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STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS: January 1971

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE JOHN KING STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 6:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q JOHN, IS THERE ANY STUDY GOING ON IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO CLARIFY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES AID TO CAMBODIA CAN BE SUPERVISED THROUGH THIRD PARTIES, OR EXAMINED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY?

MR. KING: THROUGH "THIRD PARTIES?"

Q THROUGH CONTRACT PARTIES -- I THINK MILITARY ADVISERS OR TROOPS ARE RULED OUT AS A RESULT OF LEGISLATION. IS THERE ANY STUDY GOING ON AS TO WHAT EXTENT ACCOUNTABILITY CAN BE MAINTAINED OVER THE AID BEING GIVEN?

A A "STUDY", YOU KNOW, IN THE FORMAL SENSE OF A FULL BLOWN EFFORT, I'M NOT AWARE OF. BUT WE OBVIOUSLY WILL HAVE TO TAKE UNDER CONSIDERATION AN EXPANSION OF OUR STAFF -- THAT IS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN -- AT THE EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH, WITH THE OBVIOUS MISSION OF OVERSEEING THE DISTRIBUTION OF AID UNDER THE NEW AID PACKAGE THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY CONGRESS. BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT'S NOT A LARGE INCREASE IN THE PERSONNEL AT THE EMBASSY.

Q HOW MANY ARE INVOLVED NOW, INCLUDING THOSE AT THE EMBASSY, JOHN?

A I'VE GOT THOSE FIGURES REASONABLY UP-TO-DATE, WITHIN THE LAST WEEK OR SO, BUT I DON'T HAVE THEM WITH ME. BUT I'LL GET THEM FOR YOU.

I'S NOT LARGE -- IN THE RANGE OF 75, I BELIEVE.

Q CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF WHAT RANGE OF INCREASE IS BEING CONSIDERED, IN VIEW OF THE ADDITIONAL AID?

A WELL, NO, I CAN'T -- BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE SMALL.

Q WHERE IS THAT STUDY CENTERED NOW? IS THIS A STATE DEPARTMENT FUNCTION OR A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FUNCTION, INTERDEPARTMENTAL, OR WHAT?

A I WOULD SAY INTERDEPARTMENTAL. YOU WOULD ALSO HAVE TO INCLUDE AID. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

1/6/71 6P GD

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71

EPF 13

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (1990)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE JOHN KING
STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 11:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q CAN YOU GIVE US THE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT ESTIMATE
ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA?

MR. KING: NO, SIR, I WOULDN'T -- WE HAVE SORT OF DEVELOPED
A POSITION HERE OF NOT TRYING TO GIVE YOU MILITARY SITUATION
REPORTS IN CAMBODIA. I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE WITH THAT TRADITION.

Q SECRETARY LAIRD SAID TODAY THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION
APPEARS TO BE GETTING WORSE IN LAOS. WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME ACCESS
TO INFORMATION AS THE MILITARY IN LAOS. CAN YOU GIVE A REPORT ON
THAT, OR DOES THAT COME UNDER THIS POLICY OF NOT TALKING ABOUT
THE MILITARY?

A I'M JUST NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN LAOS.
I JUST SAW THE --

Q IS THAT A STANDING --

A WELL, YOU KNOW IT ISN'T. WE'VE DISCUSSED IT BEFORE HERE.

Q YES.

A BUT, I'M JUST NOT PREPARED TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO IT.

Q MR. KING, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LATEST TROUBLE
IN OKINAWA?

A I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WILL ANSWER
QUESTIONS ON THAT SUBJECT. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

1/11/71 630P. GD

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (480)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE JOHN KING STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 13:

(BEGIN TEXT)

Q IS THE UNITED STATES PROVIDING ANY SUPPORT TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE IN CAMBODIA, EITHER ON THE GROUND OR LOGISTIC SUPPORT?

MR. KING: ON THE GROUND AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT IN CAMBODIA?

Q YES.

A NO, SIR.

Q IS THE UNITED STATES PROVIDING ANY AIR SUPPORT?

A WE CONTINUE TO FLY AIR INTERDICTION MISSIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, BUT I WOULDN'T RELATE THAT TO THIS OPERATION. I JUST DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THAT TO GET INTO IT. WE'LL LEAVE THAT TO MACV IN SAIGON TO DISCUSS. BUT I DO NOTE FOR THE RECORD THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO FLY INTERDICTION MISSIONS INTO CAMBODIAN AIR SPACE.

Q JOHN, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE UNITED STATES HAD TO PROMISE THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ANY ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC OR MILITARY AID BEFORE THE DECISION WAS MADE TO SEND SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN TO TRY TO OPEN HIGHWAY 4?

A NO, I DON'T.

Q JOHN --

A YOU'RE AWARE THOUGH, OF COURSE, THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE HAVE MAINTAINED RATHER EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA FOR SIX MONTHS NOW AND -- WELL, SINCE APRIL. I'M A LITTLE PUZZLED THAT THIS SORT OF A QUESTION WOULD ARISE.

Q WELL, I WAS ASKING IF THE UNITED STATES WAS SUPPLYING ANY SPECIFIC LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPERATION NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN CAMBODIA.

A WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "LOGISTIC SUPPORT"?

Q EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES.

A OH, IN THAT EVENT, YES; SURE.

Q IN CAMBODIA?

A I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT LOGISTIC SUPPORT ON THE GROUND INVOLVING AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Q I'M SPEAKING OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT BY THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CURRENT SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPERATION IN CAMBODIA. IS THE UNITED STATES LOGISTICALLY SUPPORTING THAT OPERATION?

A WELL, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE ASSISTED IN THE ARMING AND EQUIPPING OF THE FORCES PRESUMABLY NOW OPERATING IN THAT AREA. THAT'S LOGISTICS. WHAT ELSE?

Q I DON'T KNOW. THAT'S WHY I WAS ASKING.

A O.K.

Q ARE THERE ADVISERS WITH THEM?

[Handwritten signature]

A NO, SIR.

Q HOW ABOUT TACTICAL AIR?

A WELL, UNDER THE GENERAL RUBRIC OF AIR INTERDICTION, THAT CONTINUES, BUT I DON'T RELATE IT SPECIFICALLY TO TACTICAL --

Q ISN'T THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TACTICAL AIR AND AIR INTERDICTION?

A OH, I'D REFER YOU TO THE MILITARY ON THAT.

Q JOHN, BACK ON THE SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOING INTO CAMBODIA, DO YOU KNOW IF ANY OF THE LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE CLOSING WEEKS LAST YEAR HAS ANY BEARING ON THIS?

A I DON'T THINK SO, NO. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

1/13/71 545P GD

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (1,480)
WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE JOHN KING
STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 14:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q JOHN, IN CAMBODIA IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT -- WELL, REPORTED ANYWAY - THAT THE B-52S ARE IN ACTION SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. DOES THIS KIND OF ACTION FALL UNDER THE "AIR INTERDICTION" CATEGORY?

MR. KING: YES, SIR.

Q COULD YOU TELL US, IN THAT CASE, WHAT WHETHER YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT THE ENEMY FORCES SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH WERE ON THEIR WAY TO SOUTH VIETNAM AND YOU ARE INTERDICTING THEM?

PAGE 2 -- STATE

A NO, I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHAT THEIR PLANS OR INTENTIONS ARE -- EVEN THEIR OPERATIONS. I LEAVE THAT TO MACVN IN SAIGON TO TELL YOU.

Q THEN HOW DOES IT FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY?

A WHAT CATEGORY?

Q AIR INTERDICTION BY THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD?

A DO YOU KNOW THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD?

Q SOME DEFINITIONS THAT ARE --

A LET ME GIVE IT TO YOU -- WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY --

Q O. K.

A -- WHICH SAYS THAT IT'S: "ARTILLERY FIRE OR AIR ATTACK DIRECTED ON A ROUTE OR AREA TO DENY ITS USE TO THE ENEMY."

PAGE 3 -- STATE

Q SO THAT "AIR INTERDICTION" AT THIS POINT, OR BY THIS DEFINITION, INCLUDES NOT ONLY ROUTES, BUT AREAS -- AND IN THIS CASE, CAMBODIA?

A THAT'S CORRECT.

Q SO BY THIS DEFINITION, ALL ORDNANCE DROPPED BY THE UNITED STATES IS PART -- ON CAMBODIA -- IS PART OF THIS POLICY?

A YES...

Q IF WE CAN RETURN TO CAMBODIA; HAS THE GVN REQUESTED \$35 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL AID FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN CAMBODIA?

A I SAW THAT REPORT, AND WE CAN'T REALLY PIN DOWN THE ARITHMETIC. BUT FIRST, AS YOU KNOW, SECRETARY LAIRD HAS BEEN OUT THERE TALKING WITH GVN AUTHORITIES. AS YOU ALSO KNOW -- AND THIS SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE TO ANY OF YOU -- WE DO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA.

PAGE 4 -- STATE

THIRDLY, THE ARVN OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA DO COST MONEY, AND UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE WE HAVE SAID THAT WE ARE

PREPARED TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD -- THAT IS,
FINANCIALLY -- TO ASSIST ASIAN TO HELP ASIANS. NOW --

Q SO AT LEAST IN PART, WE WILL BANKROLL THIS OPERATION --

A NOW, LET ME JUST ADD FINALLY, THAT I LEAVE IT
TO SECRETARY LAIRD TO DESCRIBE MANY OF THE DETAILS OF THESE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE DISCUSSIONS HE HAD, FOR YOU WHEN HE GETS
BACK. BUT AS I SAY, THERE IS REALLY NOTHING HERE THAT
SURPRISES ANYONE.

Q IS THERE A FIGURE ON HOW MUCH WE HAVE
ALREADY GIVEN THEM FOR THIS -- I MEAN, BEFORE LAIRD
WENT OUT THERE? IS THERE A FIGURE OF HOW MUCH WE HAVE GIVEN
ARVN FOR THEIR HELP?

PAGE 5 -- STATE

A OH, I'M SURE THERE ARE THOSE FIGURES AVAILABLE.
I JUST DON'T HAVE THEM AT MY FINGERTIPS.

Q JOHN, TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAID A MINUTE AGO -- I GATHER
THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS WHEN
LAIRD WAS IN SAIGON, RELATIVE TO ADDITIONAL AMERICAN AID
FOR THIS PARTICULAR OPERATION.

IS THAT CORRECT?

A NO, I SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE ME
THAT THEY WOULD DISCUSS THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS IS AN ON-GOING THING
AND IT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR YEARS.

BUT I LEAVE TO SECRETARY LAIRD THE DETAILS OF THIS
DISCUSSION. I AM, OBVIOUSLY, IN NO POSITION TO GO INTO
THAT, AT ALL.

PAGE 6 -- STATE

Q BUT YOU SAID THAT YOU CAN'T PIN DOWN THE
ARITHMETIC OF IT. BUT CAN YOU DENY THAT THE QUESTION
OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID FOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE
OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA WAS DISCUSSED BY LAIRD LAST WEEK IN
SAIGON?

A NO, I CAN'T DENY IT AND I CAN'T CONFIRM IT.

THE SECRETARY WILL BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS. I THINK THE PERSON --
HE IS THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU SHOULD DIRECT THESE QUESTIONS.

Q WELL, LET ME ASK IT IN ANOTHER WAY;

HAVE YOU ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE SUBJECT WAS NOT
DISCUSSED?

A NO.

Q JOHN, BACK ON THE B-52S, I TAKE IT YOU
ARE CONFIRMING THAT THESE WERE, IN FACT, USED IN THAT
CURRENT OPERATION.

PAGE 7 -- STATE

A NO, I AM NOT. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
ISSUED A STATEMENT --

Q PARDON?

A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT, AND IN THE COURSE, I GATHER, OF ANSWERING QUESTIONS THE SPOKESMAN THERE CONFIRMED THAT WE HAVE USED B-52S.

BUT I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THIS OPERATION. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE GENERIC TERM "INTERDICTION."

