

# Cambodia Is Called A U.S. Ally on Basis Of 'Common Enemy'

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WASHINGTON, April 2 (UPI)—A State Department spokesman said today that Cambodia was not a formal ally of the United States since they were linked by no treaty or alliance, but that the two countries were allied in the sense that they had been "fighting a common enemy for the past three years."

The spokesman, John King, was answering a question on policy toward Cambodia, which was one of many raised by newsmen seeking to determine the legal basis, if any, for continued American bombing in support of the Cambodian Army. Mr. King declined to get into a discussion of that in detail.

"The United States," he said, "considers the Khmer Government neutral and we have on a number of occasions offered our support for the maintenance of the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of their nation."

## No Official Alliance

"One cannot consider the Khmer Republic an ally in the sense that there is any treaty or agreement binding the policy of the two states together," he added.

However, he said, Cambodia could be considered an ally in the sense that she had been fighting the same enemy as the United States for the last three years. "We have of course been giving them significant material assistance in support of that effort," he said.

Mr. King said that Secretary of State William P. Rogers and his aides were preparing a reply to a letter earlier this month from Senator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He requested a full explanation of the American policy in Southeast Asia in the wake of the Vietnamese cease-fire.