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Amin Hits U.S. Bombing, But Calls Nixon 'Brother'

Associated Press

President Idi Amin of Uganda has sent a message to Cambodian Chief of State Lon Nol criticizing the American bombing policy in Southeast Asia but calling President Nixon "our brother and colleague."

Amin expressed doubt that recent U.S. bombing mistakes were really mistakes. Then he added:

"You and I are aware, that our brother and colleague President Nixon has at the moment so many personal problems such as the Watergate episode, the \$10 million allegedly spent on his personal houses and his Vice President's investigation for possible criminal offenses. He may not, therefore, have enough time to attend to details of what his troops are doing in Cambodia."

Amin ended the message by saying he had "repeatedly emphasized that it is my sincerest wish to improve the relations between Uganda and the United States and . . . on my part I am doing all I can to achieve this goal."

"This message, which is copied to my brother and colleague President Nixon, is another practical example of my efforts in that direction."

The message was broadcast to Cambodia and monitored in Washington.

In a July 4 message to Nixon himself, Amin wished him a speedy recovery from Watergate." The State Department officially refused to accept that note, calling it an un-

acceptable intrusion into U.S. domestic affairs.

In spite of strong criticism of the Cambodian bombing, Amin laced his message with words of praise for President Nixon's foreign policy in general.

"I wish to remind my brother Nixon how much I admire him . . . And I have the greatest regard and respect for him. He has done a wonderful job in the attainment and consolidation of world peace and understanding."

Amin also said he was appealing to Nixon that this work "should not be negated by the continuing presence of United States of America troops in Southeast Asia and bombings . . . where innocent lives are being lost."

U.S. relations with Uganda have deteriorated since Amin expelled thousands of South Asians from his country and indicated his admiration for Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's treatment of Jews. Amin also has incurred American anger recently by briefly holding up American Peace Corps volunteers in his country while they were on a refueling stop en route to another African nation.