

Press Reaction To Nixon Move

New York

The following are excerpts from editorial reaction to the Nixon Administration's decision to give support, including the use of combat advisers and tactical air attack, to a South Vietnamese military operation in Cambodia.

The (Denver Rocky Mountain News — "The choice facing the United States is not between doing nothing and sending 500,000 men. This country is capable of supplying weapons without GIs. Such a low-key program may not succeed. But it's better than standing by and watching another Southeast Asian domino fall — and demoralizing all the rest."

Washington Post — "This is a stupefying development, which makes you wonder where in the world this Nixon crowd was when we were working our way insidiously into the Vietnam war. Does nobody in this administration remember how that scenario went: First, try it with South Vietnamese army, with American advisers and American equipment and American encouragement, and if that doesn't do it, throw in air support, and then, if that doesn't work, American combat troops."

The (New York) Daily News — "How could the president have decided otherwise? He is committed (with, we're convinced, majority popular endorsement in this country) to bringing the war to an honorable conclusion without a U.S. bugout and with the Vietnamese free to choose their own form of government without coercion from Moscow, Peking or Hanoi."

Atlanta Constitution —

"The painful truth may be that the United States is lurching into war in Cambodia in the same manner it sent troops to Vietnam — first advisers, then aircraft cover, then infantry troops.

United Press

The New York Times — "President Nixon, who was elected on a pledge to bring peace in Vietnam, has instead escalated the war into Cambodia in a rash move that has the gravest implications for the United States . . . the war will be not only widened but prolonged, and casualties will rise . . . the move into Cambodia is a tragic repetition of the mistakes of the past, a virtual renunciation of the President's promise of disengagement from Southeast Asia and of the principles of the Nixon doctrine itself."

The Boston Globe — "The generals won and the peacemakers lost . . . this is how the United States became mired in Vietnam. President Nixon by supporting the attack into Cambodia has taken the first backdoor step into a full scale Indochina war. Today, though, there is one important difference, Red China has not joined the active combatants in publicly swearing to restore a neutralist government in Cambodia.