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Report of Reds' Mass Slaughter

New York

Newsweek magazine reported yesterday that U.S. intelligence interceptions of Khmer Rouge communications indicated a "massive bloodbath" has begun in Cambodia in which "thousands have already been executed."

The interceptions indicate the Communists plan to kill all officers in the army of the fallen Cambodian government down to the rank of second lieutenant, together with their wives, the magazine said.

Newsweek quoted a U.S. official as saying that the wholesale purge could lead ultimately to the slaughter of "tens of thousands of Cambodians loyal to the Lon Nol government." It said the first victims of the bloodbath were officers of the Cambodian army and some government officials.

"Sources said that the United States intercepted official Khmer Rouge radio transmissions in which the orders for the killings were given, as well as field radio reports saying that the initial round of executions had

been carried out," Newsweek said.

"The sources said that the killings were not isolated cases, but part of a full-fledged campaign."

The magazine said officials suggested the bloodbath was one reason for the news blackout that has descended on Cambodia since the fall of Phnom Penh.

Time magazine, meanwhile, said in its edition today officers of the defeated regime had been executed.

Time said President Ford had told a meeting of Republican congressional leaders of the executions and quoted the president as having said:

"They killed the wives, too. They said the wives are just the same as their husbands. This is a horrible thing to report to you but we are certain that our sources are accurate."

United Press