson, the spokesman, said he would not comment on whether Marshal Lon Nol should resign or not. "The real problem is to get negotiations going," he said.

Envoy's Views Criticized

By JAMES M. MARKHAM

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 3 — A Congressional fact-finding group left here last night with at least four of its eight members reported dismayed by what they considered to be a lack of objectivity by Ambassador Graham A. Martin in the Vietnam issue. At least two of them were said to be considering recommending that he be replaced as Ambassador to South Vietnam.

The four were said to be upset by Mr. Martin's undeviating support for the Government of President Nguyen Van Thieu, his unfailingly optimistic view of its prospects and, in particular, his strongly voiced contention that it holds no political prisoners.

The views of the delegation members were obtained from members and other American sources. One source said that in addition to the four essentially liberal Representatives who found Mr. Martin's posture difficult to accept—Mr. Fraser, Mrs. Abzug, Mr. McCloskey and Mrs. Fenwick—two conservative southern Democrats—Mr. Flynt and Mr. Chappel—were also concerned by the similarity of Mr. Martin's views to those of the Saigon Government.

"There's a feeling that Ambassador Martin's position is indistinguishable from that of the [Saigon] Government," one

well-placed delegation source said, "and that some objectivity is needed."

Last night, to the surprise of some members of the delegation, Mr. Martin boarded their official plane and accompanied them back to Washington. John F. Hogan, the United States Embassy spokesman, said that the Ambassador had been invited to join the flight by Mr. Flynt, the delegation's leader.

Two representatives, Mrs. Abzug and Mr. Fraser, seemed almost certain to join what several informants said would be an effort to persuade Congress to recommend that the Administration replace Mr. Martin with a more flexible Ambassador.

On this issue the positions of Mrs. Fenwick and of Mr. McCloskey, who is known to consider some of Mr. Martin's views "anachronistic," could not be firmly established.

The delegation brought with it to Saigon three Vietnamese-speaking Foreign Service officers who are responsible not to Mr. Martin but to Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, who also made the trip.

Mr. Martin, a crusty, 62-year-old career diplomat who has served as Ambassador to Thailand and Italy, has a reputation as a strict disciplinarian who with little tolerance for dissent.

"I've been in public service for 40 years," he reportedly told the members of congress in answer to a question, "and I have been proved consistently right. You'll just have to take my word for it."

"He says he's never been wrong!" an astonished Mrs. Abzug said one night as she and others discussed the day's events.