PAGE 8 -- STATE BRIEFING

I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO AIR OPERATIONS IN DETAIL AS TO WHAT'S GOING ON ON ROUTE 4, NOW OR AT ANY OTHER TIME. THAT'S FOR MACV TO HANDLE.

Q. COULD YOU SAY THAT THESE STRIKES WERE REQUESTED BY THE CAMBODIANS?

A. WELL YOU SEE, THIS IS THE PROBLEM. I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF CURRENT AIR OPERATIONS.

Q. I THOUGHT I HAD ASKED THE QUESTION THAT WAS RELATING TO THIS PARTICULAR STORY TODAY ABOUT B-52S IN ACTION SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH.

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. AND YOUR ANSWER WAS IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION --

A. WAS IN TERMS OF THE POLICY.

Q. YES.

A. I BELIEVE YOU ASKED ME WHAT IS "INTERDICTION"?

Q. YES.

A. AND DOES IT COVER B-52 OPERATIONS. AND THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SAID, "YES, THERE HAVE BEEN B-52 OPERATIONS." --

Q. YES.

PAGE 9 STATE BRIEFING

A. -- OVER CAMBODIA -- BUT NOT RELATING IT TO THIS PARTICULAR OPERATION.

Q. WELL, BY YOUR POLICY DEFINITION, JOHN, DOES CLOSE-IN AIR SUPPORT BY THE UNITED STATES, OF CAMBODIAN OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE UNITS IN CAMBODIA -- FALL UNDER THIS POLICY?

THAT'S PART OF THE DROPPING OF ORDNANCE?

A. WE COULD SPEND THE AFTERNOON DISCUSSING SEMANTICS OF THIS MILITARY TERMINOLOGY. I'M JUST NOT GOING TO DO IT.

Q. JOHN, YOU HAVE READ US A DEFINITION FROM WEBSTER WHICH GIVES THE WAY OF POLICY, THAT YOU HAVE READ IN HERE, WHICH SEEMS TO SAY THAT WE ARE BOMBING NOT ONLY THE NORTH'S TROOPS FROM GETTING INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM -- BUT ALSO, WE NOW REGARD ALL OF CAMBODIA AS OPEN TERRITORY FOR BOMBING, WHETHER IT'S RELATED TO INFILTRATION INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM, OR NOT?

A. LET ME REFER YOU TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID, IT'S ON THE PUBLIC RECORD, ON THIS MATTER ON JUNE 30TH OF LAST YEAR.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO READ THAT?

A. NO.

PAGE 10 -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. OH. WELL, IN TERMS OF POLICY, IS EVERY SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPERATION IN CAMBODIA, NEGOTIABLE WITH THE UNITED STATES? ARE THERE NO LONG RANGE CONTINGENCIES TO DEAL WITH THIS? OR DO WE HAVE TO COME UP ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS?

A. THAT'S REALLY A MILITARY QUESTION. I JUST AM NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER IT.

Q. WELL, IN TERMS OF ALLOCATING AID FOR A FISCAL YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, ISN'T THAT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION? OR ARE THERE OPENINGS LEFT SO THAT EVERY TIME YOU ENTER AN OPERATION, YOU REOPEN THE CONTRACT?

A. WELL, I JUST DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT IT, DICK.

Q. IN TERMS OF PARIS, THIS MORNING, I UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR BRUCE GAVE A LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR TO THE OTHER SIDE -- OR MEN WHOM WE BELIEVE TO BE PRISONERS

OF WAR?

A. YES, HE DID.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THAT LIST PUBLIC, OR AVAILABLE HERE?

A. NO, WE HAVE AVOIDED THE PRACTICE OF OURSELVES MAKING THAT LIST PUBLIC.

PAGE 11 -- STATE BRIEFING

IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE PRINCIPAL CUSTODIAN IS THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. IT DOES INVOLVE THEIR MEN.

THERE ARE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS WITH NEXT-OF-KIN AND ON THAT BASIS, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST PRUDENT NOT TO ISSUE THEM.

YOU ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED HERE AND THERE, FROM PRIVATE SOURCES.

Q. BUT NOT THE OFFICIAL --

A. THE OFFICIAL LIST, NO.

Q. -- OR WHAT THE U.S. LIST HAS BEEN, OR CONSIDERED --

A. NO.

Q. JOHN, IN DECEMBER 1969 THE U.S. PUT OUT A LIST OF 1,406, OR SOMETHING LIKE THIS -- AND THEN IN JUNE IT WAS UPDATED TO 1,529.

A. YOU DON'T OFTEN LEARN WHEN YOU'RE TALKING. BUT I'VE JUST LEARNED SOMETHING.

Q. IS THAT THE LIST THAT WAS HANDED TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT AWARE OF THIS...

Q. JOHN, WHAT EDITION OF WEBSTER'S DID YOU READ?

A. THIRD -- THIRD INTERNATIONAL. NEW INTERNATIONAL."

DOES ANYBODY WANT TO TRY FUNK & WAGNALS?

(LAUGHTER.) (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

I-14-71 GD/APA/640

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EPF 20

WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (1,350)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS BRIEFING BY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RONALD ZIEGLER JANUARY 18:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE LAIRD REPORT?

MR. ZIEGLER: THE PRESIDENT, AS JERRY MENTIONED, MET THIS MORNING WITH SECRETARY LAIRD, SECRETARY ROGERS, ADMIRAL MOORER, DR. KISSINGER AND DIRECTOR OF THE CIA HELMS, AND THE PURPOSE OF THAT MEETING WAS TO ALLOW SECRETARY LAIRD TO GIVE A REPORT ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO THAILAND, AND TO SOUTH VIETNAM. ALSO ON THE WAY HE STOPPED THROUGH PARIS TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR U.S. DELEGATION THERE.

I HAVE NO REPORT TO GIVE YOU OUT OF THAT MEETING. IT WAS, HOWEVER, STILL GOING ON WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR THE PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

AND THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY SECRETARY LAIRD WAS THERE. THE PRESIDENT ASKED HIM TO COME WITH HIM INTO THE MEETING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION LEADERS FOR A TIME AND THEN THEY RETURNED TO THAT MEETING.

SECRETARY LAIRD WAS ASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO JUST GIVE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS. THE PRESIDENT RECALLED THAT HE HAD MET WITH MANY OF THOSE WHO WERE IN THE ROOM ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION AND THAT WAS TO DISCUSS HIS DECISION TO GO IN FOR A PERIOD INTO THE CAMBODIAN SANCTUARIES AND HAD MET WITH THIS GROUP TO TALK ABOUT THAT DECISION, AND MOST OF THOSE IN THE ROOM HAD SUPPORTED THAT DECISION.

PRESIDENT NIXON ASKED SECRETARY LAIRD TO RELATE TO THEM A STORY HE HAD RELATED TO THE OTHER GROUP EARLIER.

PAGE 2 -- WHITE HOUSE

AND HE SAID THAT WITHOUT QUESTION HE HAD DETERMINED ON HIS RECENT VISIT THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES HAVE GAINED A GREAT DEAL OF CONFIDENCE, THAT THEY ARE RAPIDLY MOVING TO A POSITION WHERE THEY CAN EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH THE SITUATION IN THE AREA, AND HE FELT THAT THEY HAD AINED A GREAT DEAL OF THIS CONFIDENCE FROM THE ACTION THEY WERE ENGAGED IN DURING THE CAMBODIAN SANCTUARY OPERATION.

AND HE RECALLED THAT THIS YEAR HE HEARD A BRIEFING WHERE ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES POINTED OUT THAT "WE CAN DO THE JOB AND WE CAN DO IT WELL BY OURSELVES," WHERE THIS WAS SOMETHAT A DIFFERENT SITUATION THAN HE OBSERVED TWO YEARS AGO.

SO I THINK THE THRUST OF WHAT THE SECRETARY VERY BRIEFLY TOLD THE CONSTRUCTION LEADERS WAS THAT HIS ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES CONTINUE TO IMPROVE, THAT THEY CONTINUE TO GAIN CONFIDENCE AND THAT VIETNAMIZATION IS PROCEEDING WELL AND CAN CONTINUE.

Q WHAT DID THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

MR. ZIEGLER: NOTHING AT ALL, EXCEPT THAT AT THE END OF THE MEETING THE PRESIDENT HAD STOOD UP AND WAS ABOUT READY TO LEAVE AND SECRETARY LAIRD WAS THERE AND THE PRESIDENT, AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, SAID, "WE ARE RETURNING TO THIS MEETING," AND JUST FELT IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THIS GROUP TO HEAR A BRIEF REMARK FROM SECRETARY LAIRD.

IT TOOK ABOUT A MINUTE AND A HALF.

Q DID HE SAY ANYTHING BOUT A NEW POLICY IN CAMBODIA?

PAGE 3 -- WHITE HOUSE

MR. ZIEGLER: NO.

Q RON, IS THIS MEETING STILL GOING ON?

MR. ZIEGLER: IT MAY HAVE BROKEN UP NOW.

Q WAS SECRETARY ROGERS AT THAT MEETING, TOO?

MR. ZIEGLER: YES.

Q DID SECRETARY LAIRD DISCUSS THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA IN HIS REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT?

MR. ZIEGLER: THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE ENTIRE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Q THE PRESIDENT, OR YOU RELAYED WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OUT IN SAN CLEMENTE, THAT SECRETARY LAIRD'S FACT-FINDING TOUR OVER THERE WAS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE BASES FOR DECISIONS ON TROOP LEVELS AFTER THE CURRENT PHASE IS ENDED, WHICH IS A LONGER-RANGE PROBLEM.

MY QUESTION IS DID THEY ALSO DISCUSS THE CURRENT MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AS IT IS NOW?

MR. ZIEGLER: FIRST OF ALL, YOU ARE RIGHT AND THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WILL HAVE A BEARING ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS AS TO FUTURE LEVELS OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

I SAID IN CALIFORNIA THAT SOMETIME IN APRIL THE PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE A FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

THEY TALKED ABOUT THIS MORNING, AND ARE TALKING ABOUT, THE SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, BOTH IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IN THE WHOLE AREA.

PAGE 4 -- WHITE HOUSE

Q RON, THE PENTAGON NOW SAYS THAT U.S. HELICOPTERS ARE BEING USED TO FERRY PEOPLE FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER IN CAMBODIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE MILITARY OPERATIONS GOING ON OVER THERE.

IS THIS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY ON CAMBODIA AS HE OUTLINED IT LAST JUNE?

MR. ZIEGLER: WE HAVE SAID, AND I WILL REPEAT TODAY, THAT THERE WILL BE NO U.S. GROUND FORCES, NOR WILL THERE BE U.S. ADVISORY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN CAMBODIA, BUT ALL ALONG WE HAVE BEEN SAYING, THE PRESIDENT SAID IT, SECRETARY LAIRD HAS SAID IT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID IT, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE SAID THAT THERE WILL BE LOGISTICAL AIR SUPPORT PROVIDED.

THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON AND WILL CONTINUE TO GO ON SO THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL BE PREVENTED FROM REESTABLISHING SANCTUARY AREAS.

Q ARE HELICOPTERS BEING DEFINED HERE AS LOGISTICAL AIR SUPPORT?

MR. ZIEGLER: WE HAVE ISSUED TODAY, WHICH YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN OVER HERE, A STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND MACV HAS BEEN ADDRESSING THEMSELVES ON THIS.

SO I WOULD REFER YOU TO WHAT THEY HAVE SAID. WE HAVE NEVER SEPARATED OUT THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WHICH WE HAVE REFERRED TO THERE. DEFENSE SPOKE TO THIS THIS MORNING.

Q RON, YOU TOLD US AT A BRIEFING OUT IN SAN CLEMENTE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO GET AMPLIFICATION ON THE U.S. POLICY FOR AIR ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA THAT THERE WOULD BE STRATEGIC BOMBING BUT NO SUPPORT OF GROUND OPERATIONS, CLOSE SUPPORT FOR GROUND OPERATIONS.

