

Rogers Hails Laos Cease-Fire, Voices Concern on Cambodia

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

FEB 22 1973

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 — Secretary of State William P. Rogers hailed the Laotian cease-fire agreement today, but he expressed concern about the absence of a settlement in Cambodia so far.

Testifying before an unusually cordial session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Rogers said the accord signed in Vientiane "is yet another important step in the over-all solution to the Indochina problem."

He said that "it gives hope for a resolution to the Cambodian situation," but noted that efforts by the Lon Nol Government in Cambodia to bring about an informal cease-fire had "unfortunately been met by an increase" in Cambodian Communist hostilities.

Mr. Rogers conceded that his earlier optimism about a Cambodian settlement—expressed to the House Foreign Affairs Committee two weeks ago—"have not been borne out."

Little Detail on China

In his prepared remarks, Mr. Rogers ranged widely over the Administration's foreign policy, with particular attention to Southeast Asia and the Middle East. He did not go into much detail on relations with China—a subject to be taken up by the White House tomorrow—nor was he asked about them.

Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security, returned yesterday from a trip to Bangkok, Vientiane, Hanoi, Peking and Tokyo and met with Mr. Nixon last night and today.

The White House announced that a joint communiqué dealing with the China segment of the trip would be made public tomorrow morning here and in Peking.

Kissinger's News Conference

Mr. Kissinger will hold a news conference tomorrow morning to discuss the communiqué and his trip, but the White House said there were no plans for a live television or radio broadcast.

It is widely believed that Mr. Kissinger, who had a meeting with Chairman Mao Tse-tung in Peking, had succeeded in getting Chinese agreement for a widening of ties with the United States, perhaps including the establishment of a United States trade office in Peking, in the absence of formal diplomatic relations.

Meanwhile, calling the reports about a trade mission, "too little and too slow," Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Demo-

crat of Massachusetts, introduced a resolution in the Senate calling for the "prompt establishment of full diplomatic relations" with China.

He said that the United States should end its diplomatic ties with the Nationalist government on Taiwan, but issue a unilateral guarantee for Taiwan's security.

In discussing the Laotian cease-fire, Mr. Rogers confirmed that all United States Bombing would cease in that country as of midnight tonight—the time the cease-fire goes into effect.

Much of the discussion at the hearing related to the Administration's intention to supply economic aid to North Vietnam and other countries of Indochina. The issue has aroused considerable public criticism, and many members of Congress have publicly voiced reservations about giving aid to Hanoi while programs at home are being curtailed.

But most of the members of the Foreign Relations Committee seemed to echo the views of the majority leader Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, who told Mr. Rogers that he would personally support aid to Hanoi as a "price" that should be paid for the Vietnam settlement.

Senator Gale W. McGee, Democrat of Wyoming, however, joined with Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, in warning that Congress was in "an ugly mood" over the issue of aid to Hanoi.

No Plans Yet, He Says

Mr. Rogers, repeating what he had said before, said that he was sure that once Congress had a chance to study the aid question, it would "act responsibly."

He told the committee that no plans had yet been drawn up and he did not know whether aid to Hanoi would be through international organizations, as most Senators have suggested, or through direct grants.

He also said that the extent of the aid had not yet been decided upon, and that before any commitment to Hanoi, it would be discussed with Congress.

Senator Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, pressed Mr. Rogers to pledge that no aid commitment would be made without a Congressional authorization. But Mr. Rogers refused to make any promises, asserting that he did not know what Mr. Nixon intended.