

Sihanouk Says Followers Are Fighting in Cambodia

By **TILLMAN DURDIN**
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HONG KONG, May 12—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the ousted Chief of State of Cambodia, has asserted in Peking that "patriotic armed forces" loyal to him are dealing "severe blows to the United States invaders of Cambodia."

The Prince, at a meeting held in Peking yesterday, also said that the resistance forces were being led by three members of the cabinet of the exile government he formed last week. News of the meeting, at which Prince Sihanouk asked for support from the representatives in Peking of 32 governments, was relayed here in a dispatch from Hsinhua, the Chinese Communist press agency.

The three men named by the Prince are Khieu Samphan, minister of defense; Hu Nim, minister of information and propaganda, and Hou Yuon, minister of interior and community reforms. All are assumed to be Communists.

Plea to Cambodians Issued

As participants in the Cambodian Communist movement called Khmer Rouge, the three were involved in an attempted insurrection against Prince Sihanouk's Government in 1967, when they were members of the National Assembly. It is thought that they have been in either Hanoi or Cambodia in recent weeks.

The three men were reported today to have issued a statement, dated May 1, calling on the Cambodian people to step up their armed struggle and defeat "U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, the reactionary Lon

Nol-Sirik Matak clique." Lieut. Gen. Lon Nol is Premier and Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak is First Deputy Premier in the Government. Prince Sihanouk was deposed on March 18 while he was visiting in Moscow.

The statement, made public in Hanoi and heard here in a Hanoi radio broadcast, purported to come from the information bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea, the ancient name for Cambodia.

The issuance of their statement in Hanoi is taken to mean they do not have radio communications of their own capable of reaching the outside world and that Hanoi is serving as the Cambodian resistance movement's rear service center in much the same way that it serves the Communist-led Pathet Lao movement in Laos.

The three resistance leaders were listed along with other members of Prince Sihanouk's exile government when it was announced in Peking last week.

Chau Seng, minister of special missions in the new government, was involved with the three others in the 1967 trouble, and it is believed that he

may be elsewhere than Peking. These four are regarded as the strong operational core of the Prince's new organization.

At the meeting yesterday, Prince Sihanouk stressed that the presence of his three ministers in Cambodia meant that his was not a government in exile but one on duty in its home country.

U.S. Officials Skeptical

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WASHINGTON, May 12 — United States officials ex-

pressed strong skepticism today over Prince Sihanouk's assertion that some of his ministers were operating from "liberated" areas in Cambodia.

The belief here is that while Prince Sihanouk remains in Peking, his ministers—notably the three former Khmer Rouge leaders who joined the exile cabinet a week ago—are still in Hanoi, where they broadcast an appeal to the Cambodian people late last month.

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