

Hundreds of Bodies Of Vietnamese Seen In Cambodian River

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By The Associated Press

NEAK LEUNG, Cambodia, April 15 — The bodies of hundreds of Vietnamese floated down the Mekong River in southeast Cambodia today, many with their hands tied behind them. They appeared to be victims of a mass killing.

A police official at the Neak Leung ferry crossing 36 miles southeast of Phnompenh, the Cambodian capital, said he had counted 400 bodies this morning. But still they came, and more could be seen for a mile up the river, until it disappeared around a bend.

A few women were among those slain. Most were men clad only in black shorts. One group of eight bodies, including that of a woman, floated by tied together.

Cambodians along the bank, including the police, said they had no idea where the bodies had come from.

The Cambodian leaders who ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State last month have been whipping up an anti-Vietnamese campaign directed not only at the thousands of Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops who operate back and forth across the border with South Vietnam but also at the 600,000 Vietnam-

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ese who live in Cambodia.

The Khmer people of Cambodia and the Annamites of Vietnam have been traditional enemies for centuries, and Government planes dropped leaflets in Phnompenh Saturday reminding the people of a historic massacre when "the Khmers once rose up and killed all Annamites on Cambodian territory in one night."

At least 73 Vietnamese who had been rounded up in the town of Prasot for security checks were killed there last Friday, and according to available evidence Cambodian

troops were the killers.

On Saturday at least seven more Vietnamese were shot by Cambodian troops just south of Kompong Trabek, near the border west of Prasot.

The Saigon Government said today that it was asking Cambodia to let a "people's delegation" from several charitable agencies enter the country and investigate accounts of killing and other mistreatment of Vietnamese nationals.

There was some belief that the bodies at Neak Leung floated down from the area south of Kompong Cham where large French rubber plantations have labor forces of Vietnamese.

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DEATH IN CAMBODIA: Bodies of Vietnamese, roped together, and many with their hands tied behind them, floating down the Mekong River at Neak Leung yesterday. Government leaders have mounted a campaign against not only Vietcong and North Vietnamese, but all Vietnamese in Cambodia.

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