

FORD SEES PROOF OF DOMINO THEORY

MAR 18 1975

Cites Cambodia as Evidence That Other Nations May Drop From U.S. Camp

NYTimes
By PHILIP SHABECOFF

Special to The New York Times

SOUTH BEND, Ind., March 17—President Ford said today that events in Southeast Asia tended to validate the so-called domino theory and that the continued existence of a non-Communist Government in Cambodia was vital to American security.

Answering questions at a news conference, Mr. Ford said the military situation in Cambodia had become "very serious" and he added that the North Vietnamese "have apparently launched a very substantial military effort against South Vietnam, against the Paris peace accord."

[In Washington, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, by 9 to 7 approved \$82.5-million in additional military aid to Cambodia with the provision that all aid be terminated on June 30. A similar proposal was rejected last week by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.]

In discussing the domino theory, President Ford said a "potential request" from Thailand for the withdrawal of United States forces was apparently related to the military

Continued on Page 20, Column 3

Ford Sees Proof for the Domino Theory

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

situation in Indochina. He said President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines was also reviewing his nation's relationship with the United States.

Mr. Ford indicated that these developments, following the present threat to the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh, gave validity to the domino theory.

"If we have one country after another — allies of the United States—losing faith in our word, losing faith in our agreements with them, yes, I think the first one to go could vitally affect the national security of the United States."

[Question 2, Page 22.]

The domino theory holds that if one country turns Communist, neighboring countries would eventually be forced to follow suit. The theory was first applied to Southeast Asia by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the nineteen-fifties. It has fallen into disrepute in the era of détente between East and West.

Earlier today, Mr. Ford urged that the United States reject what he called "the new isolationism." He said the United States would continue to supply humanitarian aid to other countries as well as "support security against aggression and subversion."

In a speech at Notre Dame University, he did not mention any nation by name. However, his remarks appeared to be related to his efforts to persuade Congress to extend additional aid to the beleaguered Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh.

Although Congress has rejected the appeal so far, the White House still is hoping for a compromise.

Speaking to a largely enthusiastic and friendly crowd of 9,500 students and faculty members at the university's Athletic and Convocation Center, the President said the challenge now facing the American people was "whether we will learn nothing from the past and return to the introversion of the nineteen thirties, to the

dangerous notion that our fate is unrelated to the fate of others."

"I am convinced that Americans, however tempted to resign from the world, know that it cannot be done," the President told the applauding audience, many of them clad in green for St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Ford received a rousing welcome in South Bend. Thousands lined the streets as he rode in from the airport. Most were cheering and smiling broadly as he passed by in his black limousine. At almost every block he was serenaded by a marching band, most of them playing the University of Michigan song, "Hail to the Victors," or the Notre Dame fight song.

Over one bar was a big green sign saying, "Welcome President O'Ford."

He was given a particularly loud welcome by the crowd inside the convocation hall. A walkout by a group of students was hardly noticed.

In his speech, Mr. Ford said critics contended that the nation could no longer afford foreign assistance because it was a time of recession, inflation and unemployment. He asserted that there were two basic reasons why this view must be rejected.

"First," he said, "foreign aid is part of the price we must pay to achieve the kind of world we want to live in. Let's be frank about it: foreign aid bolsters our diplomatic efforts for peace and security."

"Second, even with recession, we remain the world's most affluent country. And the sharing of our resources is the right, the humane and the decent thing to do. And we will."

The President said aid programs to developing nations were both the expression of American compassion and "part of the continuing effort to

achieve an enduring structure of world peace."

Mr. Ford also said the United States would continue to help other nations defend themselves.

"While we pursue a world in which there is unity and diversity, we must continue to support security against aggression and subversion," he said.

"To do otherwise would invite greater violence. We are counseled to withdraw from the world and go it alone. I have heard that song before. I am here to say I am not going to dance to it."

At a reception following his speech, Mr. Ford spoke briefly with a Notre Dame faculty member, Dr. Peter Walshe, who said he had told the President that the students were unhappy that President Ford had not shown "a central concern for the poor and at his refunding of the Cambodian war."

Dr. Walshe said he had told the President that "we considered it inappropriate" for the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, the university president, to present Mr. Ford with an honorary degree.

Mail Is 30 Years Late

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—It took more than 30 years, but the United States Postal Service delivered a large manila envelope posted with a three-cent stamp to 90-year-old Roy L. Sabin. The envelope, containing two Korean posters, was mailed from Camp Riley, Calif., by Mr. Sabin's son in 1944.

The attached document is the by