

# NIXON UNIT BACKS DRIVE IN CAMBODIA

Group, Describing Asia Trip,  
Says Pullout May Be Sped  
—One Member Dissents

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WASHINGTON, June 10—On the eve of a crucial Senate vote on the Nixon Administration's Indochina policy, the White House received from a Presidential commission an optimistic report on the push into Cambodia.

Before making the report public the commission members had a 70-minute meeting with President Nixon.

The commission found that the operation had been a military success and raised the possibility that the United States could accelerate the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam as a result.

## Vote on Byrd Plan

The lone dissenting voice on the 11-man commission of Governors, Senators and Representatives was that of Senator Thomas J. McIntyre, Democrat of New Hampshire, who expressed concern that the Cambodian "adventure" had broadened the war in Indochina.

The favorable report was made public by the White House a day before the Senate was to vote on an Administration-supported proposal offered by Senator Robert C. Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, to modify the Cooper-Church amendment to a bill on foreign military sales — an

Continued on Page 14, Column 2

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

amendment designed to forbid the President, in the absence of Congressional approval, to spend funds to retain American forces in Cambodia after July 1.

Mr. Byrd's proposal would specify that the prohibition did not preclude the President from "taking such action as may be necessary" to save American lives in South Vietnam or to facilitate the troop withdrawal.

Critics complain that the draft, if adopted, would nullify the proposed restrictions on future military operations in Cambodia.

## A Vote of Confidence

As a result of Presidential intervention in the Senate debate, what is shaping up is in effect a vote of confidence on the Administration's policies in Indochina, particularly on its Cambodian decision.

The report appeared unlikely to influence the Senate vote because most Senators appeared to have made up their minds. The vote could be so close as to turn on the actions of one or two.

At this point supporters of the amendment offered by Senators John Sherman Cooper and Frank Church believe that they command 48 or 49 votes against the Byrd amendment. With 99 Senators expected to vote—Senator Karl E. Mundt, Republican of South Dakota, is hospitalized—they need one

more vote to prevail. The outcome could turn on the votes of two undecided Senators—William B. Spong Jr., Democrat of Virginia, and Jennings Randolph, Democrat of West Virginia.

The White House made public the seven-page report of the Presidential commission, which, according to Senator McIntyre, was drafted by White House counselor, Bryce N. Harlow, during a stopover in Honolulu.

As Mr. McIntyre explained the situation, it was suggested by some commission members that Mr. Harlow put together the "consensus views," thus "giving us a chance to hit the pool for a few hours." The first draft, according to Mr. McIntyre, had a highly optimistic tone and was toned down in the form presented to the President.

#### Stage Is Overflowing

After the group, which left on June 3 and returned last night, met with the President, it was taken to an overflowing stage in the White House press room to present its views for the benefit of reporters and television cameras.

The stage was so crowded that Herbert Klein, the White House director of communications, who received the fact-finding mission and accompanied the group, repeatedly found himself being edged off the platform.

The White House did not distribute the "independent opinions" of Senator McIntyre, who subsequently presented them at a news conference on Capitol Hill.

The majority report, in de-

scribing the findings of the "whirlwind trip," which was acknowledged to be "much too brief to be conclusive," agreed that the Cambodian operation had been "militarily successful, certainly for the short term," in disrupting Communist supplies in Cambodia and in proving the battle mettle of the South Vietnamese forces.

"All leaders that we met with agreed that, due at least in some measure to the Cambodian operation, the scheduled United States troop withdrawals can safely and surely proceed," it said. "We conceive and hope that in the coming months an acceleration of withdrawals may even become possible."

The report also found that noteworthy progress was being made on the military, political and economic fronts in South Vietnam.

While cautioning that the possibility of significant setbacks could not be excluded, it said that "from the indications available to us, we deduce that the South Vietnamese have the tenacity and courage, and now hopefully have the time, to win their long struggle for survival."

#### Tower Assails Amendment

In his separate opinion, Senator McIntyre agreed that there was considerable evidence that the Cambodian operation had been "a short-term military success." But he said he also felt that the action had "widened the war" and would not speed the withdrawal of American troops.

The report made no refer-

ence to the Cooper-Church amendment, but the link was drawn at a news conference by Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas and a member of the group. He said he came ball at the more convinced that the amendment "is detrimental to our troops in the field and provides great aid and comfort to the enemy."

The other members were Governors John Love of Colorado, Ramond Shafer of Pennsylvania and Robert McNair of South Carolina; Senators Howard Cannon, Democrat of Nevada, and George Murphy, Republican of California, and Representatives William G. Bray, Republican of Indiana, O. C. Fisher, Democrat of Texas, Melvin Price, Democrat of Illinois, and G. William Whitehurst, Republican of Virginia.

In anticipation of publication of the report, Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, asserted yesterday that the military had staged a combat operation for Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird during an inspection trip to South Vietnam in March, 1969.

Mr. Fulbright said the committee had obtained a sworn statement from an unidentified former naval officer asserting that a "combat operation originally scheduled in the Mekong Delta was shifted to a secure area on the South China Sea when Communist units were discovered in the original area."