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**AID FOR CAMBODIA
SUFFERS SETBACK
IN A HOUSE PANEL**

~~MAR 4 1975~~

Subcommittee Votes Delay
Pending Separate Action
Authorizing the Funds

MAR 5 1975

\$222-MILLION IS AT ISSUE

Administration Now Unlikely
to Obtain the Legislation
by April 1 Deadline

NYTimes

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The Administration's proposal for \$222-million in emergency military aid for Cambodia received a serious setback today when a House Appropriations subcommittee delayed action on the request.

After a day of closed-door meetings, the subcommittee on foreign operations decided to defer action until the assistance was authorized in separate legislation.

While the decision was ostensibly taken on parliamentary grounds, the delay complicated the slim chances that Congress would approve the aid. In any event, it was becoming increasingly unlikely that Congress would act within the deadline set by the Administration for rescuing the Cambodian Government.

Talk With Delegation

Before reaching its decision, the subcommittee met with members of a Congressional delegation that visited South Vietnam and Cambodia last week at the suggestion of the White House.

Representative Paul H. McCloskey Jr., a California Republican who has previously been identified with the Congressional doves, presented a proposal for \$116.7-million in additional military aid and \$75-million in food assistance.

Mr. McCloskey said his proposal, which he said should end aid to Cambodia, had the support of the majority of the delegation. From their statements, however, it appeared that the seven House members of the delegation were split four ways.

Support for McCloskey

Mr. McCloskey's position was generally supported by Representatives Bill Chappell Jr., Democrat of Florida, and John P. Murtha, Democrat of Pennsylvania, as well as Senator Dewey F. Bartlett, Republican of California.

Donald M. Praser of Minnesota, a leader among House Democratic liberals, said he was willing to support additional military aid only if he was convinced that it would lead to a negotiated settlement. Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of the Manhattan is opposed to military aid, but willing to support humanitarian assistance. Millie Fenwick, Republican of New Jersey, is undecided, but

Continued on Page 8, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

leaning in the direction of more military aid.

John J. Flynt, Democrat of Georgia, one of the first Southern Democrats to support legislation to end the war in Vietnam, declared to commit himself.

Old Funds Exhausted

The Administration has predicted that the Cambodian Government of President Lon Nol would fall within a month if Congress does not provide additional money for ammunition before April 1. The Administration says that it has exhausted the \$275-million in military aid authorized in December, leaving no funds for the last three months of the fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

It seemed unlikely that Congress, already reluctant to provide the emergency military assistance, could complete action on both the authorization and appropriations legislation before April 1.

As assessed by some members, the subcommittee's decision to defer action reflected an uncertainty among Congressional supporters of the Administration request that they had the votes to win approval of an appropriations bill.

The 13-member subcommittee appeared to be divided five to five, with three undecided members. Even if approved by the subcommittee, however, the request would have to survive a complicated series of legislative hurdles in the House and the Senate.

Authorization Is Needed

In the foreign aid authorization legislation enacted in December Congress set a ceiling of \$275-million on military aid to Cambodia. It is this ceiling that the Administration is trying to lift in asking for \$222-million in additional appropriations.

Normally, under House and Senate rules, appropriations cannot be considered by either house unless they have been authorized in separate legislation. The authorizing legislation is handled by the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In an attempt to overcome the parliamentary obstacles, President Ford and Otto E. Passman of Louisiana, chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee, had been working on a strategy of getting a rule from the House Rules Committee providing that a point of order could not be

raised on the House floor that the appropriations were being considered without a proper authorization.

That strategy was dropped today as Administration supporters became increasingly uncertain that it would succeed.

In explaining the subcommittee's action to defer action until authorizing legislation was enacted, Elford A. Cederberg of Michigan, the highest ranking Republican on the full Appropriations Committee told reporters that the appropriations request "faces a succession of steps that are a little cumbersome."

"There was a reasonable chance, he observed, "that we might stumble along the way."

Therefore, he said, it was concluded that the emergency air had "a better chance" of winning Congressional approval if authorizing legislation was enacted first.

With the Cambodian money left out, the subcommittee went on to approve a \$3.5-billion foreign aid appropriations bill for the current fiscal year. It includes \$324.5-million in economic assistance for Israel, \$250-million for Egypt and \$77-million for Jordan. The bill also provides \$300-million in credits for Israel for the purchase of American military equip-