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## The Other War in Cambodia

Nine hours before President Nixon delivered his interim report to the nation on Indochina, the Senate decisively turned down an effort to nullify the Cooper-Church Amendment which would restrict future military activities in Cambodia. Nothing the President subsequently said in his nationwide address has lessened the need for Congressional action to curb further arbitrary moves that might extend the Southeast Asian conflict.

Although Mr. Nixon hailed the invasion of Cambodian sanctuaries as having gone off even better than planned, he presented no convincing evidence that the "most successful operation of this long and difficult war" will in the end prove more effective than earlier "successes" in shortening the conflict or saving American lives.

The President said it will take "months" for the enemy to replace his losses. But he did not attempt to predict how many months, perhaps because the Communists now have seized new river routes down which they can float fresh supplies, even in the rainy season. At any rate, sometime after the withdrawal of American forces from Cambodia by the end of this month but before the promised withdrawal of 150,000 additional American troops from Vietnam next spring, the situation in the sanctuaries is likely to return to that which has existed, by the President's own account, for the past five years. That basic problem will remain unsolved.

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There is a larger area of conflict in Cambodia that is even more ominous. Although Mr. Nixon pledged once more to have all American troops and advisers out of the sanctuaries by June 30, he did not promise they would not return and he was disturbingly vague about the future activities of Saigon which indicates it will keep its forces indefinitely on Cambodian soil.

The President failed to discuss the political and long-term military implications of Saigon's persisting intervention, not only in the sanctuaries but deep inside Cambodia in obvious support of the weak Lon Nol Government. It is this apparent new American commitment by proxy to another uncertain anti-Communist Southeast Asian regime that is most troubling to many Senators and other thoughtful citizens.

Mr. Nixon did renew, in one brief paragraph, his previous offers for a negotiated settlement in Vietnam, including presumably his hopeful April 20 proposal for political accommodation. He offered support for the efforts of the eleven-nation Jakarta Conference to restore Cambodian neutrality, although he failed to note that the Jakarta meeting emphasized diplomatic solutions and eschewed the kind of military intervention Washington has been urging on Saigon, Bangkok and others.

Diplomacy still offers the best hope for extricating Americans from Southeast Asia with honor and safety. Diplomacy might yet succeed if President Nixon encouraged his State Department to undertake the same kind of bold initiatives he has permitted at the Pentagon in the misbegotten Cambodian affair.