

Sen. Hughes Accuses Nixon

'Illegal' Indochina Combat

Washington

Senator Harold E. Hughes (Dem-Iowa) said yesterday that recently uncovered evidence indicates President Nixon on "violated the law" by permitting U.S. combat troops to enter Laos and Cambodia in 1969 and 1972.

In a Senate speech, Hughes said the Senate Armed Services Committee has heard testimony from several witnesses that the ground operations took place after enactment of legislation which forbade further commitment of American forces in the two nations.

"These admissions point to clear violations of law," Hughes said.

Previewing a 508-page report the committee will soon issue on its investigation of military operations in Indochina, Hughes said discovery of the operations in Laos and Cambodia were further indications of Mr. Nixon's disregard for congressional intent in conduct of the Vietnam war.

"President Nixon failed to inform the Congress of his widening of the war into

16th Day of Golan Heights Artillery Duel

Beirut

Artillery shells screamed across the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria for the 16th consecutive day yesterday.

Israel's military command said Syrian shells wounded two Israeli soldiers and damaged a U.N. truce observation post and vehicle.

Syrian communiques said one Syrian soldier was killed and four were wounded.

United Press

Cambodia by B-52 strikes," Hughes said.

"He deceived the American people on April 30, 1970, when he claimed that for five years, neither the U.S. nor South Vietnam has moved against these enemy sanctuaries." He misled the Congress and the American people by suggesting that all

U.S. forces had been withdrawn from Cambodia on June 30, 1970, and that continued U.S. air strikes would be limited to border areas for the protection of American forces.

"And the evidence now available strongly suggests that he violated the law by permitting ground combat troops to continue to enter Cambodia and Laos," Hughes said.

Mr. Nixon signed legislation December 29, 1969, forbidding introduction of U.S. ground troops into Laos or Thailand, and extended the ban to Cambodia one year later.

"Despite these clear provisions of law, American combat troops continued to go into Laos and Cambodia," Hughes said.

According to a Defense Department white paper, he said, "there were 16 platoon-sized operations in Laos in 1970 and 13 more" between January, 1971, and April, 1972 — plus three multi-platoon operations in Laos in 1970.

In Cambodia, Hughes said, there were 22 platoon-

sized operations after Jan. 1, 1971, plus nine multi-platoon missions.

He quoted one witness as saying the operations were called "slam missions" — for search, locate and annihilate missions.

Hughes also criticized American military personnel for "blind obedience" to orders untempered by "law, morality and common sense."

United Press