

WXP Post AUG 9 1973
**U.S. Aides Tried to Keep
Newsmen From Town**

(NDP)
Special to The New York Times

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug. 8—The air attaché and an assistant air attaché at the United States Embassy intervened yesterday to prevent a correspondent of The New York Times from flying to Neak Luong, the scene of an accidental American bombing, on a Cambodian Air Force helicopter.

The correspondent, Sydney H. Schanberg, obtained other transportation, by boat, to the town, 38 miles southeast of Phnom Penh.

When the air attaché, Col. David H.E. Opfer, learned yesterday through the assistant air attaché, Capt. Richard I. Felker, that the correspondent had been cleared for the trip by Cambodian officers at Phnom Penh's military airport, he telephoned someone in the Cambodian high command and got the correspondent removed from the flight.

Captain Felker, who was going to Neak Luong in the same Helicopter, issued instructions to Cambodian officers despite the Cooper-Church Amendment, a congressional act that bars all adviser activity in Cambodia.

After the correspondent spent a day and night in Neak Luong the local authorities put him under confinement on the ground that he had entered illegally and had taken pictures of "military secrets." He was released late in the morning.

The United States embassy and the Cambodian Government arranged a hasty helicopter trip to the town today for five foreign journalists on a pool arrangement under which they briefed the rest of the press. They were allowed to stay less than 30 minutes and could speak with few people.