

Rogers Promises Senators Will Get Foreign-Aid Data

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 — Secretary of State William P. Rogers promised today to provide Congress with long-range estimates of planned United States foreign aid after key Senators threatened to block the Administration's request for funds for economic and military assistance this year.

In exchanges with members of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Mr. Rogers did not, however, reverse the Nixon Administration's policy in invoking executive privilege to refuse to submit specific documents to Congress.

This privilege was invoked on Aug. 31 after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had voted to suspend all current military aid to foreign nations on Sept. 1 unless the Defense Department presented its five-year plan for overseas military assistance.

Without the formal invocation of executive privilege, the funds, would have been cut off under terms of the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act.

Today, Mr. Rogers assured

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Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, the subcommittee's chairman, and Senator Gale McGee, Democrat of Wyoming, who is also a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, that it would be "reasonable" for the Administration to supply congress with rough projections on economic and military aid in the next five years.

After Senator Proxmire said that he wanted "something we can use in committee, on the floor and make public," Secretary Rogers replied: "I think, Senator, "We can comply with your request. I think it is reasonable."

The difference between the situation created by the request by Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, for a Pentagon document on military aid and the request by the Proxmire subcommittee was that only "rough projections" were asked for today.

"I'm not asking for a confidential paper," Senator Proxmire said.

Would Hold Up Aid Bill

Both Senator Proxmire and Senator McGee told Mr. Rogers that the subcommittee would not authorize the 3.3-billion foreign economic and military aid bill, already approved by the House, unless the Administration submitted some information on plans for assistance over the next five years.

Senator McGee said that foreign assistance legislation would be "dead without it."

Mr. Rogers told the subcommittee that "I don't think this should result in a confrontation between the legislative and executive branches" and that "I think we ought to work out some kind of accommodation."

He cautioned, however, that neither the State Department nor the Agency for International Development had five-year projection of economic aid. He said that earlier attempts to project economic assistance over a long period had proved inaccurate.

\$1.21-Billion Arms Aid

This year's foreign aid program includes \$1.21-billion in military grants and credits. The figures for this are prepared by the Pentagon, and Senator Fulbright had insisted that a five-year projection for it exists. Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird said there were only "working papers."

Mr. Rogers testified in support of the aid legislation. He argued that military aid was needed, especially in Asia and the Middle East, to make the recipient countries better able to defend themselves.

Concerning economic aid, he said that "with two-thirds of the world's people still living in less-developed countries, it is neither right or wise for the United States to diminish its commitment to development."

In his prepared statement, Mr. Rogers urged the Senators to restore funds for Greece and Pakistan that the House cut out last month.

"We regret the failure of the Greek regime to move more rapidly toward a return to representative government, and we have made our disappointment clear to the Greek Government on a number of occasions," he said. "Nevertheless, we believe strongly that United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization security interests warrant an assistance program for Greece at the level we have requested."

Mr. Rogers also said that "we have urged the Government of Pakistan to make every effort to create the conditions that will lead to the return of the refugees and will permit the resumption of an effective overall development program."