



ARMY GENERAL HONORED—A&T State University student Thomas R. Brown of Jacksonville, N.C. (left), leads Gen. George Pickett, deputy commander of the Third U. S. Army, on an inspection of the University's ROTC cadets. Also on the tour last week was Col. Bert Neal, professor of military science at A&T.

Irish Unification Gets British Backing

LONDON — The British government yesterday welcomed proposals for talks that could lead to a united Ireland.

"We are perfectly prepared to enter into discussions," Reginald Maudling, the home secretary, told the House of Commons yesterday.

The government's acceptance of the proposals, made last Thursday by the former prime minister, Harold A. Wilson, was a significant step forward in the delicate question of Irish unification. For years, the leaders of both major parties have maintained that the 50-year-old border, dividing Northern Ireland from the republic, was not an issue in settling the bitter religious strife in Ulster.

Wilson, however, put forward a plan that could lead to a united Ireland — a plan that has been rejected by the Northern Ireland Protestant government and greeted warmly by many minority Catholic leaders.

Wilson's proposals start with the formation of a constitutional commission with representatives of the British, Ulster and Dublin governments. The commission would examine proposals for a united Ireland, with safeguards for the Protestants in the north.

15-Year Wait
The Labor party leader suggested that a new constitution would come into effect 15 years from the date that agreement was reached between Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. During this time, Britain would continue to provide the security in Northern Ireland.

Although the Northern Ireland government views the plan with disdain, Wilson's proposals have evoked sharp interest because it was the first time that a major political leader had broached the question of Irish unification.

"It is now, as a result of this speech, politically respectable for British politicians to talk about a united Ireland," said John Hume, the former Londonderry school teacher who has emerged as the most influential Roman Catholic leader in Northern Ireland.

Yesterday, Maudling — speaking for the British government — made it clear that momentum for Irish unification is growing.

"Their Wish"
With Prime Minister Edward Heath sitting nearby, Maudling

U. S. Offers Economic Compromise

ROME — The United States offered a compromise package to its major overseas trading partners Monday as a possible breakthrough toward solving the worst international monetary crisis since World War II.

Conference sources said the plan was presented by Paul A. Volcker, U. S. Treasury undersecretary for monetary affairs, at a meeting of the non-Communist world's richest nations, the Group of 10.

The sources, with access to the discussions, said the plan called for an upward revaluation of currencies by America's trading partners averaging 11 per cent, in return for an end to the 10 per cent U. S. import surcharge President Nixon ordered Aug. 15.

Called Compromise
The sources said Volcker argued that the 11 per cent figure was a compromise, coming down from earlier reports that the United States was seeking an average revaluation of around 15 per cent.

But French sources, in the first reaction from other nations, said they saw "nothing new" in the plan. Other delegations deferred comment, preferring to study the package overnight.

Volcker spoke at a meeting of deputy delegation chiefs arranging the agenda for a conference of finance ministers Tuesday and Wednesday. The deputies agreed to make no statement on their talks. Volcker himself refused all comment.

For one thing, any premature disclosure of the actual exchange rates envisaged in the American plan could set off an earthquake of speculation in the world's financial centers.

Revalue Yen
Well-informed sources said, however, that the American plan called for the highest revaluation by the Japanese yen and correspondingly smaller ones for other leading currencies.

U.S. Is Deepening Commitment to Cambodians

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — United States military and civilian officials here have lately begun talking privately about a deeper American commitment to Cambodia.

The arguments reveal three basic themes — a moral obligation to Cambodia, the necessity to continue supporting the Vietnamization program in South Vietnam, and the need for strong U. S. backing for the Phnom Penh government in any future negotiations between the Cambodians and the Communists.

These views do not reflect a shift in official U. S. policy, but rather a deepening personal commitment to Cambodia's cause that has come with 14 months of hard work since the American embassy was re-established here in September 1970.

This personal involvement is due in part to the very real expansion of America's financial support of Cambodia. The United States pays most of Cambodia's war budget and about half of her civil budget — a total of at least \$250 million a year.

Last winter, when the new American mission was still in temporary quarters and antiwar congressmen in Washington were warning against enlarging America's commitment in Indochina, the talk in official circles here was about "not repeating the mistakes we made in Vietnam" by jumping in too fast with too much, and about the strictly limited nature of America's interest in Cambodia.

"I can tell you we have it straight from the President," a high-ranking officer said last February, "that we are in here just as long as the Cambodians fight it on their own. If Cambodia starts to fall apart, we'll be able to pick up and leave."

In recent conversations here, however, some officials have begun to cite a commonly held Cambodian view that the invasion of the Communists' Cambodian border sanctuaries by the United States and the South Vietnamese armies in May 1970, precipitated the Cambodian war, and that the United States must share the responsibility of seeing Cambodia through it.

On the military side, embassy

officers have begun talking about the desirability of expanding slightly the U. S. role in delivering American military aid to the Cambodian army.

They insist privately that they are satisfied with the 50-man limit imposed on the military equipment delivery team by President Nixon last August, but say they would like inspection of the military aid as it is distributed to Cambodian units in the field. This function is now forbidden under the congressional ground rules against advisers in the field.

The U. S. military and the

Cambodian army's chief of staff last summer explored the possibility of bringing in South Korean advisers for Cambodian troops in the field, but dropped the idea when the language problem became apparent and when the Koreans asked for too much money in subsistence allowances.

These ideas are advanced as ways of strengthening South Vietnam's western flank against the Communists.

The recent battles north and west of Phnom Penh are viewed by American embassy officials as a credit to the Cambodian

army rather than an indication that the Communists are getting closer.

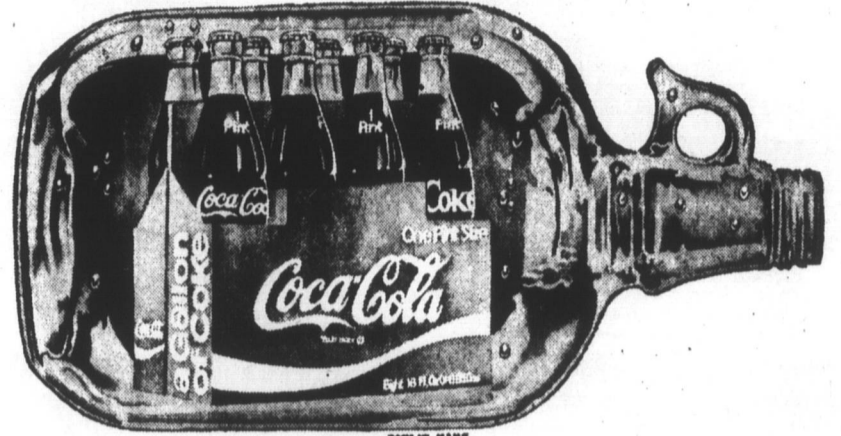
"They have always been out there," an intelligence officer said of the North Vietnamese army. "The difference is that now the Cambodians are fighting them."

On the diplomatic level, several civilian officials have mentioned the need to support Cambodia in the negotiations she will presumably hold with Hanoi for the removal of Communist forces once the South Vietnamese war comes to an end.

The officials note that Cambodia has no real quarrel with North Vietnam, and has insisted throughout only that the North Vietnamese army leave her territory.

Cambodia's negotiating position as a neutral country is further enhanced by the fact that she maintains diplomatic relations with several Communist countries, including the Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany.

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