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House Votes To Halt Viet

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The House, by a 177-to-154 vote, rejected last night the Administration's request for a \$474 million increase in military aid to South Vietnam.

The unexpected action, which is unlikely to be reserved in the Senate, could cause considerable difficulties for the Administration in continuing military support to the Saigon government during the next three months.

Unless some last-minute solution can be devised by the Administration, it now appears that the Defense Department has virtually run out of authority to continue military spending for South Vietnam, in the current fiscal year that ends on June 30.

Partly because it overspent in the first part of the fiscal year, the Defense Department is close to the \$1.126 billion ceiling that Congress has imposed on military aid to South Vietnam in this fiscal year. To permit a continuing flow of aid in the remainder of the fiscal year, the Administration had asked Congress as part of a supplementary defense bill, to raise the ceiling to \$1.6 billion.

The Administration had anticipated that the request would run into difficulties in the Senate but be accepted

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by the House resulting in a compromise that would lift the ceiling to around \$1.4 billion.

But in the House the request ran into an upsurge of opposition from members complaining that the U.S. is already providing sufficient military aid to South Vietnam and that the additional money could be better used at home.

New York Times