

JUL 12 1973
Senate Rebuff

Nomination of Former Envoy To Laos Blocked

Washington

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a highly unusual move, yesterday blocked the nomination of G. McGuthrie Godley as assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.) said members feel Godley should not take the post because of his long association with the war in Indochina.

As ambassador to Laos, Godley exercised control over the U.S. Air war against insurgent forces and was often described as a virtual military proconsul in the country.

The committee voted 9 to 7 to postpone action on the nomination indefinitely and to advise Secretary of State William P. Rogers to assign Godley to another post not related to Southeast Asia.

It was the first time in the memory of veteran aides to the committee that a Foreign Service nomination has been stopped directly.

Fulbright immediately notified Rogers of the committee's decision.

The chairman said he expects the nomination to be withdrawn and Godley to be assigned elsewhere.

The committee voted 12 to 3 to confirm William H. Sullivan, another veteran Foreign Service officer, of the Vietnam war, as ambassador to the Philippines. Fulbright, Senator George McGovern, (Dem-S.D.) and Senator Stuart Symington (Dem-Mo.), voted against that nomination.

Godley succeeded Sullivan as ambassador to Laos when Sullivan was named assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Fulbright had contended that the careers of both men had been so intertwined with the war that they would be ineffective in further diplomacy in the area. He said the committee, however, decided to act only against Godley, because his assign-

ment was the more important.

Fulbright expressed concern that Sullivan in the Philippines would pursue the same policies against insurgents that he advocated as a Foreign Service officer in Southeast Asia.

He said some key officers of the Vietnamese pacification program had already been transferred to the Philippines to deal with the growing problem of an insurgency there.

"Both are intelligent, competent men," Fulbright said.

"Out they have been so intimately associated with the war in Vietnam and such activists in its support that I felt they should be assigned elsewhere . . . None of us can escape our experiences."

Fulbright and aides to the committee said they could not remember any other nomination being rejected by the committee. In past such cases, when it became clear that a majority of the committee opposed a nomination, the administration would withdraw the name to head off a fight.

But Rogers, in a meeting with the committee last month, refused to assign Godley to another post and told the panel to reject the nomination if it felt strongly enough.

Voting for the motion to postpone the nomination indefinitely were Senators Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) Symington, Claiborne) Pell (Dem-R.I.) Edmund S. Muskie (Dem-Maine), McGovern, Clifford P. Case (Rep-N.J.), Jacob Javits (Rep-N.Y.), Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.), and Fulbright.

Against the motion were Senators John Sparkman (Dem-Ala.), Hubert H. Humphrey (Dem-Minn.), Gale McGee (Dem-Wyo.), George D. Aiken (Rep-Vt.), Hugh Scott (Rep-Pa.), James B. Pearson (Rep-Kan.), and Robert Griffin (Rep-Mich.).

Senate Democratic leader



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G. M. GODLEY
 War ties cited

Mike Mansfield of Montana did not vote. *United Press*