

# Sihanouk, Leaving Soviet for Peking, Speaks of a Possible Regime in Exile

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN  
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, March 18—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, acting as if he were still Cambodia's Chief of State, but talking about the possibility of forming a government in exile, departed today for Peking several hours after he was toppled as Cambodia's leader.

With Premier Aleksii N. Kosygin bidding him farewell after his five-day visit to Moscow, Prince Sihanouk boarded a special Aeroflot four-engine IL-18 aircraft for the long flight to the Chinese capital, with his own future still in doubt.

After saying good-by to the small group of diplomats and Soviet officials who saw him off at Vnukovo Airport, Prince Sihanouk spoke in Khmer, the Cambodian language, for a few minutes with about 30 members of the Cambodian community here, mostly students.

He said, according to an unofficial translation of some of his remarks, that he had learned of the coup d'état that had taken place in Pnompenh about four hours earlier only a short while before, when Mr Kosygin informed him of it.

Prince Sihanouk, alternately smiling and serious, his hands clasped in front of him, said he did not know what would happen to Cambodia as a result of the triumph of right-wing forces. He expressed concern for the future of his country's precarious neutrality, which he has acknowledged was closer to "the socialist camp" than "to the American one."

## Recognition Uncertain

He said that he did not know whether the Russians and the Chinese Communists would recognize the new Government in Pnompenh.

If the Russians and Chinese should refuse to recognize it and continued to support him, then he would consider setting up a Cambodian government in exile, he said.

But if they do recognize the new leaders, then "that would be the end of me," he said.

Western diplomats here said they doubted that Moscow

would choose to support a government in exile, but they said the Soviet Union's policy would probably be set largely by what the North Vietnamese Government decided.

More than 10 hours after Western news agencies reported the governmental change in Pnompenh, Tass, the official Soviet press agency, still had not reported the news.

The flags of Cambodia and the Soviet Union were flying at Vnukovo Airport on this clear, crisp early spring day, as they would for a chief of state's departure. The only shift from normal protocol was the fact that President Nikolai V. Podgorny, the titular head of the Soviet state, was not there. He had met Prince Sihanouk when the Cambodian leader flew in from Paris last Friday night.

Diplomats speculated that Mr. Podgorny's absence might have been deliberate so as to not provoke unnecessarily the new regime in Pnompenh.

Ambassadors or chargés d'affaires

from France, Laos, North Vietnam, Communist China and the Vietcong's provisional revolutionary government were at the airport and bade farewell to Prince Sihanouk and his wife, Monika.

Earlier today, the Prince made available to the correspondent of Agence France-Presse here a copy of a telegram he had sent to his mother, Queen Kossamak, in Cambodia and to the nation, about his talks with Soviet leaders, including "a very long conversation" he had last night with the Soviet Communist party leader, Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Prince Sihanouk, who was in France when the anti-Vietcong and anti-North Vietnamese demonstrations broke out in his capital, flew here and planned to go on to Peking to reaffirm his country's neutrality and get the Communist leaders' support in persuading the Vietnamese Communists to remove their forces from Cambodian territory.

From his telegram, it appeared evident that the Soviet leaders would do nothing to compel the Vietnamese forces to leave his country. Instead, they appeared to have urged him to use his influence to aid the Communists in their struggle against the Saigon Government and the United States.

While he was in Moscow, Prince Sihanouk heaped lavish praise on the Soviet leaders. In return, the Soviet leaders publicly praised him and reaffirmed his country's neutrality without saying anything about the problems in Cambodia.

## Queen Makes Radio Address

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 18 (Reuters)—Queen Mother Kossamak Nearireath, the mother of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, appeared to back Cambodia's new rulers in a nationwide broadcast today.

In an English-language broadcast that was monitored here, the Pnompenh radio said that the Queen, in her talk to the nation, had expressed "breat joy" over the "full dignity" of the Cambodian people since the attacks on the Vietcong and North Vietnamese missions in Pnompenh last Wednesday.

NYT  
3-19-70