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## **Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie Responding to the President's Cambodian Television Speech**

Edmund S. Muskie

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# MUSKIE

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Statement by Senator Edmund S. Muskie  
Responding to the President's Cambodian Television Speech  
June 3, 1970

The President has claimed military gains from the Cambodian invasion. Captured weapons and supplies may give the appearance of military victory, but that cannot obscure the fact that he has widened the war and added to the uncertainty as to our prospects in Southeast Asia. His action has, in addition, made a negotiated settlement much more difficult.

By supporting expanded South Vietnamese military actions in Cambodia we have helped to spread their forces thinner. By increasing military pressure on the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese in Cambodia, we have driven them farther into the arms of the Communist Chinese. Most important, we have complicated our political problems in Southeast Asia and in Europe by raising new obstacles to a political settlement in Indo China. In South Vietnam we have tied ourselves more closely to the fortunes of the Saigon regime. In Cambodia we have injected ourselves into a more complex political situation, where we do not even have a bargaining partner.

The President's speech, tonight, like his invasion of Cambodia, brings us no closer to an end to the Indo China war. It underscores the importance of Congressional initiative to help bring the fighting and the killing to an end.

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