

Shapp Increase in  
Cambodia Raids

## Pentagon Says Policy Unchanged

Washington 2 JUL 73

The Defense Department disclosed yesterday that the U.S. has sharply increased the number of bombing raids in Cambodia.

Pentagon spokesman William Beecher said the number of sorties flown daily by F-4 and A-7 tactical aircraft has increased by as much as 50 per cent, beginning in the middle of the week.

Until then, fighter bomber sorties had been running about 150 each day. Now, they are running "in the 200s," Beecher said, and declining to be specific he said they have remained in the range of the "low 200s."

B-52 heavy bomber runs remain at about the same level as before, about 40 sorties daily. A sortie is one mission by one plane.

On Friday, Congress voted a compromise August 15 close-off date for American bombing and other military activity in Indochina. After that, President Nixon must seek new congressional authority to continue the bombing.

Before the August 15 compromise was reached, the House and Senate had voted for an immediate bombing halt, a proposal vetoed by the President.

### WEATHER

The new level of attacks by tactical, as opposed to strategic, aircraft was precipitated by a break in the weather over Cambodia and by military thrusts by Communist-led Cambodian rebels seeking to overturn the government in Phnom Penh, Beecher said.

On Sunday, for example, government troops received heavy American air support while trying to clear a seven-mile stretch of Highway

Back Page Col. 6

### From Page 1

5 about 40 miles northwest of the capital.

Beecher said there was no change in bombing policy — that American military officials are responding to changing conditions on the ground.

American planes have been bombing in Cambodia with varying intensity since the first Indochina cease-fire went into effect January 27.

### COMPROMISE

When Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, gave his approval to the compromise last week, he said the White House had made promises about the level of military activity in

Cambodia.

He said then the compromise was offered to the full Senate "assuming that the interval between now and August 15 will not be the occasion for an escalation of U.S. bombing in Cambodia or its resumption anywhere else in Indochina unless provoked."

At that time, the increase in tactical raids was not known on Capitol Hill.

Asked if the increased number of fighter-bomber attacks violates the spirit of the compromise worked out during heated debate last week, Beecher said the administration intends to use whatever authority it still has "to try and conclude a cease-fire" in Cambodia.

Associated Press

San Clemente, Calif., July 1 - President signed legislation today halting all American military activity in Indochina after Aug. 15 but said that if necessary he would ask Congress for further authority later. .... Mr. Nixon's warning that he may have to ask further authority to bomb beyond Aug. 15 was regarded by most Capitol observers as for the record only. They do not believe Congress would extend the deadline except under the most extraordinary circumstances. ....

WXPost 2 Jul 73, filed Congress