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Kennedy on Cambodian Refugees

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in English to Southeast Asia 1230 GMT 17 Apr 73 B

[Text] U.S. senators opened April the (?14th) an inquiry into U.S. bombing in Cambodia amid increasing congressional concern over the Nixon administration's policies in the war-torn nation, according to REUTER. The inquiry will be conducted by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Refugees in an effort to change our (?paralysis) in Cambodia, said Senator Edward Kennedy, the subcommittee chairman.

The senator charged that nearly half of Cambodia's population have become refugees and conditions (?are) rapidly deteriorating in that nation. He said a team of (?staff) member doctors who recently returned from Indochina now estimate that some 3 million men, women and children, accounting for nearly 50 percent of the population, have become refugees since the Americans (?sponsored) the invasion of that country 8 years ago.

Subcommittee (?staff) members said the estimate, based on government and private relief organization figures, is up 1 million over a year ago. Many U.S. senators have recently condemned the continued bombing of Cambodia by B-52's and fighter-bombers, voicing fears that the U.S. could begin a new involvement in Southeast Asia.