

U.S. Speeds Aid Deliveries To Cambodia

By Mike Shanahan

Associated Press

As the Aug. 15 cutoff date for American bombing in Cambodia approaches, Pentagon sources say the United States is doubling the rate at which military aid is shipped to the government in Phnom Penh.

"We want to give those guys every chance we can," said one qualified source.

Among the items of military hardware being rushed to Cambodia are T-28 propeller-driven fighter planes, C-47 cargo planes, 155-millimeter artillery howitzers, armored personnel carriers and river patrol boats.

Pentagon officials say the only reason more sophisticated weaponry is not going to Phnom Penh is that Cambodian military forces are not sufficiently trained to use them.

Congress has approved legislation ordering President Nixon to halt all military activity in Indochina by Aug. 15. Until then, B-52 bombers and tactical fighter bombers like the F-111 are expected to continue to hit concentrations of North Vietnamese Communists and Cambodian rebels.

Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger has said it is doubtful whether the Phnom Penh government can survive without American air power. There have been reports that the Americans are considering persuading South Vietnamese to send some troops and planes to help out their Cambodian neighbors.

In recent days, civilians, including bank clerks and civil servants, have been called out to train in the use of American-made weapons in case rebel forces should reach the city's defenses.

Before the Paris peace accords were signed last January, the United States rushed in millions of dollars worth of equipment to South Vietnam. U.S. officials said that was necessitated by the provision in the peace agreement limiting American aid to South Vietnam to replacement of military equipment lost or destroyed in battle.

There is, however, no

such restriction on U.S. aid to Cambodia. U.S. military aid to Cambodia is financed under a congressionally approved continuing resolution permitting aid to continue while work is completed on the budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. The Pentagon may provide aid at an annual rate of \$133.2 million, the same as last year.

Pentagon sources said the rush is on to ship into Cambodia by Aug. 15 the amount permitted for the first quarter of fiscal 1974, or \$33.2 million.

Since Jan. 1, 1973, the United States has shipped to Cambodia 21 T-28s, four C-47 cargo planes, 21 river patrol boats, 30 armored personnel carriers, eight 155-millimeter howitzers, and a large number of mortars, smaller artillery guns, trucks, communications equipment, ammunition and small arms.

Help to War Victims Seen Relying on Aid

Associated Press

A foreign aid official testified yesterday that economic support for South Vietnam and Laos is essential to enable the governments there to rehabilitate and resettle war victims.

Robert H. Nooter told the Senate Refugee subcommittee that "in a generation of conflict, millions of civilians have been uprooted from their homes and livelihoods' and hundreds of thousands still remain in refugee camps.

"These countries also face the challenge of rehabilitating thousands of disabled civilians and military veterans and caring for those who cannot be rehabilitated," he said.

Nooter emphasized that development of a healthy economy in South Vietnam and Laos "is inextricable from the humanitarian problems" left by the war.

Nooter, assistant administrator for supporting assistance of the Agency for International Development, said the agency's budget request to Congress for the current fiscal year is cast in these terms.