

2 ENVOYS SOUGHT ASIA NEWS CURBS

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Asked Voice of America to
Play Down April Events

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WASHINGTON, May 20—The United States ambassadors to South Vietnam and Cambodia asked the Voice of America to play down news of the deteriorating situation in Indochina in early April.

Representative Bella Abzug today produced texts of a message to this effect from John Gunther Dean, the last American envoy in Cambodia, and another cablegram from Graham A. Martin, the last American envoy in Saigon.

In testimony before the Government Operations subcommittee on Government information and individual rights, neither Eugene P. Kopp, deputy director of the United States Information Agency, nor Bernard Kamenske, news director of the Voice of America, questioned the authenticity of the messages.

Mr. Martin's cablegram, dated April 6 and classified as "confidential," said "speculations and unofficial comments" would "contribute to apprehensions amongst Vietnamese and Americans."

"Staying with minimum official announcements most helpful," the cablegram went on.

The cablegram from Mr. Dean, dated April 14, said he "strongly" advised the Voice of America against carrying an account of student demonstrations in Phnom Penh at which the resignation of President Lon Nol and the termination of American military aid were demanded. Voice of America coverage could be "misconstrued as representing [United States] mission support for student demands," he explained.