

U.S. Warns Cambodia

--No More Coups

Phnom Penh

The United States embassy here has quietly let it be known that any coup against the Cambodian Prime Minister, Marshal Lon Nol, would result in the withdrawal of American aid.

The Americans are extremely anxious to avoid the sort of coup and counter-coup which plagued South Vietnam in the mid-sixties. "We are not going down the same road in Cambodia," one American said.

"We are not saying they have to keep Lon Nol. What we are saying is that any change in the leadership has got to be done legally and constitutionally. The American public and the administration will not stand for any more Vietnam-type situations."

Lon Nol's leadership has recently been under strong criticism from civilian politicians, both inside and outside the government, and from military officers.

American officials believe the army as a whole is still loyal to Lon Nol, despite discontent in some units over his handling of the recent, unsuccessful campaign against North Vietnamese forces in the northeast.

The military situation, meanwhile, has more or less stabilized. North Vietnamese forces, evidently satisfied with having repulsed government attempts to cut their supply lines, are believed to be turning their main attention to mounting a new offensive across the border into South Vietnam.

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