

Ford Asks \$972-
Million in Aid For
Saigon and Right to
Use Troops for
Evacuation; Fears
it is 'Too Late' to
Help Cambodia

EARLY VOTE URGED

Aide Says a Big Sum Is Needed to Rescue Up to 176,000

BY BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 10—
President Ford appealed to
Congress tonight to approve
'without delay' nearly a billion
dollars of military and humani-
tarian aid for Saigon to give
South Vietnam a chance to
"save itself" as a country.

In a televised address to a
joint session of Congress, Mr.
Ford also asked that the mem-
bers clarify his authority to

*The text of Ford's speech
is printed on Page 10.*

use American troops to insure
the evacuation of Americans
and endangered South Vietnam-
ese "if the very worst were to
happen."

"I hope that this authority
will never be used," he said.
"But if it is needed, there will
be no time for Congressional
debate."

The President called for Con-
gressional action on his Viet-
nam requests to be completed
by April 19—a week from Sat-
urday.

European Trip Planned

Mr. Ford confirmed that he
planned to go to Western Eu-
rope for a meeting with allied
leaders in the near future and
said it was necessary for the
North Atlantic community to
take stock of common prob-
lems.

In his new aid request for
Saigon, he asked for \$722-
million in military assistance—
more than twice his earlier re-
quest for \$300-million—and
\$250-million for economic and
humanitarian aid.

A senior official indicated
that a chief purpose of the
large request was not so much
to save Saigon, although offi-
cials hope that will be a result,
as to stabilize the military situ-
ation and permit the withdrawal
of the 6,000 Americans and per-
haps as many as 170,000 South
Vietnamese if necessary.

Asks a Fresh Start

As to Cambodia, Mr. Ford
called the situation there
tragic and made no new re-
quests beyond the \$222-million
already sought, asserting that
help for the Cambodians may
already be too late.

Nearly half the review of the
world situation was devoted to
the Indochina issue, on which
the President has consistently
failed to win Congressional
support for additional aid to
the beleaguered Saigon and
Phnom Penh governments.

Although Mr. Ford did not
alter any of his basic positions,
he sought to appear concilia-
tory, urging congress to start
afresh and work together, not
only on Indochina, but on such

Continued on Page 11, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

issues as aid to Turkey and
trade with the Soviet Union.

The aid request for Saigon
resulted from discussions after
the mission of Gen. Frederick
C. Weyand, Army Chief of
Staff, to South Vietnam.

Mr. Ford made it clear that
the \$722-million recommended
by General Weyand to stabilize
the military situation and pro-
vide "the best opportunity for

Carl Albert, Speaker of the
House of Representatives, who
met with the President in the



Associated Press

Carl Albert, Speaker of the House, and John J. Rhodes, House minority leader, talking to reporters in Washington yesterday after meeting with President Ford.

afternoon to discuss the speech, said he did not know whether Congress would approve military aid for Saigon.

"Any kind of aid for Southeast Asia today is tough," Mr. Albert said.

Although the President did not seem to believe that the chances for negotiations were good, he called on North Vietnam—and asked Congress to join in the appeal—to cease military operations immediately.

He said the United States was urging the other members of the 12-nation international conference on Vietnam to use their influence to halt the fighting. Diplomatic notes have been sent to all the Vietnam guarantors, including the Soviet Union and China, he said.

Choices Revisited

Reviewing the background of his decision on Vietnam, Mr. Ford said "the options before us are few and time is short."

He said Americans could decide to do nothing more and "we could shut our eyes and wash our hands of the whole matter—if we can." He said he could also have asked Congress for authority to re-introduce military forces.

Evidently ruling such extreme choices out, he said there were two narrower options.

These are to keep to his request, made in January for \$300-million in military aid and additional economic and humanitarian assistance, or to increase the military aid to "enable the South Vietnamese to stem the onrushing aggression."

He said the billion-dollar package might enable Saigon to stabilize the military situation, thereby permitting the chance for a negotiated political settlement between North and South Vietnamese.

"If the very worst were to happen," he said, the additional aid would "at least allow the orderly evacuation of Americans and endangered South Vietnamese to places of safety."

Shelter for Vietnamese

Mr. Ford said that, in addition to 6,000 Americans still in South Vietnam, there were "tens of thousands" of South Vietnamese who had worked for the United States Government or American companies and "whose lives, with their dependents, are in grave peril."

He said there were also "tens of thousands of other South Vietnamese intellectuals, professors and teachers, editors and opinion-leaders who have supported the South Vietnamese cause and the alliance with the United States, to whom we have a profound moral obligation."

Alluding to concern among American allies, the President said they "must not think for a minute that the United States is pulling out on them or intends to abandon them to aggression."

"Members of the Congress, my fellow Americans, this moment of tragedy for Indochina is a time of trial for us," Mr. Ford said.

"It is a time for national resolve. Let us put an end to self-inflicted wounds. Let us remember that our national unity is a most priceless asset. Let us deny our adversaries the satisfaction of using Vietnam to pit Americans against Americans."

He noted that some Asian allies had been disquieted by the events in Indochina and said that he would meet with the leaders of Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Indonesia.

A special endorsement was given to the security treaty with Japan, which he called "the cornerstone of stability in the vast reaches of Asia and

the Pacific." He also stressed the importance of the security relations with South Korea.

The president said that before his trip to Europe, probably in May or June, he wanted Congress to lift its ban on military aid to Turkey, imposed because of Turkey's military action on Cyprus.

He noted that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had already adopted a bill ending the ban, which went into effect Feb. 5, and said that enactment by the Congress was necessary to prevent a rupture in relations with Turkey.

For an apparent gesture to the pro-Greek forces in Congress, Mr. Ford said he would also request economic and military aid for Greece.

Because of the current reassessment of policy in the Middle East, Mr. Ford little to say about that part of the world.

"We have agreed in principle to reconvene the Geneva conference," he said. "We are prepared as well to explore other forums."

Although the President and Mr. Kissinger had privately laid the blame on Israel for the breakdown in the Secretary's recent mediation effort, Mr. Ford said only that the issues between Israel and Egypt "are vital to them and not amenable to easy or quick solutions."

Refers to Soviet Trade

Mr. Ford asked for permission to waive the Congressional ban on trade preferences for members of the oil cartel, which includes Ecuador and Venezuela.

He also mentioned the long dispute over trade benefits to the Soviet Union asserting that remedial legislation was urgently needed. Congress has refused to grant nondiscriminatory tariffs or government-backed credits unless the Soviet Union relaxes its emigration policies.

The President also urged Congress to carry out its investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency "with maximum discretion and dispatch" to avoid crippling a vital institution. He said he would work with Congressional leaders to devise ways of allowing effective review while protecting vital information.