

# Sihanouk Lays Rioting to 'Plot'

By JOHN L. HESS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 11—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian Chief of State, charged tonight that the sacking of the Vietcong and North Vietnamese embassies in his country resulted from a plot "to throw our country into the arms of an imperialist capitalist power."

Declaring that certain Cambodian personalities had taken advantage of his absence from Phnompenh to set up this plot, he announced:

"I am therefore going to return to the country to speak to the nation and the army and ask them to make a choice. If they choose to follow these personalities on the course that will make Cambodia a second Laos, let them permit me to resign."

The Prince's declaration reflected his long effort to keep his country from being drawn irremediably into either camp in the conflicts in neighboring Vietnam and Laos.

The suggestion that he might resign was not the Prince's first. He made a similar threat last August during a period of dissent within his Sangkum party, and diplomats in Phnompenh said at the time that he had done so on previous occasions to bring the party into line.

## Message Sent to Mother

Prince Sihanouk had been in seclusion at the Cambodian Embassy here since the news of the violent anti-Vietcong demonstration in his capital earlier in the day.

The statement came in the form of a cablegram by the Prince to his mother, Queen Kossomak. It did not name the

## Cambodians' Leader Decries Mob Attack on Red Embassies

"personalities" who he said were implicated, but appeared to reflect on Gen. Lon Nol, the Premier, who has been acting chief of state during Prince Sihanouk's extended vacation abroad.

The Prince had been at Grasse, on the Riviera, since January, and was to leave next week for a tour of East European capitals before returning to Phnompenh in April. His immediate travel plans are still uncertain.

"I learn with profound sorrow," he said in his message, "the news of acts of violence committed by certain compatriots on the diplomatic representatives of the R.D.V. [Democratic Republic of Vietnam] and the G.R.P. [the provisional revolutionary government set up by the Vietcong]. I understand perfectly the motives that have aroused the anger of our compatriots but, as I know them, it is impossible for me to believe that they could arrive at such an extremity, opposed to the higher interests and good reputation of our country."

## Danger Acknowledged

"Certainly, this country which we love more than our life is in danger," the Prince said, "but it is not by sacking embassies that we can stave it off, but by acting as I have always indicated to the nation and the army."

"I am sure that this grave event was intended and organized by personalities aiming to destroy irremediably the friend-

ship of Cambodia with the socialist camp and to throw our country into the arms of an imperialist capitalist power.

"These personalities attach more importance to their personal and clan interests than to the future of the fatherland and of the fate of the people. They have taken advantage of my absence to accomplish their designs."

The Prince then announced his forthcoming return to Cambodia and his offer to resign.

The cablegram did not name the "imperialist capitalist power," but its reference to the fate of Laos clearly summarized the Prince's meaning. The war in Vietnam, spilling over into the two neighboring countries, has repeatedly frustrated efforts by neutralists in Laos to find an independent solution.

In trying to preserve his country's neutrality and independence against the back-

ground of the Vietnam war and pressure from Communist China, Prince Sihanouk has had to walk a fine line. His pronouncements, alternately attacking the Americans and South Vietnamese or the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong, have created an impression at times that his policy is mercurial.

An emerging consensus is that it is calculated and, from the Prince's point of view, sound. In 1968, a year before he resumed diplomatic relations with the United States after a break of four years, he said at a news conference:

"I'll keep maneuvering as long as I have cards in my hand. First a little to the left, then a little to the right. And when I have no more cards to play, I'll stop."

## Incursions Cause Concern

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, March 11 (Reuters) — The at-



United Press International

**ASSAILS PROTESTS IN CAMBODIA:** Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia speaks to newsmen in Paris. He charged violence against North Vietnam's Embassy in Pnompenh was a plot involving "an imperialist capitalist power."

tacks by perhaps 20,000 angry Cambodians on the North Vietnamese and Vietcong embassies here today came amid indications of growing concern among Cambodian officials about the presence of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops.

Prince Sihanouk has repeatedly protested military incursions into his country — from any source — and in December he warned that it might be necessary to break relations with North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front, or Vietcong.

The demonstrators set cars

afire, destroyed documents and propaganda materials and ripped down the Vietcong flag during their attack on the Vietcong embassy. The building was believed to have been unoccupied at the time.

After the attack, which lasted an hour, they marched on the North Vietnamese Embassy and set more cars afire.

The demonstrators, who acted in protest against growing infiltration of the Communist forces into Cambodia, began their protest with a rally at the independence monument at the center of the city.