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Penalties Barred for Protesting Diplomatic Officials

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WASHINGTON, June 16—The State Department has assured Government officials who signed a letter last month to Secretary of State William P. Rogers protesting the incursion into Cambodia that no "formal or informal" punishment would be taken against them, the American Foreign Service Association said today.

The association issued a statement that it had "sought and obtained categorical assurances from the Deputy Under

Secretary for Administration that no disciplinary action, formal or informal, will be taken against employes for signing the letter to the Secretary of State expressing displeasure with the decision to enter Cambodia."

It said that "these assurances specifically include notation in personnel files and promotions" and that the association "accepts these assurances in behalf of its members."

The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration is William

B. Macomber, who on behalf of the department refused last month to turn over the names of between 200 and 250 signers of the letter to a White House investigator, Clark Mollenhoff.

Secretary Rogers subsequently also refused to give the list to Mr. Mollenhoff, who first requested it on May 18, in what other officials described as a violent argument.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said yesterday that Mr. Mollenhoff, who has resigned from the

White House staff, had acted "on his own volition" in asking the State Department for the list.

The signers of the letter, dated May 8, included officials from the State Department, the Arms and Disarmament Agency and the Agency for International Development.

State Department officials involved in the incident said today that "from the outset" they enjoyed the "fullest solidarity" from Mr. Rogers and Mr. Macomber.