

# THIEU DECLARES CAMBODIAN CHIEF AGREES ON ARMY

**Pnompenh Seeks Saigon Aid  
on Vietnamese Refugees—  
Gunboats Across Border**

**MAY 9 1970**

By **TERENCE SMITH**  
Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 8—President Nguyen Van Thieu said tonight that he and Premier Lon Nol of Cambodia had worked out "agreements in principle" for South Vietnamese troops to conduct continuing military operations in eastern Cambodia.

In addition, Mr. Thieu said the two Governments had discussed the feasibility of a South Vietnamese naval blockade of the Cambodian coast line and principal port—Kompong Son, formerly called Sihanoukville—to prevent the North Vietnamese from bringing in military supplies by sea.

"Our navy is capable of guarding the whole coast," Mr. Thieu said. "We have the ships and we think it would be a good idea."

[In Pnompenh, Cambodian security officials said that they would welcome a large-scale thrust by the South Vietnamese Navy up the Mekong River to evacuate Vietnamese residents. Advance elements of a South Vietnamese flotilla on the Mekong, bound for Pnompenh, were reported to have crossed the border into Cambodia.]

Mr. Thieu made it clear that South Vietnamese troops would not be bound by the restrictions President Nixon has placed on the United States forces operating in Cambodia.

## Pledge Made by Nixon

Mr. Nixon promised Congressional leaders last Tuesday that American troops would withdraw from Cambodia by the end of June and would penetrate no deeper than about 20 miles without Congressional approval.

Mr. Thieu said: "We have no deadline, no limits. We will move on intelligence. When there is a target, we will strike it."

Mr. Thieu discussed the Cambodian situation and other topics at a small dinner at the Presidential Palace. Eight foreign correspondents—seven Americans and one European—sat with him at a table under the elm trees on the palace grounds while the President talked for four hours about the situation in Indochina.

## Delegation in Pnompenh

Relaxed and expansive in an open-necked blue sportshirt, Mr. Thieu said he was in daily

**Continued on Page 4, Column 3**

## Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

contact with the new Cambodian Premier through the South Vietnamese delegation established last week in Pnompenh. The two countries have had no formal diplomatic relations since 1963.

"I have a friend," he said, laughing, when he was asked about his earlier contacts with the Cambodian regime. "We keep in touch."

The President said he and General Lon Nol had come to their "agreement in principle" about South Vietnamese operations in eastern Cambodia two or three days before President Nixon announced on April 30 that United States troops would cross the Cambodian border to clear out North Vietnamese and Vietcong sanctuaries.

He said Premier Lon Nol had requested support from South Vietnamese forces for the general defense of Cambodia east of the Mekong River.

In the short term, Mr. Thieu said, the agreement would involve direct South Vietnamese

military assistance and probably the naval blockade. He said he had already supplied some 4,000 American-trained ethnic Cambodian troops from the South Vietnamese forces, but he expected that more would have to be sent to Pnompenh to bolster the position of the Lon Nol Government.

In the long term, he said, the South Vietnamese would take on the job of training the Cambodian Army, which Mr. Thieu described as weak and poorly equipped. "But they have the manpower," he said, "and we can provide the advice."

Mr. Thieu said he believed that the next six months would be critical for the war as well as for political leaders.

"If Lon Nol and Cambodia stand for the next six months," he said, "then I think Mr. Nixon will win the Congressional elections this year and be re-elected in 1972, because then the operations will have proven a success."

"Also," he said, "if we keep up the pressure on the Communists for the next six months, then I think they will no have choice but to negotiate a settlement or fade away."