

# CUTOFF DISPUTE STALLS AID PLAN

MAR 19 1975

Republicans Urge Ford to  
Consider June 30 Date

NYTimes

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 18—

The Administration's only hope for obtaining additional military assistance for Cambodia, in the view of Congressional leaders, now rests upon a Presidential commitment to end the aid on June 30.

For the moment, however, President Ford is unwilling to give such a commitment.

At a White House meeting with Republican Congressional leaders this morning, Mr. Ford reportedly took the position that such a cutoff of military aid to Cambodia would tie his hands and limit his flexibility in conducting foreign policy.

The response of the Republican leaders was that, without acceptance of a termination of military aid to Cambodia, there was no hope that Congress would act on the Administration's original request for \$222-million in emergency military assistance in the final three months of the fiscal year, which ends on June 30. Senator John Tower of Texas, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, said Mr. Ford was told in effect:

"This is the best you can get—if you can get that. This is a take-it-or-leave-it proposition and even this has limited chances for success."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday approved a proposed compromise—still unacceptable to the White House—providing for \$82.5-million in additional military assistance but terminating the aid program on June 30. A similar proposal is still under consideration by the House Foreign Affairs Committee even though it was rejected by a vote of 18 to 15 last week.

Meanwhile, the Defense Department estimated that \$21.5-million in additional military aid, which it announced yesterday had been discovered left over from last year, would buy about 9,000 tons of ammunition—or about three weeks' supply at the current rate of consumption by the Cambodian forces. The Pentagon had been predicting that, without additional aid, the Cambodian forces would run out of ammunition by mid-April—a projection that is now extended to around May 1 by the discovery of what was described as an accounting error.