

U.S. Rejects Hanoi Note

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The United States has rejected a Communist note accusing violation of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement and has fired back a pointed indictment of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

The U.S. reply was distributed Friday and yesterday to Britain, France, the Soviet Union, China and the other nations that joined with the United States to guarantee the accord.

State Department officials said the reply was strongly worded in its rebuttal of the charges by Hanoi and the Viet Cong that Washington and Saigon had committed "grave violations."

In response, the United

Accuses Reds of Violations

States accused the Communists of violating the pact by infiltrating men and equipment into South Vietnam, by not withdrawing military forces from Cambodia and by failing to support peace-keep mechanisms.

A copy of the note was sent also to Kurt Waldheim, secretary-general of the United Nations. The Viet Cong were not sent a copy, officials said.

They added that Washington did not propose to reconvene the conference of the 12 nations which agreed to guarantee the Vietnam cease-fire.

In the Communist protest note circulated last Monday in Paris by North Vietnam, the United States and Saigon were charged with brazen and systematic violation of essential provisions of the cease-fire.

Washington's answer, also delivered in Paris, was taken up largely with the charges against the United States, leaving the South Vietnamese to handle allegations against them, the officials said.

Earlier in the week, Charles W. Bray, a State Department spokesman, had

dismissed the Communist note as "something of a smokescreen."

The diplomatic maneuvering accompanied a shift in U.S. policy from "scrupulous" compliance with the Paris accord to selective breaches in an effort to pressure Hanoi to pull its forces from Cambodia.

The effect was difficult to measure.

U.S. Embassy sources in Phnom Penh reported no verifiable evidence that North Vietnamese troops were engaged in combat in Cambodia. But Pentagon and State Department sources said they could detect no change in Hanoi's support of local Communist insurgents.

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'Guerrilla' War in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — (AP) — The war in Cambodia has become an exclusive fight between native guerrillas and government forces, with the North Vietnamese in the background keeping guard over supply trails into South Vietnam, a U.S. Embassy official said here.

In fact, the informant added, North Vietnamese infiltration into Cambodia seems on the decline and there is no "verifiable, documented evidence" that the Hanoi army regulars or the Viet Cong guerrillas of South Vietnam are now leading the native rebels into battle against the forces of President Lon Nol's government.

"Vietnamese troops have not been a significant fighting force in Cambodia since the Vietnam peace agreement," said the official, who declined to be identified.

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in Cambodia are believed to number around 25,000 men. The informant said their role lately has been limited to logistics concerning operations across the border in South Vietnam.

Cambodian insurgents are believed to number about 40,000 and control about two-thirds of this Indochinese nation's countryside. The government has about 200,000 men under arms.

Two major groups make up the rebel force: The Khmer Rouge, or Cambodian Communist party, and the Khmer Rumdohs, a force recruited by followers of Prince Norodom Sihanuk after his ouster as chief of state in 1970.

The U.S. informant said that the forces cutting off highways and in position close to Phnom Penh are

Khmer rebels. Although this force consists of 10 to 15 battalions, along with commando infiltrating units called sappers, there appears to be no imminent threat to Phnom Penh, the source added.

The Nixon administration has authorized the U.S. air strikes in Cambodia on the grounds that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong remain in the country in violation of the Vietnam cease-fire pact signed in Paris on Jan. 27.

President Lon Nol's government insists that the enemy it is fighting are Vietnamese Communists. It has banned mention of Khmer rebels in news dispatches about the fighting.

But Cambodian commanders in the field freely tell correspondents that the foe is native.

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GOP Chief Warns on Ending War

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott, in an apparent public warning to the White House, said yesterday that Congress is growing increasingly impatient with continued U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia.

If the bombing of Cambodia continues for three or four months, "There is a very definite possibility" that Congress may vote to cut off appropriations in order to force an end to it, Scott said.

And the Pennsylvania Senator said he interprets existing law as forbidding U.S. financing of a South Vietnamese ground incursion into Cambodia. The law was passed in 1970 following the first U.S.-led incursion.