

Nixon Signs the Bombing Cutoff Bill

San Clemente

President Nixon yesterday signed the historic bill to cut off bombing in Cambodia by August 15, with the warning that he would seek congressional help if further actions are necessary to "win the peace" after the deadline.

"The last remaining element of the peace in Southeast Asia is a stable Cambo-

dian settlement," the President said. "I believe that settlement can be secured so long as we maintain reasonable flexibility in our policies, and essential air support is not withdrawn unilaterally while delicate negotiations are underway."

Mr. Nixon signed both a \$3.4 billion supplement appropriation bill for fiscal year 1973 and a continuing joint resolution to provide

vital financing for government operations. Both measures contain amendments aimed at ending the eight-year-old U.S. combat involvement in Indochina.

VETO

Mr. Nixon said he had vetoed the original supplemental bill last week, which also contained an anti-bombing amendment, because "such a precipitous step would have crippled or destroyed

chances for achieving a negotiated settlement in Cambodia. The stability of Southeast Asia would have been threatened and we would have suffered a tragic setback in our efforts to create a lasting structure of peace."

Mr. Nixon had worked out a compromise with the anti-war advocates in the Congress by getting agreement for an August 15 cut-

off of funds instead of an immediate halt to funds to pay for bombing in Cambodia and other military activities in Indochina.

In a statement issued from his San Clemente office as he signed the measures, which were brought from Washington by a White House courier aboard a commercial plane, Mr. Nixon

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on said: "The conclusion of a responsible settlement in Indochina has been and remains a matter of the greatest urgency.

"All but one of the major elements of that peace are now in place, forged against the will of a determined enemy by the sacrifice and courage of countless men and women, by our perseverance in protracted negotiations and by the effectiveness and the deterrent of American military power.

"A sudden bombing halt, however, would not have brought us the lasting peace that we all desire. As President, charged by our Constitution with responsibility for conducting our foreign policy and negotiating an end to our conflicts, I will continue to take the responsible actions necessary to win the peace.

"Should further actions be required . . . I shall request that Congress help achieve our objectives."

DEBT

Mr. Nixon also signed a third measure, extending the \$465 billion national debt ceiling to November 30, which also included provisions for a 5.6 per cent increase in Social Security benefits starting next July.

Senator J. William Fulbright, (Dem-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee, who presented the Cambodia compromise, said Mr. Nixon had accepted a series of interpretations:

- Congressional acceptance of the August 15 cutoff would not be interpreted as a recognition of the President's authority to engage U.S. forces in hostilities before August 15.

- Any involvement by U.S. forces in Indochina after August 15 would require approval of both houses of Congress.

- The agreement would not be used as the basis for escalating U.S. bombing in Cambodia, or for its resumption anywhere else in Indochina "unless provoked."

- All efforts should be made to minimize casualties and property damage.

Associated Press
