

# U.S. Military Role in Cambodia

## Bangkok

American military analysts are making recommendations on bombing targets in Communist-controlled areas of Cambodia to the military command in Phnom Penh, according to a U.S. military source.

The recommendations,

based on reconnaissance flights conducted daily by U.S. jets, are apparently in violation of the congressional ban of a direct U.S. military role in Cambodia.

A congressional source said he believes that the ban, which went into effect Aug. 15, 1973, prohibits any

advisory role for Americans in the Cambodia fighting.

The intelligence flights, about three sorties a day, are carried out by RF-4 Phantom jets belonging to the 432d Tactical Fighter Wing stationed at Udorn air base in northeastern Thailand.

About two weeks before the ban against a U.S. combat role went into effect, the Pentagon said that it understood it could continue "unarmed reconnaissance flights for the purpose of gathering intelligence."

Once the film is back at Udorn it is studied by Amer-

ican photoanalysts who identify targets, look for camouflaged positions and make recommendations for bombing attacks.

After Cambodian planes make their attack, U.S. reconnaissance jets fly over the area again to film the result. Analysis of these photos are also processed at Udorn

*Washington Post*