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## The War We're Still Fighting

**DESPITE THE FAIR PROMISE** put forth by the Paris Peace Agreement of January 27, the shooting war goes sporadically on in Vietnam and without cessation in Cambodia, where the American presence not only remains but grows larger day by day.

For 34 days, American air power has been pounding Cambodia, and it is now estimated that fighter-bombers are flying up to 150 strikes a day and B-52s, based in Thailand, are laying their explosive eggs on Cambodian soil at the rate of 30 tons per night. What is more, Washington has newly announced that U.S. airlifts will start flying fuel into the besieged capital of Phnom Penh — a decision taken after a convoy of 19 supply ships headed up the Mekong river for Phnom Penh ran into a gauntlet of fire which allowed only eight of their number to reach their destination.

**DISPATCHES FROM** the besieged capital, where foreign embassies are being evacuated, report that Western diplomats were "startled" by the extent of U.S. involvement in this civil war. Some members of Congress are similarly affected, and are asking by what authority U.S. forces are engaged and why the U.S. is now in Cambodia at all.

In the first instance, expert opinion has held that the cease-fire did not end the war and that the authority which put the nation into Vietnam has never expired. To Hanoi's charge that the bombing "systematically and impudently" violates the Paris accord, Washington replies that Hanoi broke the agreement first by launching the offensive which has ringed Phnom Penh at a distance of 15 miles.

**THERE IS EVIDENCE** that a massive rocket and sapper attack on the invested capital is planned for the coming New Year's holiday. There is direct testimony by Prince Norodom Sihanouk that his forces, which now hold 80 per cent of Cambodia's territory, have the will to fight forever and materiel enough to last three years or more — equipment provided by the Soviet Union and China before the cease-fire and since augmented by U.S. arms, munitions, vehicles, cannon, tanks and communications equipment abandoned by Lon Nol's retreating troops.

Among members of Congress there is growing concern lest this situation lure the United States deeper and deeper into the Cambodian political morass, and, developing not unlike Vietnam, make this nation's longest war longer still.