

Result of Visit

House Group's Vietnam Report

Washington

The special House committee that just returned from two weeks in Southeast Asia recommended yesterday that the withdrawal of United States ground troops should continue "at least as fast as now scheduled."

The bipartisan 12-member group, headed by Representative G.V. Montgomery (Dem-Miss.), submitted a report that backed the Cambodian incursion as successful but emphasized more strongly the advisability of maintaining or even accelerating the military withdrawal rate.

While Montgomery described the report as "a consensus of the views of the committee," it became rapidly clear that several members would file separate statements, some of them in the nature of dissents.

CRITICISM

Representative Augustus F. Hawkins (Dem-Calif.), criticized the report for failure to identify the South Vietnamese government as "an unpopular military dictator-

ship" that tortures political prisoners. He said he would file a formal statement today.

The 70-page report of the House Select Committee on United States Government Involvement in Southeast Asia was not submitted to individual members before its release. It had been discussed and agreed to by them in substance, according to Montgomery.

The committee was outspokenly pessimistic about the future of the economy in Vietnam, even if bolstered by continued American aid, but the report also indicated that such aid should be used to bring improvements in the present Vietnamese government.

SUCCESS

The committee called the Cambodian incursion an "evident success" although, it said, the enemy weapons and ammunition captured would only provide Cambodian forces with "a slightly greater capability for a few months."

Montgomery, interviewed

in his office, said he did not believe the report could be classified as supporting or opposing President Nixon's foreign policy.

He pointed out that the committee had been critical of the land reform program in Vietnam, the use of marijuana by troops there, failure

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of the public information system to unite the South Vietnamese people and the presence of more than 11,000 U.S. civilian employees in Vietnam. *New York Times*