

be formed in Cambodia. The other is to intervene with all force necessary to preserve the pro-American government. (It is unlikely but possible that a neutralist regime could be reestablished in Cambodia and attempt to return the country to the pre-coup situation.) *

You Can't Always Get What You Want

The massive U.S. invasion of Cambodia, allegedly only to clear out Viet Cong sanctuaries which have already been vacated, leaves American forces in South Vietnam vulnerable. It is likely that the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces will attack all over South Vietnam. The resumption of bombing over North Vietnam is a warning against increased communist attacks in the South as well as a major escalation of the war.

How the communists will respond to the American escalations is problematic. It is widely accepted that the Pathet Lao can completely take over Laos any time they choose to do so. It is also likely that the Khmer Rouge can topple the Lon Nol regime. Conceivably with American Troops spread thinly through Indochina, the Viet Cong can launch another Tet offensive. However, if the communists take over any cities, it is very likely that those cities will be totally destroyed by American bombing. In other words, if they win, they lose.....

If America really intends to protect its investments in Thailand and Indonesia by destroying the rest of Southeast Asia, then the question arises as to what China will do. If China enters the war, then the U.S. is left with two choices. One is to accept an immediate political settlement leading to complete American withdrawal from Indochina. The other is to attempt to stop the Chinese intervention with either massive use of conventional bombing or strategic use of nuclear weapons. Some in the government would consider this a golden opportunity to "get" China, a strategy which is based on the dubious assumption that the Soviet Union would not retaliate for attacks against China. (According to a reliable source, the use of tactical nuclear weapons against Chinese troops has been strongly advocated by Nixon's top advisor, Henry Kissinger, for at least the past few days.

According to unconfirmed reports, China has been massing troops on the northern borders of Laos and Vietnam. So far China has stated its support for the Indochinese people fighting against American imperialism, but has left its options open. If the Chinese say, as they did in Korea, "Go no further," and if the U.S. continues to destroy Indochina, then we can assume that a nuclear war has already begun. The time to demand immediate withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces from Indochina is now.

OPERATION TOTAL VICTORY



"This is not an invasion of Cambodia."

* According to Newsweek, May 4, 1970, "...despite the weapons sent to Lon Nol's government last week, there was little doubt that the communists could capture Phnom Penh and restore Sihanouk if they wanted to."

By Pacific Studies Center

