

# U.S. Officially Ends Its Bombing of Cambodia

## Big Raids Right Up to Deadline

### Phnom Penh

The United States put an official end to the bombing of Cambodia today, closing out a decade of U.S. combat in Indochina and leaving the beleaguered government of President Lon Nol to fight alone against insurgent forces who control 90 per cent of the country.

American pilots carried out heavy raids before the deadline and then flew back to their bases in Thailand for champagne celebrations.

There were no immediate reports from the field as to whether the air raids were halted on schedule.

Deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren said again yesterday that the Nixon administration "will do everything within the law to support the government of Cambodia."

### DEADLINE

The deadline at 11 a.m. today, Cambodian time (9 p.m. Tuesday PDT), was ordered by Congress to halt history's largest sustained aerial bombardment, during which the U.S. dropped 6.6 million tons of bombs on Indochina in 11 years at a cost of \$30 billion.

B-52s, F-111 fighter-bombers and tactical aircraft carried out attacks against thousands of insurgents, massed at the outer edges of the Cambodian capital, nearly up to the deadline.

American pilots flew raid after raid, frequently

through monsoon clouds and storms.

Many of the raids were around Skoun, the road junction 35 miles north of Phnom Penh. The town fell to the insurgent forces on Sunday.

To the south, both B-52s and F-111s attacked elements of the estimated 10,000 rebel troops at the capital's outer perimeter. Night flares illuminated the sky and, as day broke, the bombing rattled windows

Back Page Col. 3

### From Page 1

and doors in parts of the city.

Residents of the refugee-swollen city went about their routine as though unconcerned despite the din of the bombardment.

### MANDATE

Congress mandated the bombing halt in June in legislation that cut off financing for all combat activities by U.S. military forces "in or over or off the shores of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia."

The Cambodian air force continued operations with its 100 propeller-driven T-28 air-

craft — compared with the more than 400 jet fighter-bombers of the U.S. Air Force.

Defense Department official said U.S. bombers would remain ready for duty at bases in neighboring Thailand following the final raids over Cambodia.

Unarmed American cargo planes will continue to supply the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh with ammunition and supplies and U.S. photo reconnaissance aircraft will keep photographing battlefields, the Pentagon said. However, the congressional bombing halt order forbade retaliation in the event such noncombat aircraft are fired on.

A Pentagon spokesman said it was still possible the Nixon administration could ask Congress for permission to fly retaliatory raids in the event any unarmed American planes were shot down.

Communist forces that advanced to within three miles of Phnom Penh ten days ago had fallen back to an average of nine miles to the north, west and south of the capital. The Communists were within a mile of Phnom Penh to the east, but there the city is protected by

the mile-wide barrier of the Mekong river.

Government military sources in Saigon said that more than 5000 Cambodian nationals in the South Vietnamese armed forces have been put in full alert near the border in case a decision is made to send military help to Cambodia.

The American embassy — largest in the capital with about 200 personnel — said it would remain despite a warning Sunday from deposed Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk that victory by his rebel forces in Cambodia is "already practically achieved" and that all foreigners should leave.

More than 200 foreign newsmen, television cameramen and photographers were sticking it out.

Sihanouk left north Korea yesterday by train for Peking where his government in exile has been based since 1970. North Korea's semi-official KCNA news agency said.

Sihanouk is expected to begin a Middle East tour later this month.

United Press

## 12 Years of Bombs

### Washington

The United States slipped into the Indochina air war almost 12 years ago when the first bomb dropped by an American pilot fell in total secrecy from a plane with South Vietnamese markings.

What began with a few bombs from a propeller-driven T-28 Trojan ended with B-52 bombers pummeling Cambodia one last time last night.

By then, the U.S. had battered enemy-controlled areas of South Vietnam four times as hard as it has North Vietnam, twice as much,

as Nazi Germany and 20 times more than Japan.

The U.S. dropped 6.6 million tons of bombs on Indochina, including 3.1 million tons on South Vietnam, 2.1 million tons on Laos, 840,000 tons on North Vietnam and 510,000 tons on Cambodia. Almost half the Cambodia tonnage was dropped in the past six months.

The U.S. lost 3705 fixed wing planes and 4867 helicopters from both combat and non-combat causes in Indochina. The lost aircraft cost roughly \$10 billion. Bombs, fuel and other operational costs came to about \$20 billion.

United Press