

U.S. Still Providing Oil To Saigon

Washington

The United States is continuing to supply South Vietnam with oil until the Saigon government is able to begin making purchases on its own, the Defense Department said yesterday.

Pentagon spokesman William Beecher said that as a result of the Arab oil embargo the United States is providing about 22,000 barrels of oil daily from its Pacific Ocean reserve stocks. Another 1500 barrels daily is going to Cambodia.

None of that is intended for civilian use in South Vietnam, Beecher said.

Beecher said the South Vietnamese are currently negotiating with various oil companies for direct purchases, allowing them to skirt the Arab embargo. Most of South Vietnam's oil traditionally has come from Singapore, which refuses to sell oil products to the United States.

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