

## Talk in Senate

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# Richardson in Bombing Debate

### Washington

Warning that the Lon Nol government will fall without U.S. bombing aid, Secretary of Defense Elliot L. Richardson defended the President's Cambodia policies before a hostile Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday, as House and Senate critics readied a series of showdown votes on the bombing issue.

Richardson said the only motive for U.S. bombing is maintain an independent government that can keep the country from falling to North Vietnam. Otherwise, he warned, North Vietnam would use Cambodia as a "staging area" for attacks on South Vietnam that would unhinge the fragile cease-fire there as well, and plunge Indochina into a new war.

### TONNAGE

While Richardson was testifying, Dennis J. Doolin, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense, told the House Armed Services Committee that U.S. planes had dropped 82,837 tons of bombs on Cambodia in 12,136 raids

from January 27 to April 30. He put the cost at \$159.5 million. He said 63,082 tons had been dropped on Laos in the same period at a cost of \$99.2 million.

Despite Richardson's statements, Senators Jacob K. Javits (Rep-N.Y.), George McGovern (Dem-S.D.) and other members of the Foreign Relations Committee said they believe there isn't any legal basis whatever for the President to continue bombing in Cambodia without specific congressional authorization now that a cease-fire has been signed.

And Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.) in a floor statement, said he feared that Congressional failure to block funds for the bombing might be read as a "backdoor Gulf of Tonkin resolution" that would allow the U.S. to slide into another Asian war.

### VOPE

The House Democratic caucus votes today, and the full House tomorrow, on a move by Representative Joseph P. Addabbo (Dem-N.Y.) to block transfer of \$40 million in defense funds

from one military account to another because part of the money is for Cambodia bombing.

Richardson, in testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee Monday, said passage of the amendment wouldn't necessarily block the bombing, since the administration could use money from other accounts. So Senate critics of the Cambodia bombing are preparing a series of more sweeping amendments to do the job.

One of these is that cutoff of all appropriated funds for any further bombing in Cambodia or any other U.S. military action in Indochina. It is expected to be approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee within the next week as part of the authorization bill for state department operating funds.

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