

# Thais Giving Cambodia Arms--And Maybe Troops

## Bangkok

Thailand is sending the Cambodian army military equipment and medical supplies and is considering Phnom Penh's request for combat troops and advisers.

General Praphas Charusathien, leader of the Thai army, declined to specify the military aid being given, but it is certain that American small arms intended originally for the Thai army are in-

volved.

The Thais, who have proclaimed a major alert along the 350-mile frontier with Cambodia, have begun to justify their involvement on the ground that the threat to Cambodia also endangers Thailand.

"Communist forces in Cambodia pose the biggest threat to us in 50 years," said Praphas, who is also the Deputy Premier Minister. "From the border post at Ar-

anyapraphet, it takes only two hours to reach Bangkok."

Praphas' statement, some observers believe, could signal the introduction of Thai troops in Cambodia. They speculate that the Thai government already has agreed to send military advisers, and that the infantry may follow if conditions worsen and other allied forces stay on.

The Thai attitude toward Cambodia has softened since diplomatic relations were restored between the two countries on May 11, ending nine years of bitter enmity between the Bangkok rulers and Prince Norodon Sihanouk, the deposed Cambodian chief of state.

The Thais are now studying a proposal for the creation of a military corridor to stem the Communist advances in Southeast Asia.

South Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, who made the proposal on Thursday, said the corridor should include his own country, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

*London Sunday Times*