

SIHANOUK RESIGNS AS CHIEF OF STATE

Cambodian Prince Says He Is Quitting Politics

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 5 (Reuters)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk gave up his figurehead job as Cambodia's head of state, officially retiring from politics and parting company with one of the world's most isolated, austere Communist regimes.

Prince Sihanouk will get a state pension of \$8,000 a month and live as a respected elder statesman, according to Khieu Samphan, a Deputy Prime Minister in the Phnom Penh Government.

Mr. Khieu Samphan, speaking over the Phnom Penh radio, said that the 53-year-old Prince wanted to retire "so that he will have time for the private life of his family."

The Cabinet accepted his resignation with regret, the Deputy said.

However, Prince Sihanouk put things differently in announcing his decision to the nation over the radio.

Cop by Lon Nol Recalled

He said he had decided in principle six years ago—after he was overthrown by the American-backed Marshal Lon Nol—that he would "retire completely and forever from the political scene" once that coup had been reversed and a new revolutionary era started.

This happened when the Cambodian Communists routed President Lon Nol's forces a year ago, and the Prince said today: "All my wishes have been realized without exception."

Since the Communist victory,

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Conference on Law of the Sea—10:30 A.M. and 3 P.M.
Committee on Relations with U.S. as host country—10:30 A.M.

Tickets may be obtained at the public desk, main lobby, United Nations headquarters.
Tours: 9 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.

Prince Sihanouk has held no real power. His withdrawal from politics appeared to represent recognition by both the Prince and the Communist regime that it was time to part company amicably and officially.

Prince Sihanouk's departure from the political scene came two weeks after Cambodia's first elections held under the Communist regime. A 250-member People's Representative Assembly made up of farmers, workers and soldiers was chosen and the Government said it would have a key role in the Cambodian power structure.

Observers here saw the Prince's retirement as paving the way for further major decisions, such as selection, officially by the assembly, of a new government and of a "state presidium," which it is thought will fill the functions of head of state.

There was no confirmation here of a report by Tass, the Soviet press agency, that quoted the Phnom Penh radio as having said that Mr. Khieu Samphan had been named head of state to succeed Prince Sihanouk.