

# Red Siege of Viet Per

WASHINGTON — (AP) — North Vietnamese entrenched in Laos and Cambodia will be able to keep South Vietnam in a state of permanent siege, a Senate

Foreign Relations Committee staff report predicts.

The staff report, stripped of information deleted for security reasons, was based on visits to Laos, Cambodia

and Thailand in January by James G. Lowenstein and Richard M. Moose. The Foreign Relations Committee has been a persistent critic of President Nixon's policies in Southeast Asia.

The report made public yesterday painted a gloomy picture of weakness of government military forces in Laos and Cambodia in January.

"Laos is closer to falling now (January) than at any time in the past nine years," it said.

"Cambodia has lost half of its territory and is insecure in the remainder. Both countries are preserved, in the final analysis, only by the restrictions that the North Vietnamese have imposed on themselves.

"It seems clear that the North Vietnamese will be able to continue to use the territory of Laos and Cambodia to pursue the war in South Vietnam, no matter how successful Vietnamization proves to be, and to keep South Vietnam in a state of permanent siege."

In releasing the report, Sen. Stuart Symington, (D-Mo.), chairman of the subcommittee on U.S. security agreements, said the situation promises "indefinite continuance of the destruction of Laos and Cambodia by the enemy on the ground and by the United States from the air; also a continuing commitment of United States funds and the lives of United States pilots."

## manent--Report

### 10% Drop

In January, the report estimated that Lao irregular units in Laos were down to about 27,000, a 10 percent drop from April 1971.

Symington said executive branch security officers insisted upon deletion from the report of an estimate on the number of Thai irregular troops, paid by the U.S. government through the Central Intelligence Agency, in Laos. He noted, however, that Lao Premier Souvanna Phouma discussed a figure of 6000 in a radio broadcast

in January.

The report said Thai irregular privates are paid about \$75 a month, compared to \$26 for Thai regulars, in ad-

dition to \$120 bonuses at the end of their tours or \$60 for reenlistment.

The report estimated there were 31,685 U.S. mili-

tary personnel on regular duty in Thailand in January and a total of more than 43,000 official Americans including dependents. Air Force personnel numbered 26,597 to man 450 U.S. planes based in Thailand.