

President Hears Advisers -- 'Encouraging' Reports

United Press

San Clemente

President Nixon met for 2½ hours with his top military commanders yesterday and then announced he will address the Nation Wednesday evening on the progress of military operations in Cambodia and winding up the war in South Vietnam.

Mr. Nixon was described as having been "encouraged" by the reports brought to him by General Creighton W. Abrams, United States

commander in Vietnam, on military operations against Communist sanctuaries inside Cambodia and progress made by South Vietnamese forces in assuming a greater share of the war.

A press aide described the President's Wednesday night speech as an "interim report" and said a more detailed address on the Cambodian operations will be made by the President around the end of June.

Abrams, accompanied by Admiral John S. McCain Jr.,

the U.S. Pacific commander, arrived in the U.S. Saturday night and headed back to Saigon immediately after the conference, held at the western White House overlooking the Pacific.

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard, and the incoming and outgoing chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer and General Earle G. Wheeler, also sat in on the session. Mr. Nixon's first meeting with his battlefield commander in almost six months.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said he expects the President's Wednesday address to last about 15 minutes and probably contain "no dramatic announcements."

WITHDRAWAL

Warren did not, however, rule out the possibility that Mr. Nixon might then announce the first increment of troop withdrawals under the plan he outlined last April 20 for reducing U.S. troop levels in South Vietnam by 150,000 within the next year.

A specific time for the President's nationally televised address has not yet been set.

Warren gave few details of yesterday's meeting beyond

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saying it was a "full military briefing." The President was reportedly anxious to discuss with his military commander the relative ability of the Cambodian and South Vietnamese armies to deal with North Vietnamese troops inside Cambodia.

SUPPORT

The President is considering whether to furnish U.S. support to South Vietnamese units operating inside Cambodia after the current series of Allied sweeps into Communist sanctuaries along the border end in June.

The President's Wednesday night address could furnish him an opportunity for rallying public support behind his policies at a time when the Senate is debating a controversial amendment to cut off funds for operations in Cambodia after June.

Mr. Nixon, who arrived here Thursday evening for the Memorial Day weekend, is to return to Washington this afternoon.