

# Cambodian Staff in U.S. Waiting and Wondering

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Special to The New York Times

JUN 3 1970

WASHINGTON, June 2 — The building at 4500 16th Street N. W. is still known officially as the Royal Embassy of Cambodia.

When the new Cambodian Ambassador to the United States, Sonn Voeunsai, arrives Friday, he may provide answers to the questions the small embassy staff has wondered about since the ouster of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State in March.

Should the word "royal" be removed from the front of the embassy building, in keeping with the intention of Premier Lon Nol, who now heads the Government, to establish a republic?

Will Thay Sok, the chargé d'affaires here since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States last July, remain in the embassy — along with his wife, Princess Sisowath Neary Bonga-Nga?

## Only Three on Staff

Will the embassy's role in strengthening the relationship between the two nations become larger than it has been under Mr. Thay Sok?

A spokesman said today that the present staff — numbering three, compared with 18 in the South Vietnamese chancery and 29 officials representing Thailand — had no instructions on such questions.

State Department sources said that most of the sensitive issues in United States-Cambo-

dian diplomacy had been handled through the American chargé d'affaires in Pnompenh, Lloyd M. Rives.

Mr. Thay Sok has conducted the embassy's business in low key, including trips to the State Department once or twice a week, since he presented his credentials to Secretary of State William P. Rogers on Aug. 28, 1969.

## 'Don't Ask Which Government'

Shortly after the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk, Mr. Thay Sok was quoted as having said: "I am still loyal to my Government, but don't ask me which government. I am ready to serve my country so that the Cambodian people can live in peace."

Although he is a commoner, his marriage in 1965 to Princess Sisowath made him an uncle of Prince Sihanouk, for she is the youngest sister of Prince Sihanouk's mother.

Mr. Thay Sok's assignment here marked the resumption of relations broken by Prince Sihanouk in May, 1965, when he asserted that United States troops and planes were violating the Cambodian border with South Vietnam.

Since the new regime has sanctioned allied military thrusts into Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia, the United States and Cambodia have agreed to upgrade the level of their diplomatic representation with an exchange of ambassadors.