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# PRESIDENT WARNS CONGRESS IT MUST AID CAMBODIA NOW

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**Calls Help Vital to Assure  
Regime's Survival and to  
Permit Peace Talks**

**U.S. 'RELIABILITY' CITED**

**But He Asserts American  
Soldiers Will Not Go  
Back to Indochina**

NYTimes

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 6—President Ford, warning that "time is running out," appealed to Congress tonight to provide additional military assistance to Cambodia. He said the aid was necessary to assure the survival of the Cambodian Government and to permit a negotiated settlement of the war.

At the same time, Mr. Ford pledged that despite the deteriorating military situation in

*Transcript of news conference  
will be found on Page 16.*

Cambodia, the United States would not send troops back into Indochina.

"All American troops have come home," he said. "They will not go back."

In a statement read at the opening of a White House news conference, Mr. Ford said there was "no hope" for a negotiated settlement "unless the Congress provides the necessary means for Cambodia to survive."

If the United States was to cease its assistance now, he said, it would draw into question the "reliability of the United States" and encourage the belief that aggression pays.

## 'Aggression Will Not Stop'

"If we abandon our allies," he said, "we will be saying to all the world that war pays. Aggression will not stop; rather it will increase.

"In Cambodia, the aggressors will have shown that if negotiations are resisted, the United States will weary, abandon its friends and force will prevail."

The President made his statement amidst growing indications, conveyed to him personally this morning by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, that Congress would not approve any of the \$222-million in additional military aid for Cambodia requested by the Administration.

From his statement, it was evident, however, that Mr. Ford was not relenting in his pressure upon Congress to provide the additional aid.

In the President's statement tonight, however, there was a shift of emphasis in his arguments. When he first asked for the aid, Mr. Ford emphasized that the Cambodian Government would fall if additional aid were not provided immediately by the United States. That theme was still present in tonight's statement. But this time

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the President placed his emphasis upon the need to demonstrate the "reliability" of the United States in support of allies and upon the interrelationship of continued aid to Cambodia and a negotiated

Mr. Ford emphasized that he was interested in achieving a negotiated settlement and said that "the personalities involved will not themselves constitute an obstacle of any kind to a settlement."

The Lon Nol Government, he said, has repeatedly "expressed a willingness to be flexible" and the United States has taken several initiatives to achieve a settlement. "All our efforts have been rebuffed," he said.

## 'Reasonable Solutions'

"Peace in Cambodia has not been prevented by failure to offer reasonable solutions," he said. "The aggressor believes it can win its objectives on the battlefield.

"That belief will be encouraged if we cut off assistance to our friends."

The purpose of the additional assistance, he said, would be to help the Lon Nol Government survive until the summer rainy season. Then, he said, the possibilities for a negotiated settlement will be "infinitely better."



The New York Times/Alan Rockoff

**John Gunther Dean, center, U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia, meeting last week with Premier Long Boret. At right is Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State. Mr. Dean's latest reports to Washington are believed to be pessimistic.**

Cambodian Government by the insurgent forces.

In advance of the President's news conference, there was no indication that this advice, which would essentially mean withdrawal of American support, was being taken seriously by either the White House or the State Department.

Before a House Foreign Relations subcommittee this morning, Philip C. Habib, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, was still sounding the Administration's theme that additional military aid was needed to re-establish a "military equilibrium" that could lead to a compromise settlement between the warring factions in Cambodia.

"Failure to provide this assistance will assure that you will not get a political settlement," Mr. Habib said. "I can guarantee that there will be no political settlement if the people in Phnom Penh do not have the means to resist."

Mr. Habib said the fall of Cambodia to the Communist-supported insurgents would have a "psychological effect" on Saigon, but he said he did not think "it would make much difference" in the South Vietnam fighting.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on foreign aid, Senator Humphrey has emerged as a key figure in determining the fate of the Administration's request for \$222-million additional aid for Cambodia. Until today, the Senator had been willing to discuss a possible compromise with the Administration, such as giving the Pentagon authority to transfer \$75-million in ammunition stocks to the Cambodian Government.

#### Gloomy Assessment

But today, along with two other members of the Foreign Relations Committee—Senator John Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama, and Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey—went to the White House with a gloomy assessment of the chances of winning Congressional approval of additional military aid. The meeting was arranged at the initiative of the Senators.

Senator Humphrey reportedly told the President that chances for approval of any additional military aid were deteriorating, even the proposed \$75-million in transfer authority, which would not require Congress to vote directly for additional funds. The Minnesota Senator's advice, therefore, was that the United States seek the resigna-

tion of President Lon Nol, opening the way for negotiations with the insurgent forces.

Mr. Ford was said to have listened carefully but not to have committed himself.

Privately, similar advice is being relayed to the White House by Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, who is in contact with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian leader who was deposed by the Lon Nol Government in 1970. Senator Mansfield is known to believe that the Administration should arrange, perhaps through Prince Sihanouk, for a truce of a few days to permit the Cambodian president and his close associates to leave Phnom Penh, with negotiations to follow between the various Cambodian factions.

In a statement on the Senate floor today, Senator Mansfield said: "There is a possibility that Congress's denial of more military aid may tend to expedite negotiations between the Cambodians themselves."

In response to a question, Mr. Ford said he did not think that additional aid would continue a "bloodbath" that already was going on in Cambodia. Rather, he predicted a "massacre" if Phnom Penh were to fall to the Communist-supported insurgent forces.

"We know from past experience," he said, that an insurgent take-over of the Cambodian capital will lead to murder, bloodshed and an "unbelievable horror story."

#### Pressure Mounting

The President, meanwhile, appeared to be under mounting pressure, both from members of Congress and the American Embassy in Cambodia, to accept a negotiated surrender of the Lon Nol Government.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey reportedly advised Mr. Ford as at a private White House meeting this morning that the only feasible solution was to arrange for the resignation of President Lon Nol.

According to reports from Phnom Penh, similar advice was coming from the embassy, which was said to believe that the best remaining hope in Cambodia would be the arrangement of a negotiated take-over of the