

# Soviet Warns Pnompenh Of 'Long Fratricidal War'

Statement Sees Lengthy Conflict Unless  
U.S. and Saigon Forces Leave—  
Recognition Still Withheld

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MOSCOW, May 25—The Soviet Union has warned the current Cambodian leaders that Cambodia "will be plunged into a long fratricidal war" unless United States and South Vietnamese forces are withdrawn from their country.

Izvestia, the Government newspaper, published today the text of a statement it said was delivered in Pnompenh yesterday by the Soviet Ambassador, Sergei M. Kudryavtsev.

The statement, the latest exposition of Soviet policy on the crisis in Indochina since Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin's news conference on May 4, indicated Soviet concern over growing cooperation between Pnompenh and the Saigon Government.

The tone of the statement

left the impression that unless Pnompenh broke its military ties with Washington and Saigon the Soviet Union was considering breaking its own diplomatic relations with Cambodia and recognizing the government in exile of the ousted Chief of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Despite pressure from Prince Sihanouk, Moscow has up to now refrained from joining Communist China, North Vietnam and other countries in recognizing the Sihanouk government in exile. Moscow is thought to be wary of backing that regime not only because of the presumed strong Chinese influence over Prince Sihanouk's actions but out of

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concern that it might be supporting the loser.

Soviet policy, as underscored by the latest statement, seems directed primarily at pressing the United States to end its intervention in Cambodian affairs. The statement also raised in strong terms the need for Saigon troops to leave.

American forces are pledged to leave Cambodia by the end of next month, but Saigon has indicated that it would remain indefinitely.

The Izvestia report said Ambassador Kudryavtsev had delivered the Soviet statement to the "Pnompenh authorities," and not, as is more common, to the Government of Cambodia. Mr. Kosygin, in his news conference, said the Soviet Union would recognize the Government that followed a policy of "peace and neutrality."

#### Future Action in Doubt

The latest statement was vague about just what action Moscow might take if the American and South Vietnamese forces were not withdrawn. The reference to a civil war left

open the possibility of expanded military aid to the Communist forces in the area, but references to peace and neutrality suggested to some diplomats that Moscow had not ruled out a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Without naming him, the Soviet statement praised the former policy of Prince Sihanouk for not allowing "imperialists and their satellites to interfere in Cambodia's affairs."

"As a result of the aggression of the United States and the Saigon regime, Cambodia is being increasingly drawn into the

military conflict in Indochina," it said.

"Unless measures are taken to withdraw the United States and Saigon troops, Cambodia will be plunged into a long fratricidal civil war. Those who connive with the United States and Saigon intervention will bear the responsibility for this."

The present Cambodian Government contends that Prince Sihanouk undermined Cambodia's neutrality by allowing the Communists to use border areas of Cambodia as sanctuaries for attacks against the South Vietnamese and United States forces.