

# Cambodian Minister, in Saigon, Plans No Talks on Military Ties

By TAKASHI OKA  
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 25—Foreign Minister Yem Sambaur of Cambodia said here today that although his country "highly appreciated the cooperation of the South Vietnamese armed forces in rooting out Communist military bases in Cambodia," he did not intend to raise the question of "a formal military alliance" with South Vietnam.

Cambodia, he said, "is determined to safeguard her independence, her territorial integrity and her neutrality."

Mr. Yem Sambaur made the remarks as he arrived at Tan-Sonnhut Airport on a three-day official visit to discuss the resumption of diplomatic relations with South Vietnam and the problem of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

## Relations Are Cordial

On the surface, the Cambodian Government of Premier Lon Nol and Deputy Premier Sisowath Sirik Matak enjoys cordial relations with Saigon.

South Vietnam has re-established a diplomatic mission in Pnompenh headed by a senior diplomat with ambassadorial rank. Relations were severed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, then Chief of State, in 1963.

But the problem of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and age-old animosities between the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples have complicated relations. More than 60,000 Vietnamese residents of Cambodia have sought refuge in South Vietnam and 70,000 more are said to be in camps awaiting repatriation.

South Vietnamese resentment against alleged Cambodian efforts to repatriate the 400,000 Vietnamese in Cambodia was manifested recently in statements by a cabinet minister and a senior general that South Vietnam should accept no more repatriates.

## Refuge Areas Suggested

Both the Minister of State Phan Quang Dan and Lieut. Gen. Do Cao Tri suggested that Vietnamese residents of Cambodia seek refuge in the areas of the country occupied by South Vietnamese troops, instead of leaving Cambodia.

Mr. Yem Sambaur told reporters at the airport today that Vietnamese residents of Cambodia had a "right to remain in Cambodia."

Reports of Cambodian mistreatment of Vietnamese were, he said, "a misunderstanding."

Fearing possible incidents by dissident students and others protesting Mr. Yem Sambaur's visit, the South Vietnamese Government has enforced rigid security provisions during his stay.

## Cambodia Seeks U.S. Troops

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, May 25—Mr. Yem Sambaur said before he left for South Vietnam today that Cambodia

would ask President Nixon to keep American troops fighting in Cambodia until the end of the war.

At an airport news conference, the foreign minister said that Cambodia did not expect South Vietnamese troops to leave at the same time as the Americans. He said they should not withdraw until the North Vietnamese and Vietcong had been driven from Cambodia.

In that connection, the Foreign Minister volunteered his remark about the American troops. He said, however, that the proposal for American soldiers to stay beyond the June 30 deadline ordered by President Nixon had not been discussed with American officials. [In Washington, a White House aide said that American troops would not stay beyond June 30.]

Mr. Yem Sambaur also said that Cambodia might call on Thailand for soldiers if needed. He reported that Cambodia had received military matériel from Thailand, as well as from South Vietnam, "from time to time."

Shipments of limited quantities of weapons, consisting mainly of captured Chinese small arms and ammunition, were known to have arrived here from Saigon but not from Bangkok. However, reliable military sources said that Mr. Yem Sambaur was in error, or at least premature, in his remarks on Thai arms aid. The sources said that none had arrived yet, although shipments were expected.

## First Thais Arrive

While Mr. Yem Sambaur was preparing to leave, a Thai Air Force transport landed near his waiting Air Cambodge plane. It carried the first Thai military mission to arrive here. Its members said only that they were "the advance party," but declined to say what was to follow.

The military mission was headed by Maj. Gen. Saad Sirirak and consisted of four colonels, several majors and a Foreign Ministry official for the Thai embassy that is soon to open here.