

"Free Asia" In No Rush to Man Cambodia's "Frontier of Freedom"

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extending the doctrine to Cambodia again. "Nothing in the Cooper-Church amendment," Church assured the Senate, "would prevent Asians from helping Asians." He called this "a viable and valid cause." Helping is quite a euphemism for what we have been getting Asians to do to each other. Church said the amendment would not prevent the Thais or the South Vietnamese from fighting "for the Lon Nol government." It would merely require prior Congressional approval for "the kind of undercover arrangements that were used to make it so profitable for Thailand, South Korea and the Philippines to send their forces to Vietnam." It may sound to Asians as if the doves merely wanted to drive a harder bargain for their services.

Another Subtly Split Hair

The Cooper-Church restrictions on U.S. airpower over Cambodia may also prove too subtle for the Oriental mind. The amendment does not prohibit U.S. bombing of Cambodia nor U.S. close air support of South Vietnamese or Thai forces in Cambodia. It only forbids "direct" air support to Lon Nol's forces. The word "direct" was added on motion of Senator Jackson. It was foreshadowed by Secretary Laird's earlier explanation that while we were only going to bomb enemy supply lines in Cambodia, Lon Nol troops who just happened to be in the same area might derive "ancillary benefits" from it. No Secretary of Defense has shown a finer genius for semantics.

The Guam Doctrine may be traced back to that elder statesman, Wimpy, in the Popeye comic strip. Wimpy in a crisis always manfully suggests, "Let's you and him fight." In trying this out on Asia, Nixon hardly pays a compliment to the astuteness of its ruling classes, the world's oldest merchants. They were taking customers tenderly to the cleaners in their bazaars when the progenitors of Anglo-American civilization were still painting themselves a bright baby blue. The first time we tried Wimpy-Nixon statecraft was in China. There the Asians on our side ended by making business not war. They sold whole armies to the Asians on the other side and retired with the swag to Taiwan. SEATO's latest meeting, like that of "free Asia" in Djakarta a few weeks earlier, indicates no rush to man the Cambodian "frontier of freedom." Indonesia, the pride and joy of our anti-Communists, flatly

The Old Bloody Religious Wars In Secular Guise

The crisis of extreme inward-looking nationalism is further aggravated by the superimposition of ideologies or political systems which claim that they alone have the key to man's future. There has been nothing more damaging in human history than the claim of exclusivism. To it we owe the long religious wars, all waged in the name of exclusive possession of the truth. It is only recently that there has been evidence of some mutual understanding in the pursuit of common religious objectives. Should we again lose precious years in a similar divisive exercise? Is it so difficult to recognize that ideologies are perfect only in theory? The world has become so complex, the pace of change so rapid and the newly emerging problems so numerous that no rigid system is able to cope with all problems. I believe we are about to embark on the most variegated search for political, institutional, legal and moral solutions. There can be no universal recipe or system.

—U Thant on the UN's 25th birthday (abridged).

turned down Phnom Penh's request for arms. SEATO's final communique "expressed understanding" for Lon Nol's appeal. The Thais are waiting to see how much we are willing to pay. If the price isn't high enough, they'll come to terms with China. To them this may not seem to be the fate worse than death we proclaim it. Japan deals with China. So does Burma. No Chinese planes, after all, are devastating Asia. Mao's Little Red Book doesn't look as scary as a B-52. Why be an American style anti-Communist if you can't make an honest buck on it?

The McGovern-Hatfield Deadline

"The prospect suddenly loomed," Nixon said in his formal report explaining his latest *incursion*, "of Cambodia's becoming virtually one large base area for attack anywhere into South Vietnam along the 600 miles of the Cambodian frontier." What happens when that prospect suddenly looms up again? This is the question he never answered in his TV interview. Do we go back in, bomb Hanoi, invade the North or commit some larger folly? The least Congress can do is pass the McGovern-Hatfield bill and set a firm date on our withdrawal from the Indochinese morass. Not enough Asians are going to fight Asians for us even if the price is right.

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