PAGE 5 -- WHITE HOUSE

AND NOW WE GET REPORTS FROM CAMBODIA THAT SAY THAT HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS ARE IN THERE AND SUPPORTING GROUND OPERATIONS ALONG HIGHWAY FOUR.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WERE INCORRECT BEFORE WHEN YOU AMPLIFIED THE POLICY, OR HAS IT CHANGED?

MR. ZIEGLER: WE ARE PROCEEDING AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. OFTEN TIMES STATEMENTS CAN BE REFERRED TO THAT WERE MADE IN ONE CONTEXT AND PUT INTO A DIFFERENT CONTEXT. BUT WE NEVER AT ANY TIME DEFINED THE VARIOUS TYPE AIRCRAFT THAT WERE USED.

Q I AM NOT ASKING ABOUT TYPE AIRCRAFT.

MR. ZIEGLER: THIS IS WHY I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU REFER TO THE STATEMENTS WHICH MACV HAS MADE AND WHICH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE. WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS WHAT THE POLICY IS AS STATED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND I GAVE THAT TO YOU EARLIER IN THE BRIEFING AS IT RELATES TO THE USE OF U.S. GROUND FORCES.

Q DO YOU NOT RECALL SAYING WE WOULD NOT GIVE SUPPORT TO CAMBODIAN TROOPS IN CAMBODIA, AIR SUPPORT?

MR. ZIEGLER: I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND REVIEW THE BRIEFING. WE DID HAVE A DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF AIR ACTIVITY THERE AT THAT TIME. WE ALSO, HOWEVER, HAVE TODAY TOLD YOU WHAT WE ARE DOING AND THAT I THINK IS WHAT WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON, IS TO WHAT WE ARE DOING.

Q RON, IS THE U.S. POLICY NOW TO FURNISH AIR SUPPORT FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS BY CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN CAMBODIA.

MR. ZIEGLER: THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TODAY HAS STATED OUR POLICY IN REGARD TO AIR ACTIVITY AND I WILL REFER YOU TO THAT STATEMENT.

Q RON, IS IT LIKELY THAT BEFORE HE ANNOUNCES HIS DECISION ON FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS IN MID-APRIL THE PRESIDENT WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT THIEU?

SPAGE 6 -- WHITE HOUSE

MR. ZIEGLER: IS IT LIKELY HE WILL? WE ARE IN, OF COURSE, CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. THOSE CONSULTATIONS WILL CONTINUE AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. THERE IS NO PLAN FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT THIEU BEFORE APRIL, NO, THERE IS NO PLAN FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO MEET DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT THIEU.

Q RON, TWO SUMMERS GO WHEN THEY LAST MET, BOTH PRESIDENTS AGREED TO MEET REGULARLY. I AM WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT AGREEMENT?

MR. ZIEGLER: WELL, THEY HAVEN'T MET SINCE THAT TIME, AS YOU KNOW. BUT THEY ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT AND THERE IS NO PLAN FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

Q IS THERE ANY TRAVEL TO ASIA BEING CONTEMPLATED?

MR. ZIEGLER: NO, THERE IS NO PLAN FOR TRAVEL ANYWHERE BEING CONTEMPLATED.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN QUICK ENOUGH TO STATE THIS MYSELF. BUT THE TRIP TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AS YOU RECALL, FOLLOWED THE MIDWAY MEETING WHICH WAS THE ONE I THINK YOU REFERRED TO (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

1/19/71 450P GD

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (1,650)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE ROBERT MCCLOSKEY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 19:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q COULD YOU CONFIRM FOR US REPORTS THAT AMERICAN HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS HAVE BEEN IN ACTION OVER LAOS?

MR. MCCLOSKEY: OH, YES, I THINK THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT, THAT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF U.S. POLICY OF AIR OPERATIONS OVER LAOS THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE USE OF HELICOPTERS.

Q COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER THE USE OF HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS TO SUPPORT SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN FORCES FITS WITHIN THE ASSURANCES THAT SECRETARY ROGERS GAVE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE?

A WELL, WITHOUT CONFIRMING THOSE REPORTS, SINCE I DON'T HAVE INFORMATION ON THEM, LET ME JUST SAY THAT WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES AIR POLICY IN CAMBODIA, THAT THE BROAD OUTLINES OF THAT WERE PUT FORWARD BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS STATEMENT OF JUNE 30 LAST YEAR, AND WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ON REPEATED OCCASIONS HAS DESCRIBED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT POLICY AS IT INVOLVES THE USE OF VARIOUS U.S. AIRCRAFT.

I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO EITHER OF THOSE SERIES OF STATEMENTS AND I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY ABRIDGMENT OF THE POLICY.

Q BOB, HAS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SURVIVAL OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT IN ANY WAY CHANGED SINCE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE SECRETARY?

A NO.

Q BOB, HAVE OUR AIR AND HELICOPTER OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA REQUIRED AT ANY TIME THE PRESENCE OF THE GROUND, HOWEVER TEMPORARY, OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL?

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A WE DO NOT HAVE GROUND COMBAT FORCES IN CAMBODIA AND WE DO NOT HAVE UNITED STATES MILITARY ADVISORS WITH CAMBODIAN UNITS. NOW, THAT IS THE POLICY AND I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THAT HAS BEEN ABRIDGED.

Q HOW ABOUT WHAT IS DESCRIBED IN LIAISON PERSONNEL, BOB?

A I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH REPORTS.

Q REFUELLING OF HELICOPTERS?

A REFUELLING OF HELICOPTERS? (SHAKES HEAD NEGATIVELY.)

Q HOW MANY MILITARY ATTACHES ARE NOW ATTACHED TO OUR EMBASSY IN CAMBODIA?

A THE U.S. MISSION IN CAMBODIA IS COMPRISED OF A TOTAL OF 39 PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED CIVILIAN OFFICERS; 34 MILITARY. THERE ARE ADDITIONALLY -- WERE ADDITIONALLY -- AS OF JANUARY 1, TWO TEMPORARY DUTY ADDITIONAL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND 20 ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Q WHAT IS THE RULE -- SORRY.

A 50, 39, PLUS 34, PLUS 2, PLUS 20 -- THE LATTER 22 BEING ON TEMPORARY DUTY.

Q WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL?

I ASSUME THAT THE ADVISORS ARE RELATIVELY SMALL -- I'M SORRY, THE ATTACHES ARE RELATIVELY SMALL IN NUMBER.

A THERE ARE 16 UNDER THE HEADING OF MILITARY ATTACHED TO THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SECTION OF THE EMBASSY. THERE ARE SIX MARINE SECURITY GUARDS, PLUS FOUR MARINE SECURITY GUARDS ON TEMPORARY DUTY; AND THERE ARE 12 MILITARY ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, PLUS TEN ON TEMPORARY DUTY.

Q EXCUSE ME, WHAT WAS THAT CATEGORY, 12 WHAT?

A MILITARY ASSIGNED TO THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, PLUS TEN THERE ON TEMPORARY DUTY.

Q BOB, JUST REPEAT THIS A SECOND, WE HAVE 339, 34, 2 AND 20 WITH THE TEMPORARIES, IS THAT RIGHT?

A YES.

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Q AND DO ANY OF THESE PEOPLE LEAVE PHNOM PENH TO OBSERVE OR IN ANY WAY PARTICIPATE IN CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPERATIONS?

A TO MY KNOWLEDGE THEY DO NOT, AND THAT IS THE WAY IT IS AUTHORIZED.

Q WELL, THEY ARE NOT TO LEAVE PHNOM PENH OR GO ALONG WITH ANY OTHER UNITS?

A THAT IS RIGHT.

Q BOB, THIS IS A SIZABLE INCREASE OVER THE FIGURES AT THE TIME THE SECRETARY WAS TESTIFYING ON THE HILL WHEN THE FIGURES WERE IN THE 60'S. IS THIS AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT OPERATION IN CAMBODIA OR AS A RESULT OF THE MILITARY AND AID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

A THE OVER-ALL FIGURE WAS SOME 75, AND THAT WAS PUT FORWARD HERE AT A BRIEFING IN DECEMBER. AND WE NOW HAVE 95, 22 OF WHOM ARE THERE ON TEMPORARY DUTY. NOW, SO FAR AS THE MILITARY -- THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE ATTACHED EITHER TO THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SECTION OR THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, THAT IS THE RESULT OF THE INCREASED MAP FOR CAMBODIA. I BELIEVE THAT THE DEFENSE SECRETARY IN TESTIFYING SAID IT WOULD BE REQUIRED THAT WHAT THEY CALL A MEDT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS, WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HANDLE THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE U.S. MAP.

Q DO YOU ALSO HAVE THE FIGURES OF THE NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL ATTACHED TO MACV IN SAIGON WHO ARE THE BACKUP PEOPLE FOR THE CAMBODIAN MILITARY AID PROGRAM?

A I DO NOT. I HAVE NEVER SEEN THAT FIGURE.

Q WHAT DOES "TEMPORARY DUTY" LITERALLY MEAN?

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A WELL, HAVING BEEN ON IT, IT CAN BE ANYTHING THAT RUNS FROM A WEEK TO SIX MONTHS, AND IT WILL DEPEND ON THE NEEDS OF THE POST. ADDITIONAL MARINES SECURITY GUARDS, FOR ONE, WOULD BE REQUIRED IF THE SECURITY SITUATION POSSIBLE AFFECTING AMERICAN PERSONNEL IS SERIOUS. THE SAME KIND OF THING YOU HAVE WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE DIRECTED THAT THESE EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE PEOPLE GO TO NEW YORK. PEOPLE HO GO IN TO INSTALL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES FOR THE EMBASSY. WHEN, AS MURREY AND I WERE ALKING, THERE IS AN INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF AN AMERICAN MAP PROGRAM, WHEN DELIVERIES ARE HEAVIEST.

Q BOB, IN TERMS OF THE AIR POLICY, IS IT THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THERE WAS ANY ENEMY ACTUALLY IN CAMBODIA THAT IS NOT RELATED TO VIETNAM?

A I THINK, AS A GENERAL STATEMENT, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT WE TAKE THE POSITION THAT ALL ENEMY ACTIVITY BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN CAMBODIA IS DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

Q BOB, YOU SAID THE 75 FIGURE IN DECEMBER, OVERALL, WHAT WAS THE MILITARY PROPORTION OF THAT 75? HOW LARGE IS THE MILITARY GROWTH?

A I THINK WHAT I GAVE HERE WOULD BE, OH, PLUS 12 PERMANENT, PLUS 20 TEMPORARY.

Q BOB, WOULD THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ARMY HELICOPTERS AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT UNITS, AS THEY ARE CALLED, USED IN CAMBODIA?

A WELL, WE'D BE CONSULTED CERTAINLY, YES, ON ALL OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA, BUT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THAT U.S. HELICOPTERS HAVE BEEN USED LOGISTICALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE OPERATIONS THERE.

Q BUT IF THEY WERE, YOU WOULD BE CONSULTED?

A OH, YES.

Q BOB, DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS REPORTED TO BE A SOUTH VIETNAMESE RAID ON A POW CAMP IN CAMBODIA.

A I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q BOB, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FEEL THAT THE FALL OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A WHAT KIND OF A TORTURED QUESTION IS THAT -- THE FALL OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON WHAT?

Q ON THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

A I WOULDN'T DISCUSS THAT QUESTION.

Q BOB, WOULD YOU EXPLAIN HOW THE USE OF HELICOPTERS WITHIN THE AIR POLICY TOWARDS LAOS INCLUDES OPERATIONS AGAINST THE SO-CALLED NORTHERN FRONT THERE AS WELL AAS ALONG THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL?

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A THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TODAY OUTLINED A CRITERIA ON U.S. AIR POLICY AND SPECIFIED DIFFERENT KINDS OF AIRCRAFT. I WOULD LEAVE IT AT THAT.

Q BOB, WOULD YOU SAY WHETHER THE INCREASED ACTIVITIES BY

AMERICAN AIRCRAFT NOW DEFINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS BEING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF POLICY, HAVE NOW REACHED THE LIMITS OF ACTION WHICH THE POLICY PRESENTS?

