

Plan to Cut Off Bombing Funds

Nixon Assails Congress

Washington

President Nixon accused Congress yesterday of "action that could severely undermine" the chances of restoring peace to Cambodia and all of Indochina.

In a statement read by Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, the President argued that recent steps in the Senate and the House to stop the American bombing in Cambodia were especially damaging because they came "on the very eve of negotiations to achieve compliance" with the Paris agreement.

Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, is scheduled to open talks with the chief North Vietnamese negotiator, Le Duc Tho, in Paris this morning. He flew from Washington to Paris yesterday.

At almost the same time Ziegler was reading the statement to reporters at the White House, the Senate delayed a showdown with the President on the bombing question until it returns from a Memorial Day holiday on May 29.

Utilizing a series of technical delaying measures, including the assertion of their

Phnom Penh

A new Cambodian government under Premier In Tam took office yesterday and pledged itself to "independence, neutrality and peace."

It also promised a reorganization of Cambodia's armed forces to strengthen "discipline, patriotism and combat value."

In military action, U.S. planes destroyed a large Communist motor vessel and a big sampan in Mekong river air raids. Other American planes bombarded ground units threatening the town of Kampot, 93 miles southwest of Phnom Penh, military sources said.

U.S. planes also bombed suspected Communist positions near Kompong Cham, a provincial capital 78 miles

northeast of Phnom Penh, in addition to hitting targets along the banks of the Mekong where a ship convoy carrying fuel from South Vietnam was expected soon.

In ground fighting, the sources said rebel commandos invaded Kampot Tuesday night and damaged some of the town's water pipes. Other sources reported that about 300 rebels infiltrated the village of Tuol Keo, 78 miles north of Phnom Penh.

The 24-member cabinet, including 12 men who served in the cabinet that resigned last month, was officially installed by the High Political Council, a four-man group that jointly rules the country. It was formed to unite Cambodia's opposing political factions in the struggle

right to prepare a minority report, Senate Republican leaders managed to force

Majority Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana to hold up action for a week on a total



IN TAM
Premier

against Cambodian rebels nominally headed by deposed Norodom Sihanouk.

President Lon Nol, leader of the High Political Council, presided over the brief installation ceremony at the presidential palace.

United Press

cutoff of funds for the bombing.

Mansfield said he had no choice.

Minority leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania said he felt that "an opportunity should be given for the Kissinger-Tho talks to proceed

Move

so that Senate action would not endanger these negotiations."

COMMITTEE

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 24 to 0 Tuesday — with many erstwhile hawks, including a number of Republicans, turning against the President's position — to include in a \$3.2 billion supplemental appropriations bill language to deny funds for any military action in Laos or Cambodia.

Ziegler said at the regular press briefing that the White House congressional liaison staff had talked about the problem with Republican leaders on Capitol Hill, but he did not say specifically that the White House had asked for the delay that Scott succeeded in forcing.

Pressed to state whether Mr. Nixon considered the survival of the present Cambodian government in the vital national interest, and to specify what the President would do if all funds were cut off, Ziegler evaded answering.

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