

May - June 1971

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President Nixon's Report on Cambodia Operations - June 30, 1970

In a report to the nation released by the White House on June 30, 1970, the President reviewed the results of the Cambodia sanctuary operations:

- As the President had reported to the nation on April 30, the Allied operations were undertaken in response to major threats by North Vietnamese forces.
- North Vietnamese forces brought the war to Cambodia, pressed the Governments of Prince Sihanouk and Lon Nol and for 5 years built up major base complexes in violation of Cambodian neutrality to spearhead their attack on South Vietnam.
- North Vietnamese forces between April 20 and April 30 moved to link up their base complexes in Cambodia. They assaulted the Cambodian centers of Saang, Snoul, Mimot, Kep, Angtassom, Chhlong and Kampot and cut almost every major road around the capital of Phnom Penh.
- Ten major operations were launched against a dozen major Communist base areas with 32,000 Americans and 48,000 South Vietnamese forces involved.
- U. S. forces scrupulously observed the 21 mile limit set by the President on penetration of U. S. ground combat forces into Cambodia.
- All Americans, including logistics personnel and advisers, have withdrawn, as have a majority of the South Vietnamese forces.
- According to latest estimates from the field, enemy war materiel captured or destroyed included:
 - 22,892 individual weapons, enough to equip 74 full-strength North Vietnamese infantry battalions
 - 2,509 big crew-served weapons, enough to equip about 25 full-strength North Vietnamese infantry battalions
 - More than 15 million rounds of ammunition, about what Communist forces have fired in South Vietnam during the past year
 - 14 million pounds of rice, enough to feed all the enemy combat battalions estimated to be in South Vietnam for about 4 months
 - 143,000 rockets, mortars and recoilless rifle rounds used against cities and bases, equivalent to enemy usage in South Vietnam in 14 months

- 199,552 anti-aircraft rounds, 5,482 mines, 62,022 grenades and 83,000 pounds of explosives
- 435 vehicles and 11,688 bunkers
- In addition, Communist forces suffered heavy manpower losses -- an estimated 11,349 men killed and about 2,328 captured and detained.

Looking beyond these impressive statistics, this loss to the enemy of his supplies and installations means that:

- We have eliminated an immediate threat to our forces and to the security of South Vietnam and have produced the prospect of fewer American casualties in the future.
- We have inflicted extensive casualties and very heavy losses in materiel -- losses difficult to make up during the monsoon season and in the face of counteraction by South Vietnamese ground and U.S. air forces.
- We have ended the concept of Cambodian sanctuaries immune from attack, upon which the enemy military had relied for 5 years.
- We have dislocated supply lines and disrupted Hanoi's strategy in the Saigon area and the Mekong Delta (where some 60% of South Vietnam's population lives).
- We have effectively cut off the enemy from resupply by the sea.
- We have separated the Communist main force units from the guerrillas in the southern part of Vietnam, thus aiding pacification efforts there.
- We have guaranteed the continuance of our troop withdrawal program with 50,000 more U.S. forces to return by October 15 and with an additional 100,000 to return by next spring for a total 265,500 below that when the Administration took office in January 1969.
- We have bought time for the South Vietnamese to strengthen themselves against the enemy. We have witnessed visible proof of the success of Vietnamization as the South Vietnamese performed with skill and valor and competence.
- The Cambodian operations have reduced the risks to Allied forces in Vietnam and to the Vietnamization and pacification programs there. They have enhanced Allied prospects for the future and will contribute significantly to ending the war in Vietnam and securing the just peace on which all Americans are united.