

Nixon Warns Hanoi Not To Start Any Aggression

Washington

President Nixon warned North Vietnam yesterday not to interpret the Congress-ordered halt of U.S. bombing in Cambodia as "an invitation to pursue a policy of aggression in Southeast Asia."

He promised, at the same time, to "work with Congress" in responding to any new aggression.

In a statement that accused the North Vietnamese of sponsoring Cambodian rebels and of refusing to agree to a ceasefire, Mr.

Nixon cautioned they would make "a very dangerous error" if they went on an offensive that jeopardized stability in Indochina and risked overturning "the settlements reached after so much sacrifice by so many for so long."

Mr. Nixon's concern that Hanoi will move in South Vietnam if and when Cambodia falls was not shared widely within the U.S. government.

Outside the White House, analysts said that Hanoi has always retained its supply lines to Communist forces in

the south, despite the January 27 peace agreement, and that the North Vietnamese forces freed after Cambodia fell would not significantly increase its offensive capability in the south.

The thrust of Mr. Nixon's argument went beyond Indochina, however to U.S. global commitments.

In again criticizing Congress for its order that halted U.S. combat activities, the President said an "important incentive" for a negotiated settlement was eli-

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minated, the security of Cambodia's neighbors was weakened and the structure of peace in Indochina was eroded.

"Most importantly," the statement added, "this congressional action undermines the prospects of world peace by raising doubts in the minds of friends and adversaries concerning the resolve and capacity of the United States to stand by international agreements when they were violated by other parties."

While U.S. diplomatic analysts do not fear a rapid return to all-out war in Vietnam, they do accept the risk that Hanoi will be encouraged by its anticipated success in Cambodia and will not be as forthcoming in the political negotiations with Saigon as it would if Lon Nol survives.

PROMISE

The White House statement, which deputy presidential press secretary Gerald Warren said presented "the President's position," also promised that the U.S. will "continue to provide maximum amounts of econ-

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omic and military assistance permitted by present legal constraints."

In the fiscal year ended June 30, the U.S. provided Cambodia with \$67.8 million in economic aid, \$30.6 million in surplus food and \$148.6 million in military assistance. In the current fiscal year, the figures will be \$75 million, \$30 million and \$186 million, respectively.

Warren also recalled that the Defense Department recently issued guidelines to commanders on activities still permitted after the combat action cutoff Tuesday at midnight. These cover "military and humanitarian assistance" in both Laos and Cambodia, including non-combat flights to deliver both kinds of aid, unarmed reconnaissance flights and the "normal activity of U.S. military equipment delivery teams in Cambodia."

In response to a question, Warren said "negotiations which the U.S. was undertaking in secret at the time of the congressional action

(in June) are no longer under way." He declined to say who broke them off or provide additional details.

While there are no negotiations involving the U.S. now going on, there have been contacts between the Cambodian government of Premier Lon Nol and the Communist side since June, informed sources said. These were described as so tentative as to not warrant being called negotiations, however.

The statement implied that China and the Soviet Union have tried to influence Hanoi to reach a Cambodian settlement, but without success.

"Despite efforts of many interested parties and the good will of the Khmer Republic (the Lon Nol government)," it said, "the Communist side remains intransigently opposed to any compromise." It also said the North Vietnamese were "sponsors" of the Cambodian insurgents.

For the future, Warren refused to speculate on whether Mr. Nixon might recall Congress into special session if Phnom Penh and the regime fall.

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