

Pentagon Confession On Cambodia Aid

Washington

The Defense Department acknowledged yesterday that it overstated by about \$4.6 million the amount of Cambodian aid funds which it claims were overlooked and uncommitted from last year.

That reduced the additional amount available to \$16.9 million.

The Pentagon said that of this amount about \$15 million worth of ammunition already has been delivered.

The Pentagon's acknowledgement came after the General Accounting Office reported that the \$21.5 million originally claimed as being available because of bookkeeping foul-up last year actually amounted only to \$16.9 million.

In explanation, the Pentagon said it had found that the Army, which manages much of the ammunition supply to Cambodia, still was carrying on its book

\$4.6 million in rockets and other ammunition components which actually had been transferred to air munitions in May, 1974.

GAO auditors, in a report to Senator James B. Pearson (Rep-Kan.), also said the Defense Department had used inconsistent accounting, billing and pricing procedures to come up with the additional military aid for Cambodia.

The Defense Department said on March 17 it had found Cambodia was overcharged for weapons delivered in fiscal year 1974, making a \$21.5 million credit available to supplement the \$275 million authorized by Congress for the current fiscal year.

Congress recessed for Easter on Wednesday without acting on President Ford's request for \$222 million additional arms aid for Cambodia for the next three months.

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