A I AM JUST NOT GOING TO RIDE THAT TIGER, JOHN.

Q IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE GROUND RULES, AS YOU UNDERSTAND THEM, WHICH FORECLOSES REFUELLING HELICOPTERS OR FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, OR ANY OTHER KIND OF AIRCRAFT IN CAMBODIA?

A THAT IS A LITTLE TOO EXOTIC FOR ME, MURREY.

I'M SORRY, I DON'T KNOW.

Q WELL, WHAT I AM TRYING TO DETERMINE HERE IS IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON A FLAT DISTINCTION THAT AS LONG AS PERSONNEL ARE IN THE AIR, THEY ARE NOT -- IS THAT WHERE THE DIVIDING LINE IS, TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING, AS LONG AS THEY STAY IN THE AIR?

A WELL, I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANYTHING THAT WOULD PRECLUDE A MAN, IF A HELICOPTER HAD TO LAND, VPMPWND STEP BACK ON. COMMON SENSE, HERE, I THINK, HAS TO APPLY.

Q WOULD ANYTHING PRECLUDE SETTING UP AN AMERICAN AIRBASE IN CAMBODIA, IF THERE WERE NO GROUND COMBAT TROOPS ASSOCIATED WITH IT?

A WELL, THERE ARE NO AMERICAN AIRBASES THERE NOW, AND I KNOW OF NO PLANS TO ESTABLISH ANY IN ANY CONNECTION.

Q BOB, UNDER THE LIMITS OF POLICY, AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT, WOULD IT BE PERMISSIBLE TO USE AMERICAN HELICOPTERS TO FERRY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND/OR CAMBODIAN TROOPS INTO THE BATTLE AREAS?

A I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION. I AM NOT CERTAIN OF THE ANSWER.

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Q BOB, BY DEFINITION, COULD THERE BE ANY OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND THAT WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIONS DEFINITION OF GROUND COMBAT OR ADVISORY PERSONNEL?

A ARE THERE ANY OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND?

Q COULD THERE BE ANY OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND THAT WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THESE TWO DEFINITIONS? I AM NOT REFERRING TO PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE EMBASSY OR ATTACHES, BUT ANYWHERE ELSE IN CAMBODIA, THAT WOULD FALL OUTSIDE OF THESE DEFINITIONS?

A I DON'T KNOW. AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION?

Q NO. WE HAVE USED FAIRLY PRECISE DEFINITIONS WHAT ARE GROUND COMBAT TROOPS, WHAT ARE ADVISORS. ARE THERE ANY GROUND OPERATIONS THAT COULD OCCUR BY U.S. FORCES IN CAMBODIA THAT WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THESE DEFINITIONS?

A NOT THAT I KNOW OF. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

1/19/71 650P GD

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (1,450)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE ROBERT MCCLOSKEY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 20:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q BOB, ARE THERE ANY DEVELOPMENTS AT THE MEETING IN WARSAW BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES?

MR. MCCLOSKEY: NO, NO DEVELOPMENTS THAT I KNOW OF...

Q BOB, UNDER THE NIXON DOCTRINE, THE POINT ONE ON THAT, THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO FULFILL ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN VERY CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT USE OF GROUND FORCES, GROUND COMBAT FORCES, WOULD NOT BE CONTEMPLATED. DO YOU READ THIS TO MEAN, THEN, THAT SEA AND AIR POWER OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE USED TO FULFIL TREATY COMMITMENTS?

A YES, SEA AND AIR POWER WILL BE USED TO FULFIL TREATY COMMITMENTS, WHERE TREATY COMMITMENTS EXIST.

Q NO GROUND COMBAT?

A OH, NO.

Q WHAT DO YOU MEAN, OH NO?

A THERE IS NO DENIAL UNDER A TREATY TO USE GROUND COMBAT FORCES. LET'S BE CLEAR. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, CAMBODIA?

Q WELL, IN CAMBODIA, THERE IS THE INJUNCTION WRITTEN IN.

A AND THERE IS NO TREATY COMMITMENT THERE.

Q THAT'S RIGHT.

A BUT CERTAINLY UNDER NATO, ALL RESOURCES. SO I WANT TO BE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT MISUNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER.

Q BOB, WHAT YOU MEAN IS YOU ARE NOT RULING OUT THE USE OF COMBAT FORCES ON THE GROUND IN TREATY SITUATIONS.

A THAT IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT...

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Q I WONDER WHETHER OR NOT SPECIFICALLY YOU CAN SHED ANY LIGHT TODAY THAT YOU COUNLD'T SHED YESTERDAY ON THE USE OF HELICOPTERS, ON POSSIBLE ADVISORS BEING INVOLVED OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH, IN CONNECTION WITH LOGISTICS OPERATIONS OR OTHERWISE. I AM SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO THIS CONTROVERSIAL PHOTOGRAPHH THAT THE AP TOOK AND CIRCULATED. I AM JUST WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY MORE LIGHT ON WHAT THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN.

A I HAVE NO LGITH TO USE TO ILLUMINATE THAT PICTURE ANY FURTHER. I ANSWERED A QUESTION HERE YESTERDAY ABOUT PEOPLE BEING PERMITTED TO GO OUT TO PARTICIPATE IN, JOIN OR ASSOCIATE WITH, CAMBODIAN OR VIETNAMESE MILITARY ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA. AND I SAID THAT THAT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED. AND I

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STAND ON THAT.

Q BOB, IS IT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING THAT GROUND TROOPS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GROUND COMBAT TROOPS, CAN BE USED IN CAMBODIA?

A THAT?

Q THAT GROUND TROOPS OF MEDICAL UNITS, OTHER FORMS OF GROUND TROOPS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF COMBAT TROOPS AND ADVISORS, CAN BE USED IN CAMBODIA?

A WELL, I DON'T WANT TO OPEN UP ANY HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS, BUT WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IS, AND AGAIN YESTERDAY REAFFIRMED BY THE WHITE HOUSE, THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO INTRODUCE GROUND COMBAT FORCES OR MILITARY ADVISORS.

Q BOB, DOES THAT MEAN THAT OTHER FORMS OF GROUND TROOPS CAN BE USED, ARE BEING USED?

A I AM NOT SURE THAT I UNDERSTAND "OTHER FORMS OF GROUND TROOPS."

Q WELL, OTHER SOLDIERS WITH THEIR FEET ON THE GROUND
(LAUGHTER)

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Q HOW ABOUT HELICOPTER PILOTS WITH THEIR FEET ON THE GROUND?

Q WELL, COMMUNICATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, BOB.

A I JUST AM NOT GOING TO ANSWER HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, I'M SORRY. IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT OF ME TO DO THAT.

Q BOB, CAN I CLARIFY THE POINT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF GROUND TROOPS? IS IT THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION, APART FROM INTENTIONS OR PLANS, THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED FROM INTRODUCING GROUND COMBAT TROOPS INTO CAMBODIA?

A THE RECORD IS THAT -- AND IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AT HIS LAST PRESS CONFERENCE -- THE PRESIDENT SAID NONE WHATSOEVER. NOW, I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN IMPROVE ON THAT, OR TAKE AN OATH IN BLOOD TO YOU BEYOND THAT.

Q I AM SAYING, IF THE ANSWER IS --

A HOW CAN I DO THAT?

Q THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS PUT IN TERMS OF "THERE ARE NO PLANS OR INTENTIONS," NOT WHETHER IT IS NONE WHATSOEVER, BUT ALWAYS IN TERMS OF "PLANS OR INTENTIONS."

A ABSOLUTELY.

Q WHAT I AM TRYING TO GET AT, IS THERE A PROHIBITION THAT IT CANNOT DO THIS?

A THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS IN CERTAIN LEGISLATION, YES.

Q WELL, BOB, THE PRESIDENT HAS ALSO SAID ON JUNE 30 IN A SPEECH THAT YOU REFERRED TO YESTERDAY, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO U.S. AIR OR LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN CAMBODIA, SO I THINK YOU CAN FORGIVE THE QUESTION.

A I FORGIVE THE QUESTION, AND I APPRECIATE YOUR LEGITIMATE INTEREST HERE. YOU WILL HAVE TO APPRECIATE THE LIMITS UNDER WHICH

I AT TIMES MUST OPERATE. I LIVE THE KIND OF LIFE WHERE I MAY WAKE UP ONE MORNING AND FIND THAT THE SUN ROSE IN THE WEST (LAUGHTER) AND I AM GOING TO LIVE FROM DAY TO DAY.

Q BOB, CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL CAN GET ENGAGED IN. YOU WERE VERY CAREFUL TO LIMIT YOUR STRICTURES ONLY TO THE FACT THAT THEY COULD NOT GET ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS. CAN THEY TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH IN CONNECTION WITH DELIVERING MILITARY SUPPLIES, INSTRUCTING CAMBODIANS OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE ON THE USE OF THOSE SUPPLIES, OR ANY FUNCTIONS LIKE THAT?

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A WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE FREE TO TRAVEL WITHIN CAMBODIA IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS. THIS INCLUDES BOTH FOREIGN SERVICE AND ATTACHE PERSONNEL.

Q BOB, CAN YOU SAY, AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHETHER OR NOT THESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS HAVE BEEN GOING OUT TO OTHER POSTS BESIDES PHNOM PENH AND SUPERVISING DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, SAY BY HELICOPTER AND OTHERWISE?

A I HAVE NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT.

Q BOB, YOU REFERRED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS, IS IT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT THESE RESTRICTIONS EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR?

Q QUESTION?

A IS IT THE VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE USE OF AMERICAN GROUND FORCES IN CAMBODIA EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS -- DID YOU SAY "FISCAL YEAR"?

Q YES.

A I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q BOB, I GUESS WHAT WE ARE ASKING IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT. DO YOU INTERPRET IT TO MEAN THAT THE PROHIBITION ONLY APPLIES TO INFANTRY AND ARTILLERY STATIONED IN CAMBODIA?

A I'M SORRY, I HAVE TO RETREAT TO USING THE LANGUAGE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS USED: GROUND COMBAT FORCES NOR MILITARY ADVISORS. NOW, I CAN'T BE ASKED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF A MILITARY ORGANIZATION, AND I AM JUST NOT GOING TO DO IT...

Q BOB, YOU TOOK A QUESTION YESTERDAY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT AMERICAN HELICOPTERS COULD FERRY SOUTH VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIAN TROOPS IN OPERATIONS. CAN YOU ANSWER THAT QUESTION TODAY?

A NO, BEYOND SAYING I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT HAS NOT HAPPENED. NOW, SECRETARY LAIRD SPENT SOME TIME WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES THIS MORNING ON THIS AND RELATED QUESTIONS, AND I WILL NEED THE BENEFIT OF WHAT HE SAID. THERE ARE MILITARY MATTERS THAT HE IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO SPEAK TO THAN I AM....

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Q BOB, JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER HAS REFERRED PUBLICLY TO PLANS OF JAPAN TO ATTEMPT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH MAINLAND CHINA. IS THERE ANY COMMENT AVAILABLE FROM THIS GOVERNMENT ON

THAT? HAVE THERE BEEN CONSULTATIONS ABOUT THAT?

A THERE HAVE BEEN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT OUR RESPECTIVE PROBLEMS AND RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST CHINA. THAT GOVERNMENT IS SOVEREIGN AND FREE TO EXERCISE ITS OWN POLICIES AND ACTIONS, AS WE FEEL WE OURSELVES ARE.

Q BOB, YOU SAID EARLIER THAT THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN CAMBODIA UNDER THE AMBASSADOR'S AUTHORIZATION WERE ABLE TO TRAVEL IN THE COUNTRY. INSOFAR AS MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE INVOLVED, IF THEY FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT UP IN A MILITARY OPERATION, ARE THEY UNDER ANY PROHIBITION NOT TO ACT AS ADVISORS TO CAMBODIAN TROOPS?

A I WOULD ASSUME YES.

Q IS THERE ANY WAY OF CHECKING THAT?

