

Senators Warn Against
More Cambodia Bombing

Washington

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statement that America would once again travel the bloody Indochinese road,?" Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (Dem-Mo.) asked in a Senate speech. "Expansion of the air war into Laos and its intensifica-

tion in Cambodia carries with it the fear that they are a possible prelude to renewed bombing of North Vietnam," said Senator Mark O. Hatfield (Rep-Ore.).

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, (Dem-Mont.), said that in bombing in Laos "the United States is getting involved again in another civil war" and endangering the cease-fire negotiated in both Laos and Vietnam.

Secretary of Defense Elliot Richardson told newsmen U.S. bombers hit Communist forces in Laos for the first time in nearly two months because North Vietnamese troops attacked a govern-

ment-held town in flagrant violation of the cease-fire agreement."

He said in response to a question that "the U.S. government was requested to provide air support by the Royal Laotian government and we have done this."

Mansfield said "there is no constitutional grounds that I know of for bombing in Cambodia and Laos. The problem is not military, it's diplomatic."

Muskie said the bombing plus "our encouragement of military activities in Cambodia, our threats to retaliate for violations of the cease-fire in Vietnam" and other activity "could be the precursors of a large scale

involvement of U.S. military forces in the Vietnam war."

"There is no legal or constitutional basis for such reinvolvement," he added.

PROTEST

The National Peace Action Coalition issued a statement protesting what it called "Nixon's illegal bombings."

"No one can accept the pretext of treaty violations," the coalition said. "... The Nixon Administration is still pursuing a policy of interference in Southeast Asia to guarantee U.S. imposed government there."

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