

# The U.S. and Sihanouk's Overthrow

## Phnom Penh

The consensus of the Cambodian diplomatic corps is that the United States had no direct part in the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk's government.

"I'm no admirer of your Central Intelligence Agency," said one western attache, "but I just can't believe they would have been so stupid as to have engineered this thing."

All the diplomats questioned — Eastern and Western representatives — believe the coup was strictly an internal affair with but one objective: to wrest control of the country from Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"I'm certain that the Lon Nol government had no intention of getting into a fight with the Viet Cong," said one veteran diplomat familiar with the intricacies of Cambodian government.

A communist bloc diplomat said he believed the Lon Nol government made its biggest mistake in believing that there would be no retaliation from the Communists.

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