OBVIOUSLY WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DRIVE AT HERE IS WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A WAY OF USING ATTACHE PERSONNEL, AND CALLING THEM ATTACHE PERSONNEL, AND LETTING THEM PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF ADVISORS.

A I THINK I CAN FAIRLY SAY THAT THERE IS NO INTENT BY DISGUISE OR DESIGN BY THIS GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE THESE PEOPLE INTO THE ROLES WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS SPECIFICALLY SAID HE WILL NOT AUTHORIZE (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

1/20/71 620P GD

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (1,790)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE ROBERT MCCLOSKEY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 21

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q IS THE UNITED STATES INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN THE OPERATION OF THAI TROOPS IN LAOS, SOUTHERN LAOS?

MR. MCCLOSKEY: WELL, I HAVE NOT, AND AM NOT, IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE THAI FORCES IN LAOS, SO THEREFORE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. I THINK THAT ON A QUESTION LIKE THAT, THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE PRESENT...

Q BOB, DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN ITS DISCUSSION WITH SENATORS COOPER AND CHURCH IN DECEMBER GIVE THEM ANY ASSURANCES ABOUT THE LIMITATION, THE EXTENT, OF U.S. OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA?

A WELL, YOU HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF BOTH THE SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE AND STATE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WHICH BOTH SENATORS SIT. THE PUBLIC RECORD WOULD SQUARE WITH WHATEVER SEPARATE AND PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN BETWEEN THE SENATORS AND THE DEPARTMENT OVER THE ISSUE OF THIS AMENDMENT. OBVIOUSLY THEY DID NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES BEYOND WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID PUBLICLY.

Q WHAT I WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKING WAS WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT GAVE SENATOR CHURCH AND COOPER ANY ASSURANCES GOING BEYOND THE STATEMENTS ON THE PUBLIC RECORD WHICH RESULTED IN THE DROPPING OF THE PREVIOUS LIMITATION IN THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT ON THE EXTENT OF U.S. AIR ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA?

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A I SHOULD THINK NOT.

Q BOB, SENATOR COOPER SAID THIS MORNING THAT HE FEELS THAT AMERICAN ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA NOW VIOLATE THE LAW. IS THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLANNING A NEW DEFENSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION IN LIGHT OF WHAT THE TWO CO-SPONSORS FEEL IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW?

A HOW PREPARING A DEFENSE?

Q WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WOULD BE DONE, BUT THE TWO CO-SPONSORS --

A I THINK IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE TALKING WITH SENATOR COOPER AND SENATOR CHURCH.

Q IS THAT A PRIVATE MEETING? HAS IT BEEN SCHEDULED?

A NO. AND IF THE COMMITTEE CONVENES HEARINGS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IF THAT WAS THEIR DESIRE. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMITTEE AT OTHER LEVELS NOW THAT THE CONGRESS IS BACK IN SESSION AND TRY TO MEET WHATEVER THEIR REQUESTS AND CONCERNS MAY BE.

Q BOB, DIDN'T YOU TAKE A REQUEST YESTERDAY TO EXPLAIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT; AND IF SO, DO YOU HAVE SUCH AN INTERPRETATION FOR US?

A THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER IT WAS A CONTINUING PIECE OF LEGIS-

LATION. THE JUDGMENT OF THE LAWYERS HERE IS IT IS.

Q COULD YOU EXPLAIN THAT, BOB? I'M SORRY. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

A WELL, I TOOK THE INTENT OF THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE PROHIBITION IN THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF GROUND COMBAT FORCES AND MILITARY ADVISORS WAS ONE THAT WOULD EXPIRE UNDER THE LAW AS OF BEGINNING OF FISCAL '72. AND MY ADVICE HAS BEEN THAT THAT WOULD BE REGARDED AS CONTINUING LEGISLATION.

Q BOB, DOES THE SHIFT IN POLICY -- SHIFT IN EXPLANATION FROM INTERDICTION TO USE OF AIR AND SEA POWER IN CAMBODIA REFLECT A CHANGE IN THE ASSESSMENT OF -- THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE ENEMY IS TRYING TO DO IN CAMBODIA, AND WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE THREAT IN CAMBODIA?

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A WELL, THE NATURE OF THE THREAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED HERE BEFORE AND IT HAS REMAINED CONSTANT. I THINK THERE IS -- I KNOW THERE IS CONCERN THAT AS THE FOCUS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY WENT TO ROUTE 4 AND IN THAT AREA BELOW AND TO THE SIDE OF PHNOM PENH, IT RAISED THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE ENEMY WASN'T TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH THE SANCTUARY BASES IN THAT AREA. AND I THINK THAT WHAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WAS SAYING WAS THAT THE USE OF AMERICAN AIR POWER IN THAT AREA WAS DESIGNED TO FRUSTRATE THAT EFFORT.

Q IS THE NAVAL BLOCKADE OFF THE COAST OF CAMBODIA BEING MAINTAINED?

A I'M SORRY, I CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION, JIM. I DON'T KNOW.

Q BOB, HAS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR THEIR LATEST OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA.

A I AM AFRAID I AM IN A NO-COMMENT POSITION ON THAT QUESTION TODAY.

Q REFERRING TO THIS STORY THIS MORNING IN THE WASHINGTON POST, IS THERE A U.S.-BACKED PLAN TO USE THAI TROOPS IN SOUTHERN LAOS, ASIDE FROM WHETHER THEY ARE THERE NOW?

A NO COMMENT.

Q BOB, IS IT THE JUDGMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION OR THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE EXTENT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA DO NOT DENIGRATE FROM THE CAPACITY TO CARRY OUT THE VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM? I ASK THAT BECAUSE THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE INDICATED YESTERDAY IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO CARRY IT OUT. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST, CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED HERE THAT EXTENSION OF THE RAIDS ON THE BORDER AREAS MIGHT JEOPARDIZE VIETNAMIZATION. HOW DOES THAT CHANGE IT?

A THAT WOULD NOT BE THE CASE PRESENTLY BECAUSE THE WITHDRAWALS ARE CONTINUING, AND THE LAST I REMEMBER ABOUT WITHDRAWALS, THEY WERE SOMEWHAT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, SO THAT I WOULD NOT JUDGE THAT THE ARVN OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA HAVE IN ANY WAY JEOPARDIZED THE VIETNAMIZATION EFFORT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE LEVEL OF CASUALTIES HAS REMAINED DOWN. THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IS DOWN, AND THE WITHDRAWALS CONTINUE.

Q BOB, BACK ON THIS QUESTION OF THE THAIS IN SOUTHERN LAOS, COULD YOU SAY WHETHER OR NOT THE UNITED STATES HAS DISCUSSED

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WITH THE THAIS OR THE LAOTIANS THE USE OF THAI FORCES IN SOUTHERN LAOS.

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A NO COMMENT.

Q BOB, ARE YOU IN A NO-COMMENT POSITION ON U.S. BANKROLLING OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES BECAUSE THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATION ACT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS U.S. FINANCING OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE ACTIONS IN DEFENSE OF THE CCAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT?

A I AM IN PART IN THAT POSITION BECAUSE I AM NOT SURE THAT I KNOW EVERYTHING THAT MAY RELATE TO THIS, WHICH IS MY MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION AT THE MOMENT...

Q BOB, CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE OVER-ALL POLICY WHICH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REFERRED TO YESTERDAY WHEN HE SAID THAT THE NIXON DOCTRINE THAT HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY STATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THE USE OF AIR AND SEA POWER? IS THAT IN SOME UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENT INSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION?

A I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY AND I HAVE NO WISH TO COMMENT OVER WHAT HE HAS SAID.

Q BOB, IN REGARD TO THAILAND, THERE WAS A PROTEST RECENTLY, LAST WEEK, I BELIEVE, OVER THE USE OF AMERICAN SURPLUS RICE, THE SALES OF AMERICAN SURPLUS RICE IN INDONESIA AND SOUTH KOREA. THIS CAME FROM THAILAND. NOW, TODAY, THERE ARE REPORTS FROM THAILAND THAT THE UNITED STATES MADE SOME KIND OF A REPLY AND IN DOING SO ASSURED THILAND THAT WE WOULD LIVE UP FULLY TO OUR TREATY COMMITMENTS. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMING MATERIAL ON THAT?

A NO, I'M SORRY. I AM NOT AWARE OF THE ISSUE INVOLVING RICE THAT YOU REFER TO. BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE WITH RESPECT TO THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND.

Q WHEN YOU SAY WITH RESPECT TO THAT RELATIONSHIP, YOU ARE REFERRING TO TREATY COMMITMENTS, OR WHAT?

A WELL, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF SEATO, AND THAT FOR US IS THE LAW OF THE LAND.

Q BOB, WHY IS AMBASSADOR BUNKER COMING BACK?

A WELL, HE EXPECTS TO BE HERE ABOUT FEBRUARY 1. THERE WILL BE CONSULTATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH THE TROOPS WITHDRAWALS, THE PROGRESS OF VIETNAMIZATION, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Q DOES HE EXPECT TO RETURN?

PAGE 5 -- STATE

A AS FAR AS I KNOW, YES...

Q BOB, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE RECORD ON THIS COOPER-CHURCH DISCUSSION HERE EARLIER, BOTH SENATORS HAVE SPOKEN SINCE YOU SPOKE LAST HERE YESTERDAY. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY VIOLATION OF THE LAW AS THEY CLAIM?

A WELL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY U.S. ACTIONS THAT HAVE

BEEN TAKEN IN CAMBODIA HAVE VIOLATED ANY OF THE LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS. IT WAS NOT MY IMPRESSION, IF WE CAN HAVE A COLLOQUY FOR A SECOND, THAT EITHER OF THEM OR BOTH OF THEM SAY THE LAW HAD BEEN VIOLATED.

Q COOPER SAID THAT HE HAS VIOLATED THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW. AND THEN ON THE FOLLOW-UP QUESTION, HE SAID "YES, IF THE SPIRIT HAS BEEN VIOLATED, THEN THE LAW HAS BEEN VIOLATED," BUT HE DID START WITH THE SPIRIT.

A WAS IT DESCRIBED IN WHAT SENSE? THE ALLEGED VIOLATION --?

Q THE QUESTION RELATED TO AIR ACTIONS IN CAMBODIA.

A WHAT PART OF THE LAW HAS TO DO WITH THE AIR POLICY?

Q WELL, AS PEOPLE HAVE SAID IN THIS ROOM, I WOULD LET THE RECORD SPEAK FOR ITSELF, AND THE SENATORS HAVE SPOKEN. (LAUGHTER).

A FAIR ENOUGH.

Q I JUST WANTED YOUR SIDE OF IT AND YOUR SIDE IS THAT WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT ANY U.S. ACTION IN CAMBODIA VIOLATED ANY LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTION, IS THAT CORRECT?

A THAT IS MY JUDGMENT.

Q AND THAT APPLIES TO THE USE OF ADVISORS?

A WE HAVE NOT INTRODUCED MILITARY ADVISORS NOR GROUND COMBAT FORCES.

Q WHAT ARE THE MECHANICS OF THE MAP PROGRAM BY MILITARY ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY? DOES THIS GO DIRECTLY TO THE CAMBODIANS IN PHNOM PENH OR IS THIS DISTRIBUTED FURTHER OUT BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL?

PAGE 6 -- STATE

A WELL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IT IS DISTRIBUTED AND HANDED OVER TO THE CAMBODIAN UNITS OR THE CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES IN PHNOM PENH; THAT ON THE WHOLE THE MILITARY ATTACHES ASSIGNED TO THAT OFFICE ARE IN PHNOM PENH. THE MATERIAL IS RECORDED IN AND RECORDED OUT. I SAID HERE YESTERDAY THAT BOTH FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AND PEOPLE FROM THE ATTACHE'S OFFICE ARE PERMITTED WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR TO GO OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH IN THE NORMAL CARRYING OUT OF THEIR DUTIES. I CAN ASSURE YOU CONFIDENTLY THAT NONE OF THEM ARE FUNCTIONING AS MILITARY ADVISORS TO EITHER CAMBODIAN OR ARVN UNITS IN CAMBODIA, NOR DO WE HAVE GROUND COMBAT FORCES IN CAMBODIA.

