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Cambodia, where the history of the ancient Khmer Kings hangs heavy over the country, is an area of aid competition between the blocs.

The U.S. aid programme is unspectacular but , in the main, effective.

The U.S. pays the salaries of ^{one third of} the Cambodian armed forces , ~~and~~ and provides much of their equipment, although the U.S. does not provide a military advisory programme in the general Asian pattern.

Cambodia still has strong ties with, and a general strong affection for, France, and France provides the military advisors for the Cambodian Armed Forces. The U.S. military mission has a principally logistical role, and also provides instruction ~~for~~ in new U.S. weapons for the French military advisors, who then train the Cambodians in the use of the weapons.

The most grandiose U.S. aid project has been the Khmer-U.S. Friendship Highway running between the capital of Phnom Penh and the port of Sihanoukville. Although this road is vital to Cambodian communications, the project has had its troubles. (Please see Congressional inquiry into the collapse of part of the road).

Much of the U. S. aid programme is an underwriting of the Cambodian economy through an import programme .

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The most impressive U.S. aid project is the irrigation of 15,000 hectares of land around the ruins of the seat of the ancient Khmer dynasty at ⁴Simreap .

The project took two and a half years to complete but from the beginning it has been favoured with fortune, and if unspe²ctacular, it is effective , practical and of assistance ~~mf~~ to the subsistence farmer, surely the person the aid programme is designed to help most.

The Communist Chinese aid programme to Cambodia has met with very mixed fortunes, and, ~~alikes~~ in general, has not been effective.

Red China's aid to Cambodia began in 1956 when the Cambodian Head of State, Prince Norodom ihanouk, paid a visit to Peking. The Sino-Khmer trade agreement was signed on June 1, 1956.

The major part of Chinese aid¹ to Cambodia has been devoted to the erection of four factories- a paper mill, a textile mill, a plywood factory and a cement factory.

The paper mill, the plywood factory and the textile mill all began production in 1960, and, in general, neither the Chinese nor the Cambodians are happy with the results.

The cement factory is still not in production because of production and raw material difficulties.

The paper mill uses ~~xxxx~~ bamboo and rice straw as raw materials, but the quality of the paper is very poor, and much is insuitable for use in anything more important than packaging.

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The plywood factory has been troubled by production bugs since the start. The glue used in production by the Chinese is very inferior in quality and so is the plywood.

The poor quality makes it impossible to secure an export market for the plywood, and there is little internal demand for the product.

The textile factory also produces a low-quality product, but it is cheap and generally popular. This is the most effective of the four factories-- in fact the only really effective Chinese aid project.

Even if the ~~major~~ troubles besetting the cement factory are overcome, there remains one great problem. The factory will use coal as fuel, and since there is no coalmine in Cambodia, it will be reliant on supplies from China.

Other Chinese aid has ~~in~~ included small-scale irrigation projects, animal husbandry centres, small-scale agricultural centres and the construction of a new building for the Cambodian Parliament.

Western observers regard Chinese aid as most effective when on a small-scale and when concerned with agriculture.

Russian aid to Cambodia is on a specific project basis.

The main item of aid has been the erection of a 500-bed \$U.S. 10,000,000 hospital in Phnom Penh.

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This has been generally effective, but there is a snag for the Cambodians, as there often is with Russian aid projects.

Each month the Cambodian Government must pay \$2,000 towards the maintenance of the hospital and the salaries of the Russian doctors and nurses. Prince Sihanouk is reportedly not very happy about this.

Cambodia is an excellent showcase for aid from a variety of areas, and one senior Western diplomat summed up general Western thinking on the matter with the comment: "There is a tendency among many Americans to be self-denigrating about U.S. aid programmes.

"There are not many complaints heard from the Governments of the countries concerned.

"We must get out of the way of thinking Russian and Chinese aid experts are 10 feet tall- they don't work any faster or more effectively than we do, and in general less so."