

To Quit by Humphrey

Washington

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (Dem-Minn) called on Cambodian President Lon Nol to "step aside" yesterday.

He said intelligence reports and private information from the embassy in Cambodia show "the odds are dead set against saving the Lon Nol government."

Humphrey, chairman of a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee considering President Ford's \$222 million request for military assistance for Cambodia, said he has been allowed to look at official telegrams sent to the President and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and those telegrams "give little or no encouragement to any solution in Cambodia on the basis of further military assistance."

Appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," the Minnesota senator said he had concluded that "we must put an end to further military assistance" to Cambodia.

He predicted the Senate will reject the President's \$222 million request, but he would not predict how his subcommittee would vote.

Humphrey said there is "little chance" for a proposed compromise that would give the Lon Nol government \$125 million in military aid from available U.S. stocks provided by the Foreign Assistance Act.

He said it is time for the United States to try to arrange a cease-fire and a negotiated settlement, adding

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that not enough effort has been made on negotiations.

Additional military assistance will lead "nowhere but to more killing," Humphrey said.

U.S. efforts should be directed to saving the Cambodian people with more generous food aid and economic assistance, he added.

President Ford has asked for aid to help the Lon Nol regime get through until the rainy season, and Humphrey noted that "last year after the wet season the insurgents simply gained more power . . . Let's end this

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slaughter . . . and help the people literally decimated" by the war.

In a letter to President Ford, 37 House Democrats, all but one of them freshmen, also said they will not vote for his military aid request for Cambodia or South Vietnam.

History shows no outside power can regenerate a society "that does not have the inner will to maintain itself," the letter said.

It was circulated by freshmen Representatives Tim Wirth (Colo.), Bob Carr (Mich.), Tom Harkin (Iowa), Toby Moffett (Conn.) and Ned Patterson (N.Y.) and was signed by one veteran congressman, Don Riegle (Dem-Mich.).

Meanwhile on NBC's "Meet the Press," White House chief of staff Donald Rumsfeld rejected the idea that the United States should begin work in an orderly surrender by the Lon Nol government.

"It seems to me an orderly surrender is the business of the Cambodians, not the U.S. government," Rumsfeld said.

He denied that President Ford's pleas for more aid in the face of evidence of a collapsing Lon Nol regime are undermining Mr. Ford's credibility.

Washington Post