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Cambodians Ban Foreign Troops

From News Dispatches

BANGKOK, May 6—Cambodia's new Communist-backed ruler said today that they would respect the national and territorial integrity of neighboring states but would not allow any foreign troops on their soil.

Cambodia's neighbors are South Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. It was not known whether the reference to foreign troops included the North Vietnamese.

A Khmer Rouge broadcast from Phnom Penh said Cambodia would continue to seek good relations with countries of Asia, Africa and North and South America, but did not mention setting up diplomatic ties or requests for foreign aid. "We will work hard for ourselves," the broadcast said.

At the Thai border with Cambodia, Khmer Rouge soldiers told journalists that a second convoy of refugees from the French embassy in Phnom Penh was only about 35 miles away.

A group of about 20 soldiers approached the barbed-wire strewn bridge linking the two countries and said they had heard this on their radio—presumably a military link.

The soldiers also said they believed the second group would be larger than the first, which contained about 600 persons. Members of the first group that came out said there were only about 250 left in the embassy.

A special Boeing 747 flew 357 of last week's evacuees including 110 children, to Paris Tuesday and two chartered airlines flew about 500 Cambodian war refugees to the United States from the U.S. air base at Utapao, Thailand. Among them was the former acting president of Cambodia, Sautham Khoy.

Asked about a White House statement that there had been 80 to 90 executions, a spokesman for the Cambodia government mission in Paris said: "We don't comment on American propaganda statements against us."

A businessman who fled the northwest Cambodian

town of Battambang said he narrowly escaped being killed with a group of 15 officials. He asked that his name not be used. The businessman said he was taken into custody by Khmer Rouge soldiers in Poipet, a town on the Thai border, where he had driven in hopes of getting out of the country.

Last Thursday, Khmer Rouge officials summoned 15 officials of the defeated government and told them they would meet with representatives of the new government in Battambang, about 70 miles from the border, the businessman said.

He said the group of 15 included a lieutenant colonel who had been deputy commander of a military training center in the area and the district chief of Poipet, Hor Kim Say, who is the brother-in-law of former Prime Minister Long Boret.

Boret is missing after apparently being taken into custody when Phnom Penh surrendered.

The businessman said he and the rest of the group joined a convoy that stopped about 25 miles from Battambang, where they were ordered out of the vehicles and their hands tied.

The businessman said he overheard the leader of the Khmer Rouge tell his soldiers the group was to be taken into ricefields and stabbed to death, a method used in the past apparently to conserve ammunition.

He said he was released after the drivers of the vehicles told the Khmer Rouge he was not an official.

Khmer Rouge soldiers told him that with the 15 who were about to be executed, 91 government officials would have been eliminated in the area. They gave no reason for the executions, he said.

The businessman said he left immediately with his own vehicle and driver and did not see the executions. But he said there was no chance of escape for the 15.

He said he went to a different point along the frontier and bribed residents to smuggle him into Thailand.

Khmer Rouge soldiers in Poipet were quoted Tuesday as saying that Chinese living in Cambodia will be put to work in the rice fields and the Khmers will take over the running of businesses.

The soldiers were said to have told Thai reporters that Chinese in Cambodia "have had a relatively easy life in the past."