

Senators Map 3-Part Antiwar Strategy

MAY 9 1970

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 8 — A group of Democratic and Republican Senators have devised a three-pronged strategy for challenging President Nixon's policies in Southeast Asia and for placing legislative restrictions on his powers as Commander in Chief.

The opening thrust will be to use Congressional control over the purse strings to try to prohibit the future use of American ground combat troops in Cambodia.

The next step will be to attempt to repeal the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin resolution which gave Congressional approval to steps taken by the President to repel Communist aggression in Southeast Asia. And then the tentative plan is to seek legislation requiring the withdrawal of all American troops from Vietnam by mid-1971.

This strategy has been worked out among a group of 15 to 20 Senators—about equally divided between the two parties—who have been meeting privately for the last few days at the invitation of Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts, one of the Republican Senators who have been participating in the meetings, described the "three-phased strategy" in a talk today before some 400 Harvard business and law school students. Senator Brooke said that "we are marshaling a Carswell-type operation" to place legislative restrictions on future military involvement in Southeast Asia. The reference was to the rejection April 8 by a Senate majority of Democrats and liberal Republicans of President Nixon's nomination of G. Harold Carswell to the Supreme Court.

The opening round in the three-phased strategy will come next week, when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to report out a foreign military sales bill containing a Cambodian amendment sponsored by Senators John Sherman Cooper, Republican of Kentucky, and Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho.

The Cooper-Church amendment would provide that no funds be used for "retaining" United States ground forces in Cambodia, for providing military advisers or mercenaries to the Cambodian Government, or

for air operations over Cambodia except those required for interdicting Communist troops and supplies moving into South Vietnam.

The Cooper Church amendment would not stop the present military operation in Cambodia, if only because it is unlikely to be adopted by Congress before the time limit that President Nixon has placed on the American operation in Cambodia. But it would prevent future American military intervention in Cambodia and the use of American advisers and combat air support for any South Vietnamese action in Cambodia.

The amendment probably will be called up on the Senate floor late next week, and its sponsors expect it to be adopted.

There are probably enough votes in the Senate to repeal the Tonkin Resolution, particularly since the Nixon Administration has said it is not relying upon the resolution, but upon the President's authority as Commander in Chief.

Success of the Tonkin repeal measure as a symbolic assertion of Congressional war-making power would lay the groundwork for an amendment by Senators George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon, to the military procurement authorization bill. This amendment would provide that without a declaration of war, all military operation must end in Cambodia within 30 days and in Laos by Dec. 31, and that all American forces must be withdrawn from Vietnam by June 30, 1971.

Senator McGovern today announced the formation of a

Committee to End the War—a bipartisan group of 16 Senators and 18 House members—to enlist public support for the amendment through petitions to Congress.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, announced that on Monday he would introduce a sense-of-the-Senate resolution calling for American military disengagement from Southeast Asia. The resolution, which would not be binding upon the President, calls for immediate withdrawal of all American military forces from Cambodia, an end to strategic bombing of North Vietnam, an effort toward an immediate cease-fire in all Indochina, and the withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina within 18 months.

"It's a vehicle for the Senate to express its will if other attempts don't work," Senator Muskie told reporters.