

Mr. BLACK. The answer is, you can't do anything in that nature in South Vietnam when the war is going on. We are talking about the future.

As a matter of fact, the project that I am talking about, this big project would be entirely in Thailand and Laos.

Mr. WIDNALL. What about Cambodia and Laos?

Mr. BLACK. I think it would be difficult to do much in these countries, although progress is being made on construction of a dam in Laos and steps are being taken to proceed on a project in Cambodia.

So I think it is possible to do something with those countries but, of course, it is impossible to do anything today of that nature in South Vietnam.

Mr. WIDNALL. It almost looks as if we will have to be dealing with North Vietnam for Cambodia and Laos and they are not participants.

Mr. BLACK. I didn't understand the last question.

Mr. WIDNALL. I say it almost looks right now as though we would have to be dealing with North Vietnam on behalf of Cambodia and Laos. They are certainly moving in through there and taking over, and it could create quite a problem down there.

Mr. BLACK. That is possible.

Mr. WIDNALL. And they are not part of the Asian Development Bank.

Mr. BLACK. Laos is a member of the Asian Development Bank. Cambodia is a member. And North Vietnam is not a member. But I think if you have peace eventually, North Vietnam could become a member.

Mr. WIDNALL. This I understand. But the realities right now aren't very bright.

Mr. BLACK. Could I give you one set of figures which you might want for the record, Mr. Chairman?

Talking again about the Mekong, in the last few years there has been spent \$113 million in the Mekong River and its tributaries; \$39 million of that has been for the purpose of preinvestment investigations and plannings; and \$73 million has been for building dams and powerplants. There have been two built in northern Thailand and one is being built in Laos. This is \$113 million.

Now, we have put up \$26 million of this, the United States has, and the other countries have put up the rest of it, and the "other countries" means 27 other countries have contributed to the money spent so far in the Mekong River. And a lot of this, as I say, is spent in making plans for projects that will take place over the next 10 or 15 years.

Mr. WIDNALL. Mr. Black, I ask you if it is not a fact that the initiative for the early formation of the soft-loan window originated more with the U.S. delegation at Bangkok in 1965 than with the Asian delegates?

Mr. BLACK. I think there is a universal recognition of the need for it. I do not believe the United States initiated it. Many countries have recognized the need for it.

Mr. WIDNALL. I think I rather clearly recall at that time the Asian delegates cautioning against an ambitious approach in the early years of the Bank's operation.

Mr. BLACK. That is right, as far as the Bank's ordinary capital funds were concerned.