

US to continue aid to Khmer guerrillas

Washington (Reuter) — The United States will continue aid to non-communist groups in Cambodia until free elections are held, a senior State Department official said on Wednesday.

"It is vital that the United States sustain our current non-lethal aid to the non-communist organisations of Prince Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front until an overall settlement is actually achieved," Undersecretary of State Robert Kimmitt told the House of Representatives' Asian

and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee.

"We are moving to a political process where non-communist strengths will come into play, where the non-communist parties can provide the Cambodian people an alternative to the communists in a free and fair election campaign.

"In this context, cutting off aid to the non-communists would undercut their position and US credibility and effectiveness just as the diplomatic process appears to be moving toward a conclusion," Kimmitt said.

He said the United States had been assured that none of its aid

had gone to the Khmer Rouge and promised that all US aid would be cut off if there was reliable information that any assistance had been diverted.

Kimmitt said the United States was pleased that all four warring factions in Cambodia had agreed on Monday in Indonesia to accept a United Nations framework for a peace settlement and to form a Supreme National Council as an interim government until elections can be held.

● Malaysia yesterday welcomed the agreement this week among Cambodia's warring fac-

tions to a UN-brokered peace plan aimed at ending the nearly 12-year-old war.

Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said in a statement that Malaysia welcomed the agreement on Monday in Jakarta to a plan giving the UN a major role in administering Cambodia, supervising a ceasefire and organising elections.

"Malaysia hopes that the Cambodian parties, in agreeing to accept the UN plan and ... form the SNC, will finally put an early end to the sufferings of the Cambodians and the destruction in the country," Abu Hassan said.

Khmers believe fighting will continue

Aranyaprathet — Cambodians believe fighting between Heng Samrin troops and resistance forces will continue, at least for the time being, despite the establishment of the Supreme National Council.

A Heng Samrin lieutenant in Poi Pet, opposite here, told the *Bangkok Post* yesterday fighting had been going on around Sisophon, Battambang and Siem Reap and the curfew, from 8 pm to 5 am, had not been lifted in some areas.

The lieutenant, who asked for anonymity, doubted whether Khmer Rouge guerrillas would

hold their fire in the face of the formation of the SNC and said Heng Samrin's fourth army region commander Lung Supieb had ordered his troops to continue protecting Poi Pet.

The Heng Samrin soldier said he had heard of "JIM 4 talks" and the SNC on the radio but had not been given any orders from his commander other than to maintain public order in the border township.

A Khmer Rouge guerrilla, attached to the 450th division in Phnom Malai mountain range, 18 km south of here, claimed there were still a large number of

Vietnamese troops inside Cambodia and said United Nations officials should come to the war-torn country and see for themselves.

The guerrilla said the Khmer Rouge would continue to fight until there were no more Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia. He said many southwestern border areas of the country had been "liberated."

The Khmer Rouge would resume attacks on Pursat, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Battambang and Si Sophon in the interior of the country, he said.

A woman blackmarketeer,

who sells foreign cigarettes at Koke Sabaeng village, 15 km southeast of here, said she wished a lasting peace would come to Cambodia as soon as possible so that she and her relatives would no longer risk their lives going anywhere in the country.

The 30-year-old Cambodian woman told the *Bangkok Post* her farmer husband was killed when he stepped on a landmine in Si Sophon last year.

She said traders would not be harassed or extorted by "corrupt armed men" if peace returned to her country.