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## 50 IN STATE DEPT. CHIDED ON LETTER

Officers Who Signed Protest  
on Cambodia Criticized

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Fifty Foreign Service officers who signed a letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers two weeks ago protesting the United States operation in Cambodia have been warned by their superiors that they acted out of turn in publicly criticizing the Administration.

The State Department confirmed today that the 50 officers, most of them in their 20's and a few, if any, above the middle grades, were called to a meeting last week with U. Alexis Johnson, Under Secretary of State for Administration.

According to the State Department spokesman, they were told that their letter was unprofessional and embarrassing to President Nixon.

But the spokesman said no punitive action would be taken against the officers. He would not say whether the incident would be recorded in their personnel records.

### 250 Signed Letter

The 50 who were warned were the only Foreign Service officers among the approximately 250 employes of the State Department and the Agency for International Development who signed the May 8 letter. The others were administrative and clerical personnel.

The letter expressed "concern and apprehension over the enlargement of hostilities in Southeast Asia." And asked Secretary Rogers to "seek reconsideration of the apparent direction of United States policy."

The letter made clear that those signing it were doing so as private citizens, expressing personal views. The names of the signers were not made public.

Mr. Johnson, who is the third highest official in the department and the highest ranking Foreign Service officer, was said to have told the officers that as long as they remained in the diplomatic corps they had a responsibility to support the President and his Administration.