

Cambodia Police Aided By U.S., Kennedy Says

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) charged yesterday the State and Defense Departments had secretly helped establish a political police operation in Cambodia without telling Congress. State Department officials denied it.

In a letter to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, Kennedy demanded "definitive information" on what he said was termed a U.S.-financed "public safety" program in Cambodia.

The charge was based on a heavily censored report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) which said U.S. economic and military aid and narcotics control funds were being channeled to the Cam-

bodian police. The report said the assistance included money generated by Food for Peace sales of surplus U.S. foodstuffs overseas.

State Department officials said there was "nothing secret at all" about U.S. money being channeled to the Cambodian police.

They said the entire contribution, made at a time when there was concern over the status of any American prisoners held in Cambodia, consisted of a small amount of equipment given to police assigned to guard the U.S. embassy in Phnom Penh; \$18,000 worth of equipment for local narcotics agents; and some funds to improve the Cambodians' POW facilities.