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PNOMPENH GIVEN NO PRIOR NOTICE

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Lon Nol Calls Drive Breach,
Asserts He Prefers Arms
—His Staff Delighted

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, May

1 — Premier Lon Nol said today that Cambodia had not been consulted in advance about the American and South Vietnamese military operations on her territory.

Though General Lon Nol noted that President Nixon, in his speech last night announcing a joint operation against a Vietcong headquarters in Cambodia, had emphasized American concern for her neutrality, he said that the operation was a violation of her territorial integrity.*

He added that his Government was pondering whether to lodge a protest against the operation, which was carried out in the region of Memot.

Undisguised Enthusiasm

Nevertheless, members of the general's entourage showed undisguised enthusiasm at the intervention by American troops. "I approve with applause," one official said, clasping his hands.

General Lon Nol was interviewed in his living room shortly after the United States chargé d'affaires, Lloyd M. Rives, had brought him the first word of Mr. Nixon's speech. The general said that both sides — the United States and South Vietnam on the one hand and the Vietnamese Communists on the other — had violated Cambodian frontiers over the years but that the Vietcong were "the first cause."

The Premier, who was wearing the khaki uniform of a lieutenant general, added that what the Americans had done was "a little like the Vietcong," but he laughed as he said it.

The general did not directly criticize the American action, but he withheld all expressions of approval and indicated that his preference would have been

*See statement of Cambodian government 2 Apr (filed 3 Apr) that it does not accept the right of U.S. or South Vietnamese forces to pursue the enemy into Cambodia.

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for extensive arms aid, which President Nixon said could not have been effectively utilized by the Cambodian forces.

"We would like our friends to give us the arms," the general said, "to do the operation ourselves."

Mr. Rives arrived at the Premier's residence less than an hour after Mr. Nixon had ended his address, which was heard here over the Armed Forces Radio Network from Saigon. He brought with him an English advance summary of the text, which he translated for General Lon Nol.

No one on the Premier's staff had listened to the speech, which could be heard on any radio set here.

Authoritative Cambodian sources confirmed that neither the Premier nor any other Cambodian official had been told in advance of the use of American troops although the Cambodian leadership had been told in advance of the South Vietnamese operation, launched Wednesday with American aerial and logistics support in the Parrot's Beak section of eastern Cambodia, which extends into South Vietnam northwest of Saigon.

The impression is growing that the United States, in view of the weakness of the Cambodian armed forces and possibly out of concern for maintaining Cambodia's claim to an eventual return to neutrality, is acting entirely independently in mounting major attacks on Cambodian soil against the Vietnamese Communist invaders.

When General Lon Nol was asked whether he envisaged a joint American-South Vietnamese-Cambodian command, he replied, "I don't think so."

The Premier said the Government would have to study the question whether the American intervention would have the effect of driving the Vietnamese Communists deeper into Cambodian territory.

He added that Communist penetration was sufficiently deep now to have posed a threat to Pnomphen in recent days. He said he had in mind the advances in Takeo Province to the south and at the town of Saang, 20 miles from here by road and closer on a straight line.

Cambodia remains ready to negotiate with Hanoi and the Vietcong, General Lon Nol said, but the stepped up aggression of recent weeks has added a new element to any possible negotiations: compensation for damage to Cambodian property caused by the invaders.

Declining to say what military assistance had been received so far in answer to his appeal to all friendly nations, the general said, "I can tell you there are friends."

The only aid known to have been received is three plane-loads of Chinese-made AK-47 rifles flown from Saigon with the approval of the United States. Military sources reported that the shipment had included an insufficient number of magazines.

While the Premier declined to commit himself to lodging a formal protest, the Information Minister, Trinh Hoanh, talking with other reporters, as-



CAMBODIA'S LEADER: Premier Lon Nol saluting pants in a recent pro-Government rally in Pnompe said yesterday that he had not been consulted in a on American and South Vietnamese moves in Can

serted that Cambodia would energetically protest. This was viewed here as another indication of the Cambodian leadership's lack of foreknowledge of the American intervention.