

Ford, Kissinger say Cambodia to fall soon

by Nicholas Daniloff
United Press International

WASHINGTON—President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger simultaneously predicted today that Cambodia will fall to the communists within a few weeks unless Congress provides additional military and economic aid.

Ford made the prediction in a letter to House Speaker Carl Albert and Kissinger reinforced it during a news conference in which he discussed the situation in Cambodia.

Pleading for more aid, Ford told Albert the issue of aid to Cambodia is a moral question that must be faced squarely.

"Are we to deliberately abandon a small country in the midst of its life and death struggle?" he asked. "Is the United States, which so far has consistently stood by its friends through the most difficult of times now to condemn, in effect, a small Asian nation totally dependent on us?"

Both Ford and Kissinger predicted the

government of President Lon Nol would run out of ammunition in a month under present circumstances. Without more U.S. aid, they said, the government would be forced to surrender in a "few weeks."

Their estimate was more pessimistic than previous forecasts. Kissinger's aides earlier indicated the Cambodian government could hold out for a month or two.

"An independent Cambodia cannot survive unless the Congress acts very soon to provide supplemental military and economic assistance," Ford wrote. "Unless such assistance is provided, the Cambodian army will run out of ammunition in less than a month."

Kissinger added that the decision facing Congress is whether to withhold ammunition from a country that has been associated with us.

The administration has asked Congress to provide additional aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia above the amount already budgeted.

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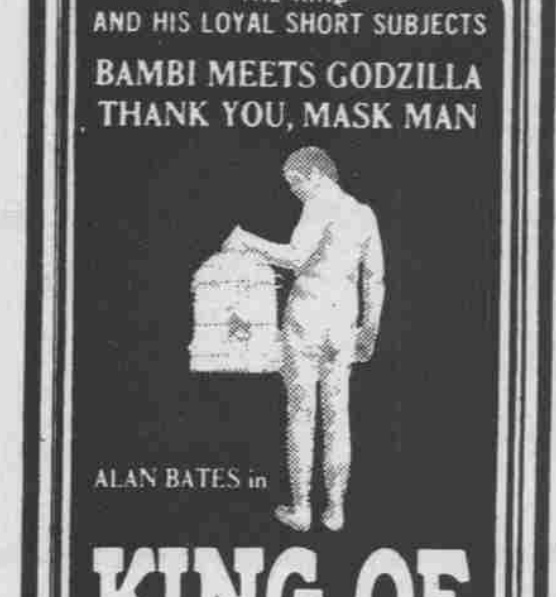
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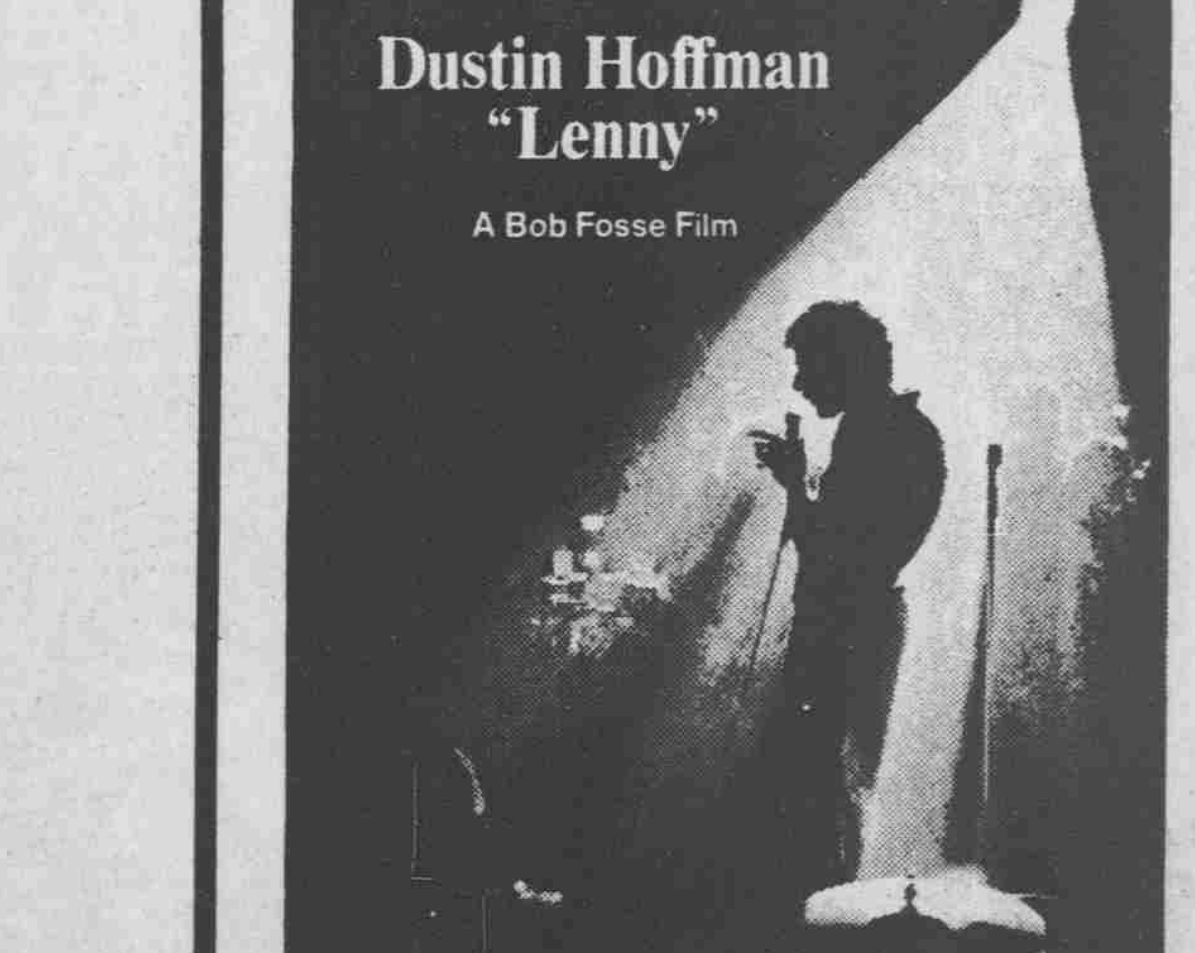
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