

4-30-1973

Congressional Record - Cambodia

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Congressional Record - Cambodia" (1973). *Mike Mansfield Speeches*. 1102.
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CAMBODIA

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks just made by the distinguished Senator from Oregon (Mr. HATFIELD).

We are engaged anew in a civil war. We are, in effect, asking for, if not actually seeking, a reinvolvement in Cambodia based on the expanded bombing for which \$500 million recently has been requested by the Department of Defense. To further implement what is going on in Cambodia we have brought about a cessation of the minesweeping operations at Haiphong Harbor. The result, of course, is that we are not as close to peace in Indochina as we thought we were.

There are no constitutional grounds for our involvement in Cambodia. The problem there is diplomatic, not political. As far as bombers, river convoys, and the like are concerned, it only intensifies our involvement in a situation in an area in which we have no business. If it continues, the possibilities of a break of the fragile peace in Vietnam will become more and more apparent.

It is unfortunate that this country ever became immersed in Indochina. We never had any business in any of the three countries of that region in the first place; and we have none today.

The continued bombing of Cambodia casts doubt on our achievements by way of negotiations in Vietnam, and unfortunately it appears we are digging in deeper and deeper all the time. The only solution I can see is that the only symbol of Cambodia's nationalism who could be called upon to bring about a unification of that sad nation is Prince Norodom Sihanouk. I would state that if he were to return to Cambodia—and he will again shortly, I understand—he will be the symbol around which all Cambodians will rally. Through him, there will be the possibility of once again creating a united, neutral Cambodia.

Again, I commend the distinguished Senator from Oregon.