

SP CHRONICLE
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Rogers Gets Protest by Employees

Washington

More than 250 State Department and Foreign Aid officials yesterday signed a statement to Secretary of State William P. Rogers to make evident their concern over United States operations inside Cambodia.

The officials expressed their "deepest concern and apprehension over the enlargement of hostilities in Southeast Asia."

They asked Rogers to "seek reconsideration of the apparent direction of the U.S. policy in Southeast Asia."

LEGAL

Their letter, which was understood to have been drafted with assistance of legal experts, said in part:

"As officers and employees of the Department of State and the Agency for International Development, we wish to express to you our deepest concern and apprehension over the enlargement of hos-

ilities in Southeast Asia suggested by American Military involvement in Cambodia and the recent bombings in North Vietnam."

It was understood that the signers of the statement ranged from clerical personnel to top officials, but no names were immediately available.

"As citizens, we share the misgivings of a large and responsible segment of American society," the statement said.

It added that, "Our sense of our responsibility to you, to the Department and to ourselves precludes our remaining silent."

CAREERS

The statement reflected an increased apprehension that has surfaced within the Department in recent weeks concerning American policy in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

It was understood that some young foreign service officers now are being told they must accept diplomatic assignments in Vietnam if they wish to have careers in the department.

United Press