

Sihanouk Reported To Plan to Return To Cambodia Soon

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PEKING, Aug. 20—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's nominal head of state, is reported to be preparing his imminent return home five years after being expelled in a coup. He is at present in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, where he has stayed for the last three months with his entourage.

It is expected that he will come to Peking shortly in the company of Khieu Samphan, the actual Cambodian leader, who is officially known as Deputy Premier. Mr. Khieu went to Pyongyang on Monday after a visit to China during which he is believed to have had secret talks with a Sihanouk aide.

These talks have apparently resolved for now the differences between the two Cambodian factions—much to the relief of the Chinese, who had not relished the prospect of sheltering Prince Sihanouk in the event of an open falling out with the victorious Communist-led insurgents.

A Chinese official said on the eve of Mr. Khieu's departure that it was the end of his visit to China. This suggests that he will not have further official talks with Chinese leaders on his way back to Cambodia.

However, it would seem only natural for Prince Sihanouk to stop briefly here to pay his respects to the Government that played host to him since his overthrow by Marshal Lon Nol.

Diplomatic sources in Pyongyang say that the Prince's entourage is preparing to leave with him. If this is so, it is an important concession by Mr. Khieu, who originally wanted Prince Sihanouk to return to Cambodia accompanied only by his wife, Princess Monique, and by Penn Nouth, the nominal Premier, and Mrs. Penn Nouth.