

Understanding With Hanoi Cited in Cambodian Raids

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WASHINGTON, April 3—A key Administration official said today that North Vietnam "fully understood" in the last hours of the Vietnam negotiations that the United States would continue bombing in support of Cambodia's Government until a cease-fire was achieved there.

The official, a participant in the Paris negotiations who asked not to be identified, said that Henry A. Kissinger read a statement into the record on Jan. 23, the day he and Le Duc Tho initiated the Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

In that statement, Mr. Kissinger reportedly said that the United States would observe cease-fires in Laos and Cambodia once they were reached, but until then felt justified under the terms of the Vietnam agreement to continue military activity in those countries.

No Objection Reported

According to the Administration official, Mr. Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator, did not raise an objection to the Kissinger statement.

This footnote to the negotiations was provided by the official in an interview to justify the Administration's contention that the continued bombing of Cambodia had been legitimized and was necessary to prod the Communist side into reaching a cease-fire with the Cambodian Government.

Mr. Kissinger himself apparently alluded to his private statement when he said in a television interview on Feb. 1 that "our position is clear and has been made clear to the North Vietnamese during the negotiations."

"We will observe any cease-

fire that is established in Laos and Cambodia," he said.

The United States ceased military operations in Laos after the cease-fire was signed there in February. Air action was stopped in Cambodia on Jan. 28 when President Lon Nol ordered a cease-fire but began again when fighting resumed on a heavy scale late in February.

The Administration has said that a cease-fire in Cambodia has been more difficult to negotiate than in Laos because there was more than one group battling the Lon Nol Government. In addition to North Vietnamese in Cambodia, there are Khmer Rouge, a left-wing group, as well as forces loyal

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to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former leader.

The Administration has been reluctant to speak publicly about various private interpretations of the agreement worked out with North Vietnam in the closing phases of the negotiations. Administration officials have acknowledged that several exist, and are included in the stenographic minutes of the negotiations kept by Mr. Kissinger's staff.

At his news conference on Jan. 24, Mr. Kissinger was asked whether there were any "secret understandings," and he gave an ambiguous answer.

He said first that "there are, with respect to certain phrases, read into the record, certain statements as to what they mean, but these have been explained in these briefings and made clear."

Mr. Kissinger then said "there are no secret understandings." A few seconds later, however, when responding to another question, he broke his chain of thought to say:

"I want to make one point with respect to the question about understandings. It is obvious that when I speak with some confidence about certain developments that happen with respect to Laos and other places, that this must be based on exchanges that have taken place, but for obvious reasons I cannot go further into them. The formal obligations of the parties have all been revealed, and there are no secret formal obligations."

The Administration—chiefly through Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson—has contended that the continued bombing of Cambodia was "a follow-up in a small and limited way" to the Vietnam cease-fire agreement and was justified by the agreement itself.

In the agreement, Article 20 called on foreign countries to put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos, but set no deadline. The Administration has argued that until a cease-fire is achieved, Article 20 is not applicable.

Several members of Congress, however, have contended that the President has no legal justification to continue military activity in Cambodia now that the last American troops have been withdrawn from South Vietnam.

Eagleton Joins Critics

They have cited previous Administration statements defending involvement in Cambodia as necessary solely to protect the Americans in South Vietnam.

Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, Democrat of Missouri, joined the critics by issuing a statement today in which he attacked the Administration for justifying bombing in Cambodia on the basis of Article 20.

"If we accepted this incredibly vague provision as justification," he said, "we could well be committed to the defense of Cambodia indefinitely. If such an important commitment is to be made, it must be made by Congress."

Mr. Eagleton said that Mr. Nixon had no constitutional authority to continue air strikes in Cambodia and said he supported legislation proposed by Senators Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and Clifford P. Case, Republican of New Jersey, that would prohibit military activity in Indochina not authorized by Congress.

Secretary Richardson told a House Appropriations subcommittee today that he could not say when the bombing of Cambodia would stop.

"It has to be looked at on a day-to-day basis," he said. "Our objective is to bring about full compliance with the cease-fire agreement."

Asked whether the United States would renew its bombing of Vietnam, Mr. Richardson said that "we have to keep open the possibility that, in case of flagrant violations, we might have to provide significant help to South Vietnam. But he said that he did not expect this would be necessary in the near future at least.

U. S. Continues Bombing

HONOLULU, April 3 (UPI)—American pilots flying B-52s and fighter-bombers continued today to bomb Communist targets throughout Cambodia.

The United States Pacific command here would say only that the bombings were conducted at the request of the Cambodian Governments.