

Chinese Said to Aid Revival of Cambodian Red Group

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 8—The composition of the government in exile formed in Peking by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, ousted Cambodian Chief of State, is being viewed here as confirmation of intelligence reports that the Cambodian Communist movement has been reactivated with Chinese aid.

Three major leaders of the movement, known as Khmer Rouge (Khmer is the Cambodians' name for themselves), are identified as key ministers in the government, formed Tuesday.

The three men, all former members of the Cambodian National Assembly, fled from Phnompenh in 1967 to join the Khmer Rouge in the country's northern regions to evade arrest on charges of subversion.

The Peking radio has announced the appointment of Khieu Samphan as defense minister; Hu Nim as minister of information and propaganda, and Hou Yuon as minister of reforms.

Equivalent of Vietcong

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas, estimated earlier this year at several thousand men, are the Cambodian equivalent of the Vietcong in South Vietnam and the Pathet Lao in Laos. Until recently the Khmer Rouge, concentrated chiefly in the north-eastern and northwestern areas of Cambodia, were relatively inactive.

In forming his government

under the name of the National United Front of Kampuchea, Prince Sihanouk has apparently brought together the leaders of all the Communist and pro-Communist groups in the country.

While the Prince is reported to be in Peking, United States officials expressed the belief that the headquarters of the reshuffled movement and the new cabinet were in Hanoi.

They also suggested that the next probable move would be to install at least a section of the exile government in north-eastern Cambodia adjacent to Communist-controlled regions of Laos.

Status Among Peasants

In the opinion of American specialists, the value of the Khmer Rouge guerrillas and similar groups, some of which have established themselves politically in Cambodian villages, is their knowledge of the country and their acceptance by the population, which resents Vietnamese of any political coloration.

Guerrilla operations by those forces on behalf of Prince Sihanouk, whom they opposed before his ouster March 18, have been described in reports by the North Vietnamese press agency, which said today that "thousands of officials, policemen, noncommissioned officers and soldiers changed sides to join the people's armed forces."

While it appears that Peking

has been seeking to expand its influence in Indochina at the expense of the Russians, American officials doubt any direct Chinese involvement in the conflict at this stage.

The make-up of the Sihanouk government indicated to the specialists here that all the key posts were in Communist hands, notwithstanding the Prince's proclamation that he sought "neutrality and non-alignment."

The cabinet includes Chau Seng, an old-line follower of the Communist line, as minister for "special missions."

Noi Government as traitors and "a gang of charlatans." The Prince called on all Cambodians to accept "the indispensable sacrifice for victory over the enemy."

According to Hsinhua, his Premier, Penn Nouth, sent a message to Senator Mike Mansfield expressing thanks for his opposition and that of other Senators to President Nixon's moves in Cambodia and asked the majority leader to use his "great influence" to make "the great American people understand that they are being dangerously dragged by their President into a war spreading to the whole of Indochina."

There was no information available to indicate that Peking's support for Prince Sihanouk has come any further than vigorous propaganda and political backing. Knowledgeable sources here voice disbelief in reports from Chinese Nationalist sources that Communist China had sent a special force of 4,200 men to Cambodia.

However, more serious attention was given to reports from Taipei that a Chinese Communist military mission headed by Yeh Chien-ying, one of the old marshals and a vice chairman of the Communist party Military Affairs Commission, has been working in Hanoi and in southwestern China on organizing ways to give material assistance to anti-U.S. and anti-Pnompenh forces in Cambodia.

Chinese Acclaim Continues

By TILLMAN DURDIN

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HONG KONG, May 8—Military men and civilians have held rallies throughout Communist China hailing the Cambodian government in exile formed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and pledging full support for the regime and the peoples of all the Indochinese countries in their struggle against "U.S. aggression."

China is continuing to display maximum support for Prince Sihanouk, former Chief of State of Cambodia, and for his government in exile, formed Tuesday in Peking.

Reports of the developments were received from Peking in dispatches by Hsinhua, the Chinese Communist press agency.

It also reported a new message from Prince Sihanouk to the people of Cambodia in which he excoriated the Lon