

# Sweden Says U.S. Bombs Hit Cambodia's Civilian Population

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By The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, April 26—The Swedish Government, long a critic of American involvement in Indochina, condemned the United States today for its bombing of Cambodia, charging that the raids "indiscriminately hit the civilian population."

The statement was made by Foreign Minister Krister Wickman while replying in Parliament to a question by a Communist member, John Takman, who asked what the Social Democratic Government had done "to make known its attitude to the continued United States aggression in Indochina."

[In Cambodia, meanwhile, some fighting was reported within four miles of Phnom Penh in the wake of a Communist rocket attack that killed 20 civilians and wounded 60 in the suburbs of the capital. Page 3.]

The Swedish Government's statement constituted its second major attack in recent months on United States policy in Indochina. The previous one came last Dec. 23, when Premier Olof Palme issued a statement condemning the heavy United States bombing of North

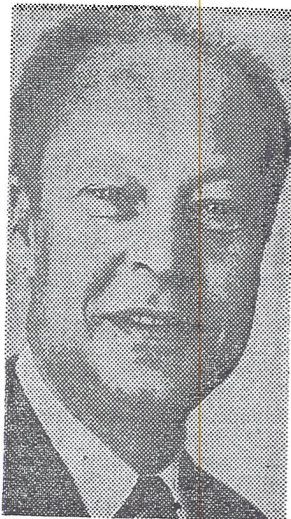
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Vietnam as an "outrage" comparable to Nazi atrocities in World War II.

As a result, the United States has neither an ambassador nor a chargé d'affaires in Stockholm, and Sweden has no ambassador in Washington. With Secretary of State William P. Rogers condemning the Palme statement as "outrageous," the United States told Sweden that her newly appointed ambassador was not welcome in Washington for the time being, and the American chargé d'affaires in Stockholm, who was in the United States for the Christmas holiday, did not return to his post.

In Parliament today, Mr. Wickman said the Swedish Government "considers it of crucial importance" that the provisions of the Vietnam cease-fire accord dealing with Cambodia be observed. He referred



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Krister Wickman, Foreign Minister of Sweden.

to Article 20, which includes a call on all "foreign countries" to end military activities in Cambodia and refrain from further introduction of troops, military advisers or war material into that country.

"The current United States bombings," Mr. Wickman continued, "should also be seen from general political and humanitarian views."

He said the situation in Cambodia after the signing of the Vietnam cease-fire accord in Paris on Jan. 27 "has been characterized by continued fighting between the parties in the civil war, which for long have received material support from outside powers."

"The size of this support is obviously difficult to assess," Mr. Wickman declared. "But it is from the Government's view not acceptable that a big power with superior resources in military technique interferes in a civil war in a small country."

"The bombings appear so much more provocative since they, as was the case earlier in Vietnam, indiscriminately hit the civilian population."

## Recalls Invasion of 1970

Mr. Wickman recalled that the Swedish Government had reacted sharply in 1970 when Cambodia became involved in hostilities through "the American extension of the Vietnam war"—an allusion to the American-South Vietnam drive into Communist-held areas in Cambodia.

He said the Government was similarly critical of the "renewed military activity" in both Cambodia and Laos.

Mr. Wickman made no reference in his statement to the status of American-Swedish relations. But Premier Palme has frequently declared that neutral countries have a right to express their opinion and has said the "Swedish people have reason to be proud of their participation in forming an international opinion to shorten the war."

He has also said that Sweden's desire at the same time has not been to freeze relations with the United States but to have "normal diplomatic relations."

## U.S.: 'Frosty No Comment'

WASHINGTON, April 26 (AP)—The latest Swedish attack on United States policy in Indochina brought a "frosty no comment" from the State Department today.

The department's spokesman, Charles W. Bray 3d used the three words at his news conference when asked about Foreign Minister Krister Wickman's charge earlier in the day that the United States was bombing indiscriminately in Cambodia.