

INDOCHINA ARCHIVE
UNIV. CALIFORNIA

ABST
FILE / SUBJ.
DATE / SUB-CAT.
1/71

NAME: Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense
OCCASION: News Conference
DATE: January 20, 1971

QUESTION: You haven't said what we would do if Cambodia falls, Mr. Secretary.
SECRETARY LAIRD: I don't anticipate that Cambodia will fall if our military assistance program is successful. This is a critical period, as I have said earlier. When you go from 30,000 to over 200,000 in the military force, they have the will, they have the desire to meet the enemy, the invaders from the North. I am confident that they will be successful in their efforts. But I want to make it abundantly evident to you, Bill, that there are no ground forces involved and there will be no ground forces involved.