

Fact Finders'



UPI Telephoto

SENATOR MCINTYRE
The lone dissenter

Washington

A presidential factfinding team yesterday issued an optimistic report—with one dissent — on developments in Indochina as the Senate headed for a showdown on the effort to curb future U.S. actions in Cambodia.

A handful of senators hold the balance on what both sides predicted will be a close vote on an amendment by Senator Robert C. Byrd (Dem-W. Va.) to recognize presidential authority to take any action needed to protect American forces in Vietnam.

The fact-finding team, composed of four senators, four House members, and

three governors and accompanied by presidential aides Bryce Harlow and Herbert Klein, delivered its report to President Nixon after the week-long trip that included two days each in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Senator Thomas J. McIntyre (Dem-N.H.), while conceding the tactical military success of the Cambodia operation, said in a separate report "The acid test . . . is whether we have widened the war or whether the action will help us get out of Vietnam more quickly."

WITHDRAWALS

The commission said all leaders it met with "agreed that, due in at least some measure to the Cambodian operation, the scheduled U.S. troop withdrawals can safely and surely proceed.

"We conceive and hope that in coming months an acceleration of withdrawals may even become possible."

But McIntyre said "Not one American official with whom I talked — from Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and General Creighton Abrams on down — would recommend an acceleration of troop withdrawals as a result of our operations in Cambodia."

The commission struck one cautionary note: "We must not exclude the possibility of significant setbacks in the progree we have noted in Vietnam."

As for whether the Cambo-

dian operation might have widened the war, the commission majority said "U.S. embroilment in a wider war in Cambodia is not contemplated or expected by any of the top American or Vietnamese leaders we consulted on this trip."

FEAR

McIntyre, however, said "despite our hopes that the incursion will be only a temporary, limited tactical sortie, I am deeply troubled that the war has been expanded."

He said the majority report was written by Bryce Harlow, at the commission's request and incorporated many suggestions he made when he criticized an earlier draft as too optimistic.

Optimistic War Report

At a separate news conference, Senator John G. Tower (Rep-Tex.), a member of the group, called the Cambodian operation "an unqualified military success."

But he warned the United States might have to send troops back into Cambodia "if the enemy tried to reconstitute itself in the sanctuaries."

RETURN

Although he hopes this could be done by the South Vietnamese alone, Tower said "we should not forbid ourselves" the right to return.

The Texan asserted the Cooper-Church amendment to restrict future actions in Cambodia "is either politi-

cally motivated by those who do not want to see the Administration succeed in achieving peace through Vietnamization or they are naive and uninformed.

"Should the Cooper-Church amendment prevail, we will have sacrificed 42,000 American lives in vain."

Before the Senate can vote on Cooper-Church in its original form, it must deal with the Byrd amendment, which was endorsed last week by President Nixon.

DENIAL

Byrd rejected contentions by Cooper-Church supporters that his amendment is a blank check for presidential action in Cambodia.

"It is definitely not to be

misconstrued, misinterpreted or misunderstood to open any doors or loopholes for the use of American troops in Cambodia to support any Cambodian government or to fight a war for Cambodia," he said.

Byrd said the decision to attack the Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia was a tactical decision within the President's authority as commander in chief and would be again "if it were necessary to repeat the same action six months from now."

The Cooper - Church amendment to a military procurement bill would bar further U.S. GROUND OPERATIONS IN Cambodia after June 30 — the deadline already set by Mr. Nixon — and

would restrict air operations and aid to the Cambodian government.

HOUSE

To become effective it would have to be accepted by the House.

McIntyre expressed concern about "the opportunity for adventure in Cambodia" by elements of the South Vietnamese Army. "It's my understanding that they're unilaterally able to go in there and they will," he said.

Instead of going with other commission members to visit a fire base in Cambodia, McIntyre visited some pacification areas and also talked with a group of five senior Vietnam reporters.

Times-Post Service