

## Cambodia Bombing 'Agreement'

Washington

A key administration official said yesterday that North Vietnam "fully understood" in the last hours of the Vietnam negotiations that the United States would continue bombing in Cambodia to support the regime of President Lon Nol until a cease-fire was achieved in that country.

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

In that statement, Kissinger reportedly said that the U.S. would observe cease-fires in Laos and Cambodia once they were reached, but that until then Washington felt justified to continue the military activity in those countries.

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

This historical footnote to the Vietnam negotiations

Saigon

American B-52s and F-111 fighter bombers attacked insurgent forces yesterday in some of the heaviest air raids of the Cambodian war, U.S. sources reported.

Every available B-52 in Southeast Asia participated in the massive bombings, apparently designed to force Cambodia's Khmer Rouge rebels and their North Vietnamese allies into accepting a peace settlement, the official American sources added.

The wide-ranging aerial assault was reported to extend beyond tactical support for Cambodian government ground forces and suggested a new turn in the three-year war.

The bombing got under way Monday night and con-

tinued until shortly after dawn yesterday, the sources said. The Pentagon spokesman said in Washington, however, that there has been "no dramatic change in the last few days" in the bombing level.

"We have had a major effort for some time," he added, without disclosing the number of attacks.

Hanoi radio denounced the attacks as a "criminal act against the innocent Cambodian people" and warned the U.S. of "dangerous consequences."

Senior U.S. officials in Cambodia expressed belief the Communists think they are on the brink of victory, and consequently see no point in peace negotiations.

The sources compared the massive raids in Cambodia to the bombardment of Hanoi and Haiphong last

December. That intense bombing was designed to force the North Vietnamese into accepting a peace agreement in Vietnam.

The U.S. has about 200 B-52 bombers on Guam and in Thailand and normally about 60 per cent of them are operational at any one time. Each of the eight-engine aircraft carries 30 tons of bombs.

A day after the Vietnam cease-fire January 28, President Lon Nol declared his forces would cease offensive action — something for which they had not made a name for themselves anyway — to permit the withdrawal of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from the country.

The insurgents replied with their heaviest offensive of the war. It was blunted only by U.S. air power.

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was provided by the official in a private interview to justify the administration's contention that the contin-

ued bombing of Cambodia had been legitimized by the Vietnam negotiations and was necessary to prod the

Communist side into reaching a cease-fire with the Lon Nol regime.

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