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Exclude Cambodia

## Stennis Backs War-Power Limits, but Would Exclu

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WASHINGTON, April 12— Senator John C. Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called today for the adoption of war-powers legislation that he said prevent the President from reintroducing military forces into Vietnam without Congressional consent.

The Senator, who in the past has strongly supported President Nixon on Indochina, seemed to take issue indirectly with the Administration's argument that the President has residual authority, growing out of the Vietnam war, to resume military action against North Vietnam if it violates the cease-fire accord negotiated in Paris.

Mr. Stennis, a Mississippi Democrat, made his points in a statement drafted at Walter Reed Army Hospital where he is recovering from gunshot wounds suffered after being robbed in January.

### Extension of Authority

As defined by officials, in particular, Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson, the Administration's argument rests on the premise that as long as the cease-fire is not observed, the hostilities are continuing in South Vietnam, and that therefore, the President has the same authority he had during the war to take military action to achieve a cease-fire.

In the Stennis statement filed with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is holding hearings on the war-powers bill, the Senator said, "In my opinion we are not currently 'involved' in hostilities in South Vietnam, North Vietnam or Laos."

Thus, if the war-powers bill

were enacted, the Senator argued, the President could not recommit forces to military actions in those three countries without Congressional approval in advance.

At the insistence of Senator Stennis — who is one of 60 Senate co-sponsors of the bill — the legislation contains a provision specifying that the Congressional restrictions shall not apply to hostilities in which American forces are involved at the time the bill is enacted.

In line with this provision, Senator Stennis specifically exempted the present bombing in Cambodia from the coverage of the legislation. To that extent, he declined to join some of his Senate colleagues, particularly members of the Foreign Relations Committee, who have been challenging the President's authority to continue bombing in Cambodia now that American forces have been withdrawn from South Vietnam.

The war-powers bill would define and place limits on the President's authority to commit American forces in the absence of a declaration of war by Congress. It would authorize the President to order military actions in certain emergency situations, such as an attack on American troops, but even then specifies that the hostilities could not be continued more than 30 days without Congressional approval.

Similar legislation passed

the Senate last year but died in a Senate-House conference. In the House, the Foreign Affairs subcommittee put off until next week attempts to draft its own new version of the war-powers legislation.

Senator Stennis's statement was interpreted as an indication that his support of Presidential policies may not be forthcoming and automatic now that American forces are withdrawn from Vietnam.

In particular, according to aides, Mr. Stennis was desirous of challenging the Administration's concept that Vietnam and Cambodia are "all one war."

"In the long run," Mr. Stennis said, "the only stable basis for continued confidence in our

Government is to have the people participate in the major decision of whether we are to have war or peace. The only practical way for the people to participate is through their elected representatives — the Congress.

The foreign Relations Committee heard arguments today that the situations in Cambodia and South Vietnam were interrelated from Charles N. Brower, the acting legal adviser of the State Department, who said that there was constitutional and legal authorization for continued bombing in Cambodia. Mr. Brower appear-

ed in place of Secretary of State William Rogers, who informed the committee that he was "too busy" to testify.

Mr. Brower said that the President's Constitutional authority was not "fundamentally changed" by the Paris Peace agreement and, that therefore, the President had authority to "wind up operations" in the "last little corner" of the war, in Cambodia.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, responded that the President "can't make authority by declaring three principles of eight principles."