

Temple Ruins at Angkor Reported in Foe's Hands

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, June 11—Communist troops were reported today to have seized control of the area of the renowned temple ruins at Angkor in northwest Cambodia. Communist forces reportedly also opened a new attack on Siemreap, a provincial capital only four miles from the edge of the huge temple complex.

The Government's military spokesman, Maj. Am Rong, told newsmen of the Siemreap attack and later said enemy troops were believed to be inside the temple complex itself.

[French refugees who fled the fighting said on arrival in Pnompenh that 200 to 300 North Vietnamese troops had set up bases in the temple area and were using the ruins as sanctuaries, Reuters reported.]

Asserting that planes could not be used against the enemy there "because the temples are our patrimony," Major Am Rong made "an appeal to inter

Continued on Page 15, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

national opinion" for help to save them.

Asked specifically what the Pnompenh Government was appealing for, he said, "All kinds of arms and equipment—not just for Angkor Wat but for all Cambodia."

Asked if, to save the temples, the Cambodian Government had decided against attacking the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong in the area, the major declined comment.

The temples, one of Asia's leading tourist attractions, were built between the 9th and the 12th centuries during the height of the Khmer empire. They are about 150 miles from Pnompenh, the capital.

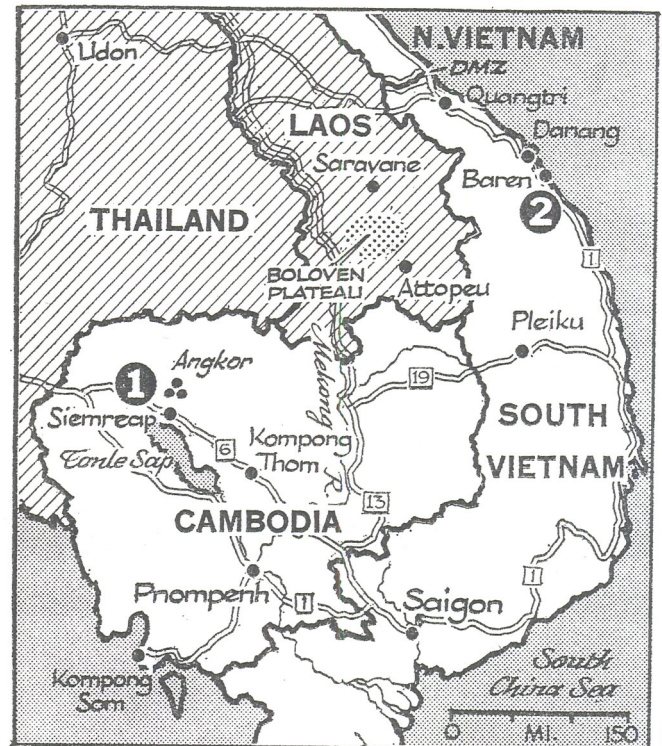
The loss of the prized temple complex to the Communists would be a serious psychological blow to the Government, quite apart from its military significance—the latter being that the Communists have moved deep into the western

Plan Made for Safety Of Temples at Angkor

Several prominent New Yorkers, including Thomas P. F. Hoving, director of the Metropolitan Museum, sent a telegram to President Nixon and Secretary of Defense Laird yesterday, urging that the Angkor temple complex on Cambodia be spared from damage or destruction during the current fighting there.

It urged "an accord between enemy and allied forces that all troops withdraw from the immediate area."

A similar message was sent to the North Vietnamese delegation to the peace talks in Paris. Besides Mr. Hoving, the signers were Fong Chow, curator of Far Eastern arts at the Metropolitan; Gordon Washburn, director of Asia House, and Arthur M. Moritz, a lawyer.



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The temple ruins at Angkor (1) were reported seized by Communist forces. In South Vietnam, Vietcong guerrillas were said to have killed civilians in homes at Baren (2).

part of the country and are now embedding themselves in the countryside.

The first attack on Siemreap came Friday night. By Saturday morning, the Communists had taken the airport and moved into parts of the town.

On Sunday, the Government reported that its troops had regained control both of the town and the airport, but that "sporadic harassment" continued in the area.

That situation remained unchanged until this morning, when Major Am Rong reported that yesterday afternoon the Communist forces attacked the airport again. They withdrew a little while later, he said, but at 1 A.M. they renewed the attack and "the fighting is still going on."

Major Am Rong was vague as to when the Communist forces had moved into the temple area. On Monday, he had said the enemy troops were not in the temples, which he said then were occupied by a "defending force of villagers." He also said then that the Government "has a plan for defending the temples."

Today, the major said that the villagers in the temples were "facing the Vietcong with ancient weapons" and "probably threw them away" and re-

treated.

As for the defense of the temples, he said: "We had plans but no means. It is now beyond our means."

The enemy, the major said, has moved a division of between 8,000 and 10,000 men into the region around Siemreap. He declined to disclose the number of Government troops.

Informed military sources say that there may be a Communist division "in the region," but that it is spread over a wide area of the north, west of the Mekong River, and that it is broken up into units perhaps no larger than battalions.

The major said that no Thai or South Vietnamese planes had been used to defend the airport and that no Thai or

South Vietnamese help had been either used or requested.

When he was then asked why the South Vietnamese had not been asked to help, he said, "That's a question of military strategy."

Military analysts here do not believe that the South Vietnamese now in the eastern half of the country could sustain any sizable or lengthy operation in the western half, since it is so far from their supply lines.

Thai's Fly Over Cambodia

BANGKOK, Thailand, June 11 (Reuters) — Thai Air Force planes are flying reconnaissance patrols over Cambodia, Interior Minister Praphas Charusathien, the Thai army chief, said today. He would not say how far into Cambodia the planes were flying.

Military sources here said the Thai Air Force planned to provide facilities at Don Muang Air Base just outside the capital for damaged Cambodian planes.

The Thai Air Force will use a military airfield near the Cambodian border to launch air strikes in Cambodia if necessary, the sources said.