

# Chou 'Reassured'

## Hanoi Premier

### Shanghai

Chinese Premier Chou En-lai has met North Vietnamese leaders since President Nixon's visit to China and assured them of China's full support "until total victory," former Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday.

The Prince said President Nixon drew a blank in his efforts toward a settlement of the Indochina war during his eight-day visit to China which ended February 28.

Sihanouk said Chou told him in a conversation lasting nearly three hours that Mr. Nixon was informed Peking would not act, even secretly, as an intermediary between Washington and the "Indochinese resistance."

"Mr. Chou told me it was China's duty to support these resistance movements until total victory," the Prince said.

Sitting in the same brown

leather armchair he said Mr. Nixon used 12 days ago in the plush Ching Kong guesthouse here, the Prince said Chou had seen North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong and members of the Hanoi Politbureau.

But he declined to say where the meeting with Dong was held. Diplomats in Peking believe it was in Hanoi last Saturday on the eve of the Prince's own return to China after a two-week visit to North Vietnam.

Diplomats believe that Chou spent 24 hours in Hanoi reporting on the outcome of the Nixon visit to North Vietnamese leaders and to Sihanouk, who was in the North Vietnamese capital at the time.

### APPRECIATION

Sihanouk said Dong told him after both had spoken to Chou that he had expressed North Vietnam's appreciation to the Chinese Premier over China's total support for the Indochinese war effort.

The North Vietnamese Premier's only reference to the Nixon visit to Peking was, "For the other things, it is the affair of the Chinese."

The Prince refused to be drawn out on questions regarding North Vietnam's overall attitude to the Nixon visit to China and said "I came from Hanoi feeling very optimistic. My Vietnamese allies are stronger than ever and resolved to continue until complete victory."

*United Press*