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# Ford Talk Angered Cambodians

## Phnom Penh

The Phnom Penh government reacted with anger and a sense of abandonment, yesterday to President Ford's message to Congress, accusing the President of avoiding his obligation to the Cambodian people and threatening, somewhat hollowly, to seek alliances with other great powers.

In his State of the World speech Thursday night, Mr. Ford dwelt at length on an appeal for increased military and humanitarian aid to South Vietnam, but made no new appeal for aid to Cambodia.

With Communist-led insurgents encircling this capital, the desperate government is trying to reorganize itself in a form that might be accept-

able enough to the insurgents to negotiate an end to this five-year-old war, even if it be no more than an orderly surrender.

The U.S. Embassy closed and evacuated all its personnel early today, but before they left, officials said they had interpreted the President's speech in the same way as did the Cambodians: as "a write-off" of the Phnom Penh government.

(In Washington, the Cambodian ambassador to the United States told members of the Washington Press Club yesterday that the United States had led his "naive" nation into a bloody war and then left it to face defeat alone.

("Let's face it, you took advantage of us, of our inex-

perience," Ambassador Um Sim said. "As you are much cleverer than we are, you could induce us into this fighting.

("What is difficult for us to accept is that if the United States had respected our neutrality, then the fighting, the killing and things might not have happened.

("But we were pressured into joining SEATO."

(SEATO is the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, a defensive alignment of Western and Asian allies. Cambodia remained outside SEATO and strictly neutral until the ouster of Norodom Sihanouk, the former chief of state.)

The Phnom Penh government, in a statement, said it was "profoundly disappoint-

ed" with Mr. Ford's speech and added, "we have noted that the President of the United States seeks to avoid the responsibility for insisting on the request for aid to our people."

"As for us, we are determined to pursue our struggle in search of a negotiated peace. The attitude of President Gerald Ford affects in no way our steadfast position, which consists of seeking a cease-fire as a prelude to cessation of hostilities and national reconciliation."

It concluded: "In the pursuit of this objective, we will not hesitate in the future to revise our attitude toward the great powers."

*New York Times*