

Sihanouk's Plea to President Ford

Bucharest

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the exiled, nominal leader of the insurgent forces in Cambodia, has called on President Ford to end American aid to the Lon Nol government in Phnom Penh, a move that he said would bring about peace in Cambodia quickly.

In an interview with the New York Times, Sihanouk asserted that Mr. Ford is not bound by the obligations of former President Nixon and thus is in a position to end the war by cutting off U.S. aid, which he said would bring about the collapse of the Lon Nol government.

Sihanouk made his remarks as he prepared to return to his exile home in Peking. He had been in Bucharest to participate in ceremonies commemorating Romania's 30th anniversary of freedom from Nazi rule.

"President Nixon was in a position to remove American intervention from the Vietnam war, because he did not start that war," the prince

said. "That war began because of actions by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. But Nixon himself started the Cambodian war, so he was bound to continue it,

"President Ford is free from those old obligations, and can now bring peace to my country."

The prince disclosed that he had made a promise to President Nixon not to insult the American president, in exchange for the safety of the members of the royal family remaining in Phnom Penh.

"He kept his bargain, and I have not insulted him. And I will not insult him," the prince said.

All of Sihanouk's family was recently permitted by the Phnom Penh government to leave the country to take up residence in Peking. Several of Sihanouk's children and a number of grandchildren, as well as the queen, Prince Sihanouk's mother, had remained in Phnom Penh after his ouster

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