Q DOES THIS REFER TO ADVICE FROM THE AIR FROM HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS TO THE GROUND?

A NOW, THAT SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT THIS MORNING AND I WOULD LEAVE IT TO THEM. (SEE X-3)

Q BOB, IS THE UNITED STATES CONCERNED THAT THE INCREASING SOUTH VIETNAMESE ENFORT REQUIRED IN CAMBODIA WILL HURT THE VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM?

A THAT QUESTION WAS RAISED A MINUTE AGO AND AS OF NOW, THE ANSWER WOULD BE NO. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE PRESS JAN 20 AM BRIEFINGS:

Q RON, WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN ON TEXTILES?

MR. ZIEGLER: THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEGOTIATIONS SINCE THE LAST TIME WE REFERRED TO THE SUBJECT. I THINK THAT WAS JUST BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. AS WAS STATED HERE YESTERDAY WHEN MR. PETERSON WAS ANNOUNCED, I THINK BY GEORGE SHULTZ, MR. FLANIGAN WILL BE CONTINUING THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JAPANESE, AND I ASSUME THAT THEY WILL BE HELD AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, BUT THERE IS NO DATE SET FOR A MEETING.

Q WHAT IS THE HOLDUP?

MR. ZIEGLER: I DON'T KNOW IF I WOULD CALL IT A "HOLDUP." THERE WAS A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS AND BOTH SIDES PRESENTED THEIR POSITIONS. NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED.

I KNOW THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION VERY CLEAR AND I THINK THE JAPANESE ARE NO DOUBT REGROUPING.

Q RON, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE JAPANESE ARE AWAITING SOME MOVE FROM THE UNITED STATES. IS THE DELAY CAUSED BY A REASSESSMENT OF THE UNITED STATES' POSITION ON THAT?

MR. ZIEGLER: GENE, I AM NOT AWARE THAT THEY ARE WAITING FOR A MOVE FROM OUR SIDE. I HAVEN'T CHECKED THAT. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH PETE. I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM FOR SEVERAL WEEKS ABOUT THIS.

BUT LET ME TAKE YOUR QUESTION AND ATTEMPT TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO YOU AFTER THE BRIEFING.

Q JUST SOME SORT OF EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE DELAY.

MR. ZIEGLER: I WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR WORD "DELAY," BUT I WILL GET AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

Q AND WHEN THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD.

MR. ZIEGLER: RIGHT.

PM BRIEFING

Q WHAT ABOUT THE JAPANESE TEXTILE QUESTION?

MR. WARREN: THE QUESTION WAS ONE ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE JAPANESE WERE WAITING FOR US TO COME BACK WITH A REPLY. I DID CHECK WITH MR. FLANIGAN. I THINK THIS HAS BEEN ON THE WIRE.

PETER FLANIGAN AND THE AMBASSADOR HAD A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THIS WHOLE MATTER ON SUNDAY, THE 10TH OF JANUARY. IT WAS AN INFORMAL MEETING AND NOT A NEGOTIATING SESSION. IT WAS A MEETING IN WHICH THEY HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION OVER WHERE THE TALKS REALLY STOOD AT THIS POINT, SORT OF A SUMMARY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UP TO NOW.

PETER FLANIGAN TELLS ME THAT THEY DID NOT SET A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING. I THINK I CAN TELL YOU THAT ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE JAPANESE ARE WAITING FOR US TO RESPOND WOULD NOT BE ACCURATE, AS RON SAID THIS MORNING.

Q ARE WE WAITING FOR THEM TO RESPOND?

MR. WARREN: YES, WE ARE WAITING FOR THEM TO RESPOND TO SOME THOUGHTS THAT WERE EXPRESSED AT THAT INFORMAL SESSION ON THE 10TH.

X X X

EPF 18

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (840)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ROBERT MCCLOSKEY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 25:

(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q IS THERE ANY DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTACT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS OVER THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION THAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT?

MR. MCCLOSKEY: THERE HAS BEEN CONTACT, YES, OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

THE PRESENT SITUATION IS THAT THE DEPARTMENT, I GUESS IN CONCERT WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE STAFF OFFICER OF THE COMMITTEE, THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER AND A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICER BRIEF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE ON THE FACTUAL SITUATION.

NOW, PENDING THE COMMITTEE'S WISH, I DON'T KNOW THAT I COULD SAY MORE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS HAVING A MEETING OF ITS OWN TODAY AND, AS I FURTHER UNDERSTOOD IT, TO CONSIDER THIS KIND OF POSSIBILITY.

Q BOB, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN SAY ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN SENATOR COOPER AND THE SECRETARY? I BELIEVE IT WAS ON FRIDAY AND LAST WEEK YOU SAID THEN THAT POSSIBLY YOU WOULD HAVE MORE ON IT.

A WELL, IT WAS TO GO OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION GENERALLY, AND THE CONVERSATION, OF COURSE TOUCHED ON THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT IN THE SPECIAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT.

I DON'T KNOW THAT ANY CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH SENATOR COOPER AGAIN....

PAGE 2 -- STATE

Q BOB, TO WHAT EXTENT ARE MAP DELIVERY TEAMS ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY IN CAMBODIA INVOLVED IN TRAINING OF CAMBODIANS -- AT LEAST, AS FAR AS THE MAP ITEMS THAT THEY'RE RECEIVING?

A TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NONE.

Q IS THERE --

A NO TRAINING.

Q THERE'S NO INSTRUCTION ON THE USE OF THESE ITEMS WE'RE SHIPPING THEM?

A MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THESE PEOPLE FUNCTION TO SIMPLY TURN OVER AND RECORD IN AND OUT THE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BUT THEY DO NOT ADOPT A TRAINING OR ADVISORY ROLE.

Q WELL, NOW, DOES THE LAW ON THE MAP PROGRAM PROVIDE THAT WE MAINTAIN A CHECK WITH THE EQUIPMENT THAT IS TURNED OVER AS BEING PROPERLY USED; AND, IF SO, ARE ANY OF THESE CHECKS MADE IN THE FIELD OUTSIDE OF PHNOM PENH?

A WELL, YOU'D BETTER TAKE THAT UP WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL TERMS OF THE LAW. I'M RATHER CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THE CONGRESS HAS AN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THERE'S A PROPER ACCOUNTING OF A PROGRAM OF THIS SIZE; AND THAT'S WHY SECRETARY LAIRD HAS TALKED ABOUT HAVING WHAT I THINK ARE CALLED "MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS" THERE.

Q WELL, BOB --

Q BOB, WOULD TRAINING TEAMS BE PRECLUDED UNDER COOPER-CHURCH?

A WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO HYPOTHETICAL DISCUSSION HERE. YOU CAN READ THE LAW ITSELF. AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q WHAT WOULD BE THE SIZE, BOB, OF THESE TEAMS THAT, SAY, LAIRD IS INTERESTED IN HAVING?

A WELL, WE GAVE ALL THE FIGURES THERE ARE HERE LAST WEEK.

Q ADMIRAL MOORER AND GENERAL ABRAMS HAVE BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THE MILITARY SITUATION IS CRITICAL IN CAMBODIA. WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA?

A I WOULDN'T CHARACTERIZE IT GENERALLY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. I DON'T SEE HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHOULD BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE THOSE JUDGMENTS. WHAT YOU SAY ONE DAY CAN BE ABRUPTLY TURNED ABOUT THE NEXT, AND I THINK IT'S BETTER THAT JUDGMENTS LIKE THAT BE LEFT TO THE MILITARY...

Q LEADING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, LIKE SENATOR MANSFIELD AND SENATOR MUSKIE, AND MCGOVERN AND SO ON, HAVE MADE IN VARIOUS FORMS AND WITH VARYING DEGREE OF CONVICTION SOME VERY SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION'S CAMBODIAN POLICY AS IT RELATES TO THE LAWS ENACTED BY CONGRESS. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE A PLAN AT SOME POINT TO RESPOND TO THESE CHARGES OR TO DISCUSS PUBLICLY IN SOME WAY THE ISSUES THAT ARE POSED IN THEM?

A WELL, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HOPES TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS WEEK. THAT WOULD BE ONE FORUM. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMITTEE; AND, AS I SAID LAST WEEK, IF IT BECOMES A REQUEST OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO APPEAR, I'M SURE HE'D BE PREPARED TO DO THAT.

I HAVE SAID HERE ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT WHERE THE LAW IS CONCERNED AND THE RESTRICTIONS WHICH ARE WRITTEN INTO THE LAW, THAT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE U.S. IN CAMBODIA CAN BE JUSTIFIED UNDER THE LAW. I EMPHASIZE THAT I AM TALKING ABOUT THE LAW AND THE RESTRICTIONS UNDER IT...

Q BOB, HAS THE ADMINISTRATION MADE A DECISION TO GIVE SOUTH VIETNAM ADDITIONAL MONEY FOR OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA PER SAIGON'S REQUEST?

A NO. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

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EPF-39

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING (EXCERPTS) (3,830)

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ROBERT MCCLOSKEY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 26:
(BEGIN EXCERPTS)

Q. BOB, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT INTERPRET THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT AS PERMITTING INSTRUCTORS TO OPERATE IN CAMBODIA == U.S. INSTRUCTORS?

MR. MCCLOSKEY: I WOULDN'T BE IN A POSITION TO DRAW FINE LINES AND WE'LL STAND SIMPLY ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE LEGISLATION WHICH TALKS SPECIFICALLY ABOUT GROUND COMBAT FORCES AND MILITARY ADVISORS. THAT IS PROHIBITED AND, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THAT HAS NOT BEEN ABRIDGED....

Q. ONE QUESTION THAT THEY (DOD) REFERRED TO YOU WAS THE FACT THAT THE AMBASSADOR IN EACH COUNTRY GIVES TO THE TROOPS OR ADVISORS OR ATTACHES WHO HAPPEN TO BE STATIONED IN THAT COUNTRY INSTRUCTIONS ON SELF-DEFENSE AND OTHER THINGS LIKE THAT. DOES OUR AMBASSADOR IN CAMBODIA GIVE STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THOSE AMERICANS STATIONED IN CAMBODIA ON WHEN AND HOW THEY MAY USE THEIR WEAPONS?

A. I SAID HERE LAST WEEK THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. MISSION, INCLUDING THE RANGE OF PEOPLE, THAT IS, THE ATTACHES, AS PART OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE, IN THE NORMAL CONDUCT OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, WOULD BE PERMITTED TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF VIET-NAM (MEANING PHNOM PENH) WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE AMBASSADOR. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO BEAR ARMS.

PAGE TWO -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. BOB, YOU GAVE US LAST WEEK A RUN-DOWN ON THE NEW MILITARY ATTACHES WHO HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. NOW, DOES THIS INCLUDE MILITARY DEFENSE DELIVERY TEAMS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SENT THERE TO AUGMENT THE FLOW OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT?

A. NO. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THAT WOULD BE A SEPARATE ACTIVITY TO BE CONDUCTED BY PERSONS WHO WILL BE DRAWN FROM MACV IN SAIGON.

Q. WILL THEY BE ATTACHED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AS ATTACHES?

A. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THEY WOULD NOT BE ATTACHED TO THE U.S. MISSION OR U.S. EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH.

Q. WOULD THEY BE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT CAMBODIA?

A. I DON'T KNOW. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NONE OF THEM HAVE ARRIVED THERE YET.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE AS TO THE NUMBERS INVOLVED?

A. I HAVE A CLUE, BUT I CANNOT CONFIRM IT, SO I WON'T USE IT.

Q. BOB, IS THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CORRECT IN SAYING THAT THE STATE (SIC) DEPARTMENT HAS NO OVER-ALL JURISDICTION OVER THE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM IN CAMBODIA AND THEREFORE ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT POLICY CONCERNING BOTH THESE PROGRAMS ARE TO BE ANSWERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. WELL, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IS THE PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN ANY COUNTRY. TO THAT EXTENT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER GOVERNMENT ON THE PROGRAMS OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF PERSONS ASSIGNED TO THE

U.S. MISSION. NOW, THAT IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR, YES.

