

THAILAND TO SEND VOLUNTEER FORCE TO AID CAMBODIA

NY TIMES

Premier Says That Troops
Will Free Pnompenh Units
for Combat Service

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By Reuters

BANGKOK, Thailand, June 1—Premier Thanom Kittikachorn said today that Thailand would send volunteer soldiers to defend Pnompenh from attack and to enable Cambodian troops to go into action against Communist forces.

The Premier's announcement follows the resumption of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Thailand on May 13 and a Cambodian request for military aid.

Speaking to newsmen, Premier Thanom said the Thai Volunteers would be trained in battalion-size groups over a period of eight weeks. Unlike the 12,000 Thai troops serving in South Vietnam, who are financed by Bangkok, the volunteers are to be equipped, armed and paid by the Cambodian Government.

[The Cambodian Government put martial-law regulations into effect Monday and staged a one-hour general alert drill in Pnompenh, the capital.]

Premier Thanom did not say how many men, to be chosen from among army reservists and Thai citizens of Cambodian origin, would be sent to Cambodia.

Gunboats to Be Provided

Thailand has already announced that she would send 20 gunboats to take part in anti-Communist patrols along the Mekong River, provide uniforms and other equipment for 50,000 Cambodians and conduct joint air reconnaissance along the border with Cambodia.

These moves were announced Thursday by the Interior Minister and army chief, Gen. Praphas Charusathien, when he returned to Bangkok at the head of a Thai delegation that had visited Pnompenh.

Informed sources said today that the gunboats, manned by Thai sailors, would move to Cambodia early this month. Air reconnaissance along the land and coastal borders is expected to start in a few days.

Cambodians to Get Training

Mr. Thanom said that Thailand also had agreed to train noncommissioned officers for the Cambodian armed forces.

The Premier conceded that there was some opposition to sending troops into Cambodia, but said that the majority of Thais favored the move.

Cambodian leaders were reported last week to have asked

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Thailand for one division of troops.

Premier Thanom emphasized that Thailand was raising the volunteer force at the request of the Cambodian Government, but added that it was better for Thailand to fight the enemy away from home than "wait for him to arrive at one's door."

He said the volunteers would serve in Pnompenh and the provincial capitals of Siemreap, Battambang and Kompong Cham, thus freeing Cambodian troops to fight the Vietnamese Communists and Cambodian insurgents in other areas.

Pnompenh Stages an Alert

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, June 1 — The new Cambodian Government, in an effort to infuse a sense of war emergency into this languid capital, put martial law into effect today and staged its first general alert. It lasted about an hour.

The martial-law decree, which will remain in effect as long as "the nation is declared in danger," set out penalties for antigovernment acts ranging from one year at forced labor to death by firing squad. Trials are to be conducted by military tribunals.

Such acts as inciting insurrection or supplying arms to the enemy — the North Vietnamese, Vietcong or the Khmer Rouge — carry the death penalty.

The new Government of Premier Lon Nol and Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, the Deputy Premier, had announced its intention to enact martial law but the alert in this peaceful city of 600,000 came as a surprise. Only foreign embassies had been notified in advance.

Immediately after the first siren sounded, at 4:05 P.M., most people hurried into buildings, including motorists who pulled their cars over and parked.

Assisted by the city police, Cambodian soldiers, their rifles thrust in front of them, prowled the streets, chasing lackadaisical stragglers inside.

A few tanks rumbled along main thoroughfares. Two MIG-17 jets streaked overhead.

Although clashes involving Cambodian and South Vietnamese forces against North Vietnamese - Vietcong forces have occurred recently 30 to 40 miles from Pnompenh, most military sources here believe the capital is in much less danger of attack than it was when United States forces first moved to destroy Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

Vietcong Aide Accuses U.S.

PARIS, June 1 (Reuters)—A spokesman for the Vietcong delegation to the peace talks here said today the announcement that Thai troops would go to Cambodia confirmed his movement's accusations that the Americans were trying to form a puppet axis of Asian mercenary forces.