

# Aide Quits C.I.A., Impugning Its Honesty

NYTimes MAY 18 1973

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 17—An expert on Indochina resigned from the Central Intelligence Agency today, charging the intelligence community with "grossly" underestimating the size of the insurgency in Cambodia and with refusing to admit that the conflict there was a civil war.

Samuel A. Adams, in a resignation statement to the C.I.A. that he also gave to The New York Times, also said that the intelligence community was "neither honest enough nor thorough enough" in its work on Indochina.

Mr. Adams's views were disputed by experts in both the State Department and the C.I.A., who stuck with the official analysis, shared by the Pentagon, that the insurgent force of 40,000 to 50,000 is almost totally dependent on North Vietnam, and responsive to Hanoi's will.

## Rebels Almost 'Independent'

In an interview, Mr. Adams took direct issue with the official view of both the size and control of the rebel force.

He said that the Cambodian insurgents were "virtually independent" of Hanoi and that they numbered 200,000, of whom as many as 100,000 were organized into regular units. He also asked there were "no more" than 2,000 North Vietnamese with the insurgents, specialists in such work as mine-laying and engineering.

The size and control of the rebel force is an issue that underlies congressional efforts to cut off funds for the continued American bombing of Cambodia in support of the Lon Nol Government. The Administration had defended the raids as necessary to offset the North Vietnamese involvement in Cambodia.



The New York Times

Samuel A. Adams

Moreover, the Administration has also tended to describe the Cambodian insurgents as a poorly organized force that could be handled by the Lon Nol forces of 200,000 if not for North Vietnam's aid.

## Nixon Statement Recalled

For example, President Nixon in his recent State of the World Message repeatedly referred to Hanoi's "aggression" in Cambodia. And Secretary of State William P. Rogers, in a recent appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the Lon Nol Government was opposed by a force of 70,000—35,000 Cambodians and 35,000 North Vietnamese.

Mr. Adams, in recent days, has been briefing such antiwar Senators as George S. McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and Charles McC. Ma-

thias Jr., Republican of Maryland, on his views and he has been invited to testify before a Foreign Relations sub-committee.

Critics of the bombing say that the fighting there is essentially a civil war between Cambodians and that the United States had no business intervening.

The C.I.A. refused to comment on Mr. Adams's resignation.

Mr. Adams, a 10-year veteran of the agency, also was involved in a dispute in 1967 over the size of the Vietcong force in South Vietnam.

He insisted that it was 600,000, while the official estimate was 275,000. He said that his figure was accepted as the accurate one in 1968 after the Tet offensive.

In March, Mr. Adams testified for the defense in the Pentagon Papers trial of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr.

He said that some of the highly classified documents were based on inaccurate and perhaps deliberately misleading information, thus making them of no importance to enemy intelligence.

## 'Repeated Misjudgments'

In his resignation statement, Mr. Adams said his "main reason" for leaving was "the belief that U.S. intelligence has been neither honest enough nor thorough enough in conducting research on the war in Indochina."

"The failures in research have led to repeated misjudgments of the nature and strength of our adversaries there," he said.

He also cited his "inability" to correct the situation.

"Since 1967, I have submitted complaints about the integrity and completeness of research to the inspector generals of the C.I.A. and the U.S. Army to the National Security Council, and to the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board," he said. "My criticisms were met with evasion, delay, and sometimes threat. As far as I can determine, they were largely fruitless."

Mr. Adams, who has written a history of the Cambodian Communist movement for the agency, said there was "no disagreement" that Hanoi supplied most of the insurgent war material. But said that Hanoi's control over the insurgents was much less than that stated by the Administration. He likened it to the relationship between Peking and Hanoi.

See note, this file, NYTimes 26 Feb 73.