PAGE THREE == STATE BRIEFING

Q. WELL, BEYOND THE AMBASSADOR, WHAT I AM TRYING TO GET
CLARIFIED IS THIS. IS IT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S OVER-ALL
RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE THE MILITARY APPLICATION OF THE PROGRAM
IF, AS IN FACT, PARTS OF IT ARE BEING CARRIED ON IN SOUTH
VIETNAM AND IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE? IS THAT THE OVER-ALL
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TO BE RESPONSIVE TO
POLICY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE OVER-ALL MILITARY PROGRAM?
AND IF IT IS, THEN I WOULD APPRECIATE IF STATE WOULD START CLARIFYING
THE USE OF THE CAMBODIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN VIETNAM,
IN THAILAND, AND WHEREVER ELSE IT IS BEING CARRIED OUT?

A. WELL, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILITARY PROGRAM
IN THIS CASE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MILITARY PERSONNEL
ASSIGNED TO THE RECORD-KEEPING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE
EQUIPMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD ANSWER QUESTIONS ON
POLICY, NOT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE
EQUIPMENT.

Q. WELL, AND ALSO ON TRAINING OF CAMBODIANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM
AND IN THAILAND, AND THE USE OF CAMBODIANS IN LAOS?

A. WELL, THERE ARE CAMBODIANS BEING TRAINED IN BOTH
THAILAND AND SOUTH VIETNAM, PRINCIPALLY BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND
THAI, AND THAT TRAINING COULD ALSO, AND PERHAPS DOES, INCLUDE
U.S. MILITARY IN BOTH OF THOSE COUNTRIES. AS FOR CAMBODIANS
IN LAOS, I HAVE NO INFORMATION.

PAGE FOUR == STATE BRIEFING

Q. CAN YOU SAY, WHEN THESE MILITARY TEAMS LEAVE THE
PHYSICAL AREA OF VIETNAM AND GO OVER INTO CAMBODIA, DO THEY
AUTOMATICALLY COME UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE U.S. EMBASSY
OR DO THEY REMAIN UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF MACV?

A. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THEY WILL BE UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF MACV, AND ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT YET
BEEN COMPLETED WITH RESPECT TO THEIR ASSIGNMENT AS IT
AFFECTS CAMBODIA.

Q. AS FOR THE NUMBER, BOB, DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD THIS
MORNING SAID THERE ARE NOW 16. WOULD YOU EXPECT THIS TO GO ANY
LARGER, AND IF SO, HOW MUCH, SINCE WE HAS ALREADY PLACED AT LEAST
ONE NUMBER FIGURE ON IT?

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT FIGURE BASED ON MY OWN INFORMATION.
I HAVE SEEN THE REPORT, WHAT HE SAID, BUT IT IS NOT MY
UNDERSTANDING THAT AS THESE PERSONNEL FROM MACV AND SAIGON
ARE ASSIGNED FUNCTIONS IN CAMBODIA THAT THEY BECOME ATTACHED
TO, OR ASSIGNED TO, THE U.S. MISSION IN PHNOM PENH.

Q. HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. MISSION IN
PHNOM PENH NOW?

A. WELL, WE GAVE YOU LAST WEEK A FIGURE OF 95, NOT ALL OF
WHOM ARE THERE, WHICH INCLUDED 22 THAT WOULD BE ON TEMPORARY DUTY.

Q. IS THAT FIGURE STILL 95?

A. THAT FIGURE IS STILL 95.

PAGE FIVE == STATE BRIEFING

Q. DO YOU HAVE A BACK-UP FIGURE ON THE PERSONNEL ALSO
INVOLVED IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IN THAILAND FOR THE SAME PROGRAM?

A. WELL, IT IS NOT MY INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN
THAILAND RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM. THERE ARE -- I HAVE
ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED -- THERE IS A BODY, A PART OF MACV IN
SAIGON, THAT WILL HAVE THIS RESPONSIBILITY. THAT HAS BEEN
CALLED IN SAIGON AT MACV, "SPECIAL SUPPLY SUPPORT GROUP."
NOW IT IS THAT GROUP WHICH WAS COMPOSED FOR THE PURPOSE, OR AT
THE TIME THAT THE UNITED STATES DECIDED ON A MILITARY ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIA.

NOW, IT IS FROM THAT GROUP THAT THE SO-CALLED MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS WILL BE DRAWN.

Q. BOB, I'D LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS QUESTION. WHEN THE INQUIRY WAS MADE HERE IN THE LAST WEEK OR TWO ABOUT WHAT AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE OPERATING IN CAMBODIA, OR WERE STATIONED IN CAMBODIA, THE ANSWER ALWAYS STRESSED THE POINT THAT ALL THE MILITARY PERSONNEL THERE WERE UNDER THE U.S. EMBASSY.

NOW, WE HAVE REACHED A POINT AT WHICH MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO ARE NOT UNDER THE U.S. EMBASSY WILL GO IN AS SOON AS THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE. DOESN'T THIS CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN CAMBODIA?

PAGE SIX -- STATE BRIEFING

A. NO, I SHOULDN'T THINK SO, BECAUSE THE CONGRESS, IN APPROVING THE LEGISLATION WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STIPULATED THAT THERE HAD TO BE A WATCH, A MONITORING, OF THE U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. AND I BELIEVE IN HIS TESTIMONY, SECRETARY LAIRD SAID THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE USE OF -- AND I BELIEVE HE CALLED THEM AT THAT TIME -- MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS. NOW, AS I SAY, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT AS AND WHEN THESE PEOPLE ARE REQUIRED TO GO TO CAMBODIA, IT WOULD BE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS -- AND I DON'T KNOW FOR WHAT PERIODS OF TIME -- BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE DRAWN FROM THIS UNIT I HAVE IDENTIFIED WHICH IS PART OF MACV IN SAIGON.

Q. HAVE THEY BEEN USED IN OTHER PLACES BY THAT NAME, MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS?

A. YES, I BELIEVE THAT THAT NOMENCLATURE HAS BEEN USED IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THE U.S. HAS HAD M.A.P. ASSISTANCE....

Q. WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, IN EFFECT THEN, IS THAT THESE PEOPLE GOING OVER INTO CAMBODIA WILL NOT BE UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, AND THEREFORE THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM AND CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEM, DOESN'T GIVE THEM ANY POLICY. THEY ARE RUN PURELY OUT OF MACV AND ONLY THE PENTAGON CAN SPEAK FOR THEM.

PAGE SEVEN -- STATE BRIEFING

A. AS A GENERAL MATTER, YES, THE MILITARY PEOPLE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING THE TASKS THAT THEY ARE PERFORMING AND WHERE THEY ARE PERFORMING THEM, AND THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF INFORMATION THAT I WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. NOW, WHEN YOU USE THE TERM "STATE DEPARTMENT", NOT HAVING ANY ROLE HERE -- I REALIZE YOU DIDN'T USE THE WORD "ROLE", BUT I TOOK THAT TO BE THE SENSE OF WHAT YOU WERE SAYING -- WE WOULD HAVE A ROLE CERTAINLY IN KNOWING HOW MANY WERE THERE AND WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND THE GENERAL KIND OF CLOSE INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION AMONG OUR OWN FAMILY OF AGENCIES HERE.

Q. WELL, BOB, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PAYING IN EFFECT FOR FUNDS OUT OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIA FOR THE TRAINING OF THE CAMBODIAN FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IN THAILAND? IS THAT COMING OUT OF STATE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERED FUNDS?

A. HOW DO YOU MEAN, "ATE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERED FUNDS? IS IT OUT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUDGET? THE ANSWER IS NO....

Q. IS THE TRAINING OF CAMBODIANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IN THAILAND COMING OUT OF THE RECENTLY APPROPRIATED MILITARY AID FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA, OR IS THAT A SEPARATE AUTHORIZATION?

A. NOW, I WILL HAVE TO TAKE THAT QUESTION, AND I UNDERSTAND IT BETTER THAN THE FIRST ROUND. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT. THE QUESTION IS, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE TRAINING OF CAMBODIANS IN THIRD COUNTRIES, IS THAT BEING

PROVIDED, FUNDED, BY U.S. MONIES?

PAGE EIGHT -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. IS THAT BEING FUNDED BY U.S. MONIES?

A. THAT IS YOUR QUESTION.

Q. AND I'D LIKE TO GO FROM THERE AND ASK -- YOU DID ALLUDE TO IT EARLIER -- CAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT GIVE US BREAKDOWNS ON THE NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS INVOLVED AND THE NUMBERS OF U.S. PERSONNEL TRAINING THEM IN BOTH COUNTRIES?

A. THERE, I THINK, THAT IS BETTER AND PROPER QUESTION FOR THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

Q. WELL, THIS IS THE REASON I AM ASKING --

A. I MEAN, WE DON'T HAVE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS TRAINING CAMBODIANS.

Q. WELL, THIS IS WHY I AM ASKING THE OTHER QUESTIONS FOR A BASIS, BECAUSE WE FIND THAT WE HAVE BEEN BATTED BACK AND FORTH FROM ONE DEPARTMENT TO ANOTHER ON THESE QUESTIONS NOW FOR THREE WEEKS; WHEN WE GO TO DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, THEY SAY, NO, THAT IS A STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED PROGRAM, AND THEY ARE RESPONSIVE TO IT, THE WHOLE CAMBODIAN OPERATION, SO THAT IS WHY I WAS ORIGINALLY ASKING THESE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS TO TRY TO SEE WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY LIES IN POLICY-MAKING, SO THAT WE CAN ESTABLISH ON SOME DAY-TO-DAY BASIS WHICH DEPARTMENT IS SUPPOSEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPLAINING WHAT THE POLICY IS.

A. WELL, I THOUGHT I ANSWERED THAT ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AGO.

PAGE NINE -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. BOB, MR. FRIEDHEIM YESTERDAY, SEEMS TO HAVE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN ON WHAT SEEMS TO BE A POLICY ISSUE. THAT IS, WOULD "TRAINERS" AND TRAINERS OF CAMBODIAN PERSONNEL, BE PERMITTED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE WORD "ADVISORS?"

WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW ON THAT?

A. INSTRUCTORS?

Q. INSTRUCTORS, YES, BUT THEY CALL THEM "TRAINERS" RATHER THAN ADVISORS.

IS THAT POSSIBLE, THE WAY YOU INTERPRET IT?

A. WELL, THAT WAS THE FIRST QUESTION I WAS ASKED, HERE, AND I SAID THAT I DON'T KNOW THAT I COULD ANSWER THAT.

TO THE EXTENT THAT THE QUESTION IS ADDRESSED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON POLICY, THE POLICY IS VERY CLEAR AND IT'S PUT IN THE LEGISLATION: "GROUND COMBAT FORCES AND ADVISORS ARE PROHIBITED."

Q. IS THERE A TEXTBOOK DEFINITION OF ADVISOR -- I MEAN, SOMETHING OUT OF AN ARMY MANUAL? SOMETHING THAT DEFINES ADVISOR SO THAT ANYBODY WHO DOES NOT CONFORM PRECISELY TO THAT DEFINITION, WOULD NOT BE AN ADVISOR?

A. NO, NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

Q. WELL LET ME ASK YOU ANOTHER KIND OF POLICY QUESTION HERE: IS IT THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, OR UNDERSTANDING, THAT THE AIR SUPPORT WHICH WAS PROVIDED TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN CAMBODIA TO HELP CLEAR HIGHWAY 4 THAT THIS WAS CARRIED FORWARD WITHOUT ANY CHANGE IN EXISTING POLICY?

A. NO COMMENT....

PAGE TEN -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. BOB, DOES THE DEPARTMENT ESSENTIALLY READ THE INTENT OF COOPER-CHURCH TO KEEP AMERICANS OUT OF GROUND COMBAT IN CAMBODIA -- THEREFORE, WHEN IT CONSIDERS FROM A POLICY STANDPOINT, THE ASSIGNMENT OF ANY AMERICANS IN CAMBODIA -- THAT IS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF WHATEVER THEY ARE DOING, TO KEEP THEM OUT OF GROUND COMBAT?

