

# Habib Charges Congress Thwarted Cambodian

By LESLIE H. GELB

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 5—The Ford Administration received today a charge made by President Richard M. Nixon that Congress had thwarted promising efforts toward peace in Cambodia by requiring an end of the American bombing in 1973.

Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State, said at a news conference that just as negotiating efforts "appeared to be approaching a serious stage they were thwarted by the forced bombing halt in August that was legislated by the Congress."

The administration has yet to document this charge. The only public discussion of this matter was in the fall of 1974, when the outgoing American ambassador in Phnom Penh described the efforts as no more than "normal diplomatic contacts."

Asked whether the Administration had presented the evidence to Congress, Mr. Habib replied it had been given to senior legislators.

One of them was Senator John J. Sparkman, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, whose account of what was presented to him appears to be at variance with Mr. Habib's account.

## Sparkman Doesn't Recall

Mr. Sparkman said he did not remember "Mr. Habib's saying anything" that was not contained in a three-page statement given by the State Department official to the press today.

Asked about the substance of the charge relating to the bombing halt, the Senator said:

"I had never connected the two together and I suppose we had never known at that time about the negotiations so we couldn't connect the two together."

Mr. Habib said it was simply a fact that once the bombings stopped, the Communist-led insurgents had little incentive to pursue negotiations.

Mr. Habib's prepared statement listed the principles of the American negotiating efforts. They were, in effect, that the United States would support and accept any outcome agreed to by the parties themselves, including the resignation of President Lon Nol.

These principles, which Mr. Habib said were still American



Associated Press

**WAITING FOR FOOD IN PHNOM PENH:** Children waiting Monday at a food distribution center in the Cambodian capital. Yesterday, the first accurate shelling of the Pochentong airport by insurgents severely disrupted the flow of supplies to the city.

policy, differed from statements made by American officials in Phnom Penh to visiting members of Congress.

The officials said that, the hopeless situation of the Phnom Penh Government, the United States should now be seeking a "controlled solution or settlement" for Cambodia.

According to Congressional sources, "controlled solution or settlement" was defined as handing over power to the Cambodia insurgents in an orderly fashion.

A State Department official, who was questioned about this, said that the Congressional vis-

itors had misunderstood the explanation of a "controlled solution" as opposed to "an uncontrolled solution." He said a "controlled solution" meant simply "an arrangement for a peaceful settlement by some form of negotiations."

Mr. Habib's statement contained one-paragraph descriptions of seven negotiating efforts made by Washington since the spring of 1973, and characterized them as "concerted, sustained and continual."

But Mr. Habib's own summary shows a gap of over one year between "extremely prom-

ising" talks in the summer of 1973 and the next effort, which was made in October, 1974, when the military situation began to deteriorate.

Questioned about this gap, Mr. Habib said the subject had also come up in discussions in between. He declined to identify the dates, places, circumstances, or intermediaries in these efforts, saying that he did not want to close out channels for the future.

Six of the seven efforts took place in the last five months. Every one failed because of the intransigence of the Cambodian insurgents, Mr. Habib said.

# '73 Peace Effort

The only effort described as serious was in the summer of 1973. In June of that year, Congress voted to stop the bombing in Cambodia, despite warnings by President Nixon that this would destroy the chances for peace. The halt went into effect on Aug. 15.

The parties involved in the effort were then reported to be the Soviet Union, China and North Vietnam.

In September, 1974, Emory C. Swank, the outgoing American ambassador in Cambodia, was asked about these contacts. He responded they were "normal diplomatic contacts," which he would not describe as negotiations.

Mr. Habib said today that "what I'm saying is not inconsistent with what Mr. Swank said." He then went on to say that the American efforts in the summer of 1973 were "to a certain degree" bearing fruit.

## Chinese Military in Hanoi

By JAMES M. MARKHAM

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 5—A Chinese military delegation has made a public appearance in Hanoi, according to Western analysts.

At the same time, according to a Western news report from Hanoi, a Soviet Deputy Foreign minister, Nikolai P. Firyubin, was in the North Vietnamese capital on Monday.

Western analysts speculate that the visits could be related to the situation in Cambodia or in South Vietnam, or both.

It is thought that the Russians and the Chinese may be in position themselves in anticipation of the capture of Pnom Penh.

"Hanoi is certainly the pressure point," commented one Western analyst. "Many of the little-known leaders of the Cambodian insurgents are believed to have been trained in North Vietnam."

## Chinese Have Advantage

On the face of things, the Chinese, who have provided the rebels with most of their weapons and ammunition, are in a superior position to the Russians.

The Chinese also have sheltered Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nominal leader of the insurgents, since he was overthrown in 1970.

The Soviet Union, which maintains diplomatic ties with

the Lon Nol Government, has not armed the insurgents. This has been the source of considerable bitterness, publicly voiced by Prince Sihanouk.

"I can imagine that the Soviets are panicking right now about what their future relations are going to be with a Communist Cambodia," one Western analyst said.

Another Western diplomat took the opposite position. He said that since the North Vietnamese were closer to the Russians than to the Chinese, the Cambodians might ultimately end up closer to the Soviet Union than to China.

Prince Sihanouk said in an interview on Feb. 27 in Peking that, during a visit he made to Hanoi earlier that month, the North Vietnamese agreed to respond to the American airlift by increasing overland deliveries of Chinese arms and ammunition to the rebels.

The Prince also said Premier Chou En-lai as having told him on Feb. 24: "I can forecast that things are coming to a head and that you will win in a very short time."

Premier Chou, according to the exiled prince, also said that since last November he had advised Secretary of State Kissinger to abandon the Lon Nol Government to save American honor.

## Sihanouk Predicts Victory

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, March 5—United States support for the Cambodian Government will prolong the war for several months but can not prevent victory of the insurgents, Prince Sihanouk declared in a message received here by T. D. Allman, a writer on Southeast Asia.

"As for compromise or negotiations," the Prince said, "Henry Kissinger himself, who is intelligent but intellectually dishonest, does not believe in them, does not know their meaning."

## Prince May Visit U.S.

Prince Sihanouk said yesterday in a cablegram to Cyrus S. Eaton, the Cleveland industrialist, that he hoped to be coming to the United States this year.

Mr. Eaton, who made the text available to The New York Times, had written Prince Sihanouk in response to an article by the Prince in The Times March 2 in which he had called for an end to American intervention in Cambodia.