

HUMPHREY GRIM ON CAMBODIA AID

Senator, Shown Official Reports, Says New Grant Would 'Prolong Agony'

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 9 —

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey said today that he had been shown official telegrams that "give little or no encouragement to any solution in Cambodia on the basis of further military assistance" from the United States.

In one of the strongest statements by a public official about the Administration's request for \$222-million in extra military aid to Cambodia, the Minnesota Democrat said on the CBS program "Face the Nation" that "additional military aid will merely prolong the agony."

Responding to questions, Mr. Humphrey said that "the private reports from the embassy and from the intelligence service tell us that the odds are dead set against the continuity or the saving of the Lon Nol Government, or even of any kind of military stalemate."

'No Program' Charged

The Senator charged that the Ford Administration had "no program" for Cambodia after June 30. "They simply say give us money until June 30."

He continued: "Why, then, do we prolong the agony? I'll tell you why, I think. Because we want to be able to say, well at least we tried."

Mr. Humphrey also accused the administration of not trying hard enough to bring about a negotiated settlement.

Asked what there was to negotiate except the surrender of the Phnom Penh Government, given the Communists' reluctance to negotiate, he responded that President Lon Nol should step down, and that an interim government should be formed "to bring about an orderly transfer of power."

White House Call Reported

It was learned that high White House officials called Mr. Humphrey before the television show, seeking to head off strong statements by the Senator.

But on the program Mr. Humphrey not only said he would vote against the extra military aid, but also predicted that his Senate Foreign Relations Committee subcommittee on foreign aid would vote no funds except for food or other humanitarian assistance.

The Senator also threw cold water on a compromise deal being advanced privately by the Administration under which Mr. Humphrey's subcommittee would reject the \$222-million request but approve a formula allowing the Cambodians to receive about \$125-million from available American military stocks.

"There was a time that it looked that that might have some salability," Mr. Humphrey said. "But let me tell you, I think we have to make a hard decision." He said that decision was for the "American Government to say, no more military assistance, and try to arrange for a cease-fire, try to arrange for a transfer of power."

No Comment on Rebutt

Administration officials would not comment today on a report yesterday in The New York Times that quoted sources in the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh as having said that Secretary of State Kissinger had rebuffed proposals by the United States Ambassador in Cambodia that contact be made with Cambodian Communist leaders.

On the interpretation of official telegrams from Cambodia, the officials said that they stood by previous Administration testimony to Congress that the supplemental military aid would give the Phnom Penh Government a reasonable hope of surviving until June, with the hope that thereafter a military stalemate could lead to negotiations.

In a related development today, 37 House Democrats, all but one of them freshmen, have sent a letter to President Ford saying that they will not vote for his military aid request for either Cambodia or South Vietnam.

According to Representative Thomas Harkin, Democrat of Iowa and one of the signers of the letter, the Congressmen have asked President Ford to let statesmanship prevail over dollars.