A. YES.

Q. BOB, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THE EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAM WHICH WOULD GO IN CAMBODIA, WILL CARRY THEIR OWN ARMS AND UNDER WHAT INSTRUCTION THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE THEM?

A. I DO NOT. THAT WAS ASKED A FEW MINUTES AGO. I DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. BOB, YOU SAID THAT THE NOMENCLATURE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS HAS BEEN USED BEFORE. HAS THE NOMENCLATURE "MAP ADVISOR" ALSO BEEN USED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS KIND OF THING?

A. "MAP ADVISOR?"

Q. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADVISOR. OR MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY ADVISORS?

A. WELL, THE WORD "ADVISOR" HAS BEEN USED, YES OF COURSE BEFORE IN VIETNAM.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PARTICULAR FUNCTION, THE DELIVERY TEAMS?

A. NO, AND THAT IS THE REASON FOR THE PRECISE WORDING OF "MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS."

Q. BOB, YOU SAID IN RESPONSE TO MY EARLIER QUESTION THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS TO KEEP AMERICAN PERSONNEL OUT OF GROUND COMBAT, AS YOU DESCRIBED THE SITUATION THIS MORNING.

A. NOW LET'S BE CLEAR. I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE COOPER-CHURCH AMENDMENT WAS TO RESTRICT THE UNITED STATES FROM A GROUND COMBAT ROLE IN CAMBODIA.

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Q. THAT -- AND WAS THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION OF COOPER-CHURCH?

A. AND MY ANSWER WAS, "YES."...

Q. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR WHO IS -- OR THOSE WHO ARE CHECKING ON HOW THE CAMBODIANS ARE USING OUR EQUIPMENT -- THOSE WHO ARE COMING OUT OF MACV AND SAIGON.

YOU DESCRIBED THE SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN PHNOM PENH. HOW THEN, CAN THE DEPARTMENT CARRY OUT ON A POLICY WAY THEIR OBJECTIVE TO KEEP AMERICANS OUT OF COMBAT IN CAMBODIA? DO YOU HAVE CONTROL OVER THEM, OR NOT?

A. WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THAT OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT AS I ACKNOWLEDGED, MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. MISSION IN CAMBODIA, WHICH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CONTROLS.

NOW OBVIOUSLY, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS SOME ROLE IN WHATEVER U.S. ACTIVITY IS CARRIED OUT IN CAMBODIA -- WHETHER IT COMES ON A TEMPORARY DUTY BASIS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR FROM THE UNITED STATES. SO I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE AMBASSADOR MAY NOT HAVE SOME ROLE HERE. I WAS TRYING TO DISTINGUISH ON THE BASIS OF MY UNDERSTANDING, THAT THESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED TO THE U.S. MISSION, AS ARE THE OTHER, UP TO 95, WHO MAY BE THERE.

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NOW THE LANGUAGE OF THE LAW IS -- AND THIS IS A PART, BUT IT'S THE SUBSTANCE -- NONE OF THE FUNDS AUTHORIZED OR APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS, OR ANY OTHER ACT, MAY BE USED TO FINANCE THE INTRODUCTION OF UNITED STATES GROUND COMBAT TROOPS INTO CAMBODIA OR TO PROVIDE UNITED STATES ADVISORS TO OR FOR CAMBODIAN MILITARY FORCES IN CAMBODIA.

NOW TO MY KNOWLEDGE, AND I'VE BEEN SAYING THIS OVER AND OVER HERE, THIS LANGUAGE IS VERY CLEARLY BEFORE ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND NOTHING THAT IS BEING DONE -- AGIN, ACCORDING TO MY KNOWLEDGE -- HAS ABRIDGED THE RESTRICTIONS HERE LAID DOWN.

Q. BUT THERE COULD BE PROPOSALS FOR ACTION ON WHICH THERE MIGHT BE SOME DIFFERENCE AS TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THESE

RESTRICTIONS. THERE COULD BE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEFINING OF "ADVISORS" OR OTHERS -- AND MY QUESTION HERE IS --

A. I WOULD TAKE THAT FROM YOUR QUESTIONS OVER THE LAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS.

Q. RIGHT.

IN DETERMINING WHETHER INSTRUCTORS OR TRAINERS OR CHECKERS, GO FROM MACV INTO CAMBODIA -- DOES THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT MAKE ITS OWN DEFINITIONS, OR DOES IT CONSULT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. IT HAS CONSULTED WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q. IT HAS CONSULTED WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. HERE IN WASHINGTON, AND IN SAIGON WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

PAGE THIRTEEN -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. BOB, WHEN YOU READ THAT CITATION FROM COOPER-CHURCH DID YOU SAY: NONE OF THE FUNDS MAY BE USED TO FINANCE INTRODUCTION OF U.S. GROUND COMBAT FORCES?

A. GROUND COMBAT TROOPS.

Q. DIDN'T YOU SAY EARLIER THAT IT MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN AIR AND GROUND? THIS SEEMS TO MAKE A DISTINCTION.

A. ADVISORS. THE QUESTION WAS "ADVISORS."

Q. BOB, ARE THERE INSTRUCTIONS THAT GO WITH THESE MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY TEAMS THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF, AS TO WHAT TO DO IF THEY COME UNDER FIRE -- IF THEY'RE AMBUSHED?

A. WELL NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF. BUT I WOULD ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD BE STANDING INSTRUCTIONS THAT THESE PEOPLE WOULD CARRY, WHICH WOULD GUIDE THEM AS THEY CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

NOW LOOK, NOBODY, SOLDIER OR NOT, IS GOING TO SIT LIKE A TRANSFIXED RABBIT IF SOMEBODY IS TAKING DEAD AIM ON THEM. SO I THINK THERE'S A REALITY TO THIS.

Q. AND PART OF THE REALITY IS THE DISTINCTION THAT WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE BETWEEN THE TROOPS THAT COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN COMBAT AND THOSE THAT ARE THERE STRICTLY AS A TRAINER, INSTRUCTOR, OR ANY OTHER WORDS YOU WANT TO USE -- AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THOSE ADVISORS OR INSTRUCTORS COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN COMBAT.

K A. ALL RIGHT, YOU KNOW, I ACCEPT THAT AND I'M TRYING TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AS CREDIBLY AS I POSSIBLY CAN.

PAGE FOURTEEN -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. IF THE PENTAGON DECIDES THAT THERE IS TO BE A NEW CATEGORY -- WHETHER YOU WANT TO CALL IT "INSTRUCTORS" OR "TRAINERS" OR ANYTHING ELSE -- WOULDN'T THE PENTAGON IN THE COURSE OF ITS DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS, CONSULT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND GET ITS VIEWS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THIS FALLS WITHIN WHATEVER RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN IN THE LAW?

A. YES. AND TO THE EXTENT THAT THESE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED OUT OF MACV IN SAIGON ARE CONCERNED, THAT HAS BEEN SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BY BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE.

Q. BUT IN THE COURSE OF THIS CONSULTATION HAS THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSION AS TO A CATEGORY TO BE CALLED "TRAINERS" OR "INSTRUCTORS?" AND WITH THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM AND "ADVISORS?"

A. NO, NOT THAT I KNOW OF....

Q. HAS THERE BEEN NO DISCUSSION -- ARE THERE SOMETHING CALLED -- SOMETHING APART FROM "ADVISORS?"

HAS STATE DEPARTMENT BEEN ASKED AT ALL ABOUT THE USE OF PERSONNEL CALLED "TRAINERS" "INSTRUCTORS" "AIRBORNE COORDINATORS" -- HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN ANY OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS TERMINOLOGY?

NOT ABOUT THIS SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY -- BUT TO THE EXTENT THAT U.S. AIR WAS USED IN SUPPORT OF THE ARVN EFFORT ON ROUTE 4, YES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS FULLY CONSULTED AS THAT WENT ALONG, AND WAS INTRODUCED.

PAGE FIFTEEN -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THERE IS ANY ONGOING USE OF PERSONNEL CALLED TRAINERS OR INSTRUCTORS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS UNAWARE OF IT?

A. YES....

Q. BOB, YOU SAID EARLIER THAT NO ONE IS GOING TO STAND STILL, TRANSFIXED LIKE A RABBIT, UNDER FIRE. THEN WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY IN CAMBODIA IN SUCH A SITUATION, IF ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM IS FIRED UPON? ARE THEY THEN, UNDER POLICY, PERMITTED TO FIRE BACK?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT ANY POLICY LINES HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN IN THIS CONTEXT. TO MY KNOWLEDGE -- FIRST OF ALL, I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT ANY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE GONE THERE YET; I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT. BUT I THINK COMMON SENSE IS SIMPLY THAT, WHEREVER YOU ARE, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF -- THE SAME AS YOU DO ON YOUR CITY STREETS. NOW, I THINK IT'S COMMON SENSE AS THAT.

Q. BOB, THERE WAS A REFERENCE HERE TO 300 PERSONNEL. WHEN I SAW IT IN THE PAPER THIS MORNING, I THOUGHT IT WAS A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR. IS THAT CORRECT? ARE THERE 300 PERSONNEL BEING PREPARED IN THE MACV SPECIAL BACKUP OPERATION?

A. NO. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THE FIGURE WON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR THAT -- NOWHERE NEAR THAT....

PAGE SIXTEEN -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. BOB, WHEN DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD SPOKE BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, IN TALKING ABOUT THIS MILITARY EQUIPMENT DELIVERY SETUP, HE SAID THAT THIS WAS REQUIRED, MAINLY -- OR, AT LEAST, PARTLY -- TO KEEP THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE HAPPY, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE WOULD KNOW EXACTLY HOW MUCH EQUIPMENT WAS BEING SENT THERE AND WHERE IT WAS. NOW, APPARENTLY, HE -- NEVER AT ANY TIME THAT I CAN REMEMBER, NOR DID SECRETARY ROGERS -- SPEAK OF THE NECESSITY FOR ANY KIND OF TRAINING, INSTRUCTORS, OR ANY CATEGORY OF THAT KIND. AM I INCORRECT IN RECALLING THAT?

A. WELL, SO FAR AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS CONCERNED, YOU ARE CORRECT. HE DID NOT DISCUSS THIS. I AM AWARE, IN GENERAL, OF WHAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SAID; AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE GAO IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION HERE. BUT THE USE OF WORDS LIKE "TRAINERS" AND "INSTRUCTORS" I HAVE NOT MYSELF BEEN AWARE OF.

Q. MR. LAIRD SPECIFICALLY SAID NO ADVISORS OR TRAINERS IN CAMBODIA, BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HAVE COMPARABLE WORDS BEEN USED BY THE SECRETARY TO "TRAINERS"?

A. NO -- WELL, NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. BUT I WANT TO BE CLEAR ON THE INTENT OF THE QUESTION.

PAGE SEVENTEEN -- STATE BRIEFING

Q. HE, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY AIKEN -- THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO ADVISORS OR TRAINERS. HE SEEMED TO RULE IT OUT. I'M JUST WONDERING IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS TAKING THE SAME POSITION FOR ADVISORS OR TRAINERS.

A. NO. I DON'T REMEMBER THE SECRETARY MAKING ANY REFINED DISTINCTION, BEYOND GROUND COMBAT FORCES, TO EXTEND IT TO ADVISORS.

Q. BOB, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK SAID THAT THE LANGUAGE APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS WOULD NOT BAR THE INTRODUCTION OF A MILITARY FIELD HOSPITAL, IF NECESSARY, OR, FR EXAMPLE, A COMMUNICATIONS UNIT ON THE GROUND. IS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INTERPRETATION TOO?

HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR IT.

A. I'M QUITE -- YES, I REALIZE WHAT HE SAID. AND THERE IS NO LANGUAGE IN THE LEGISLATION TO THAT SPECIFIC EFFECT. SO I WOULDN'T QUARREL WITH IT. (END EXCERPTS) ITEM

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