

Thai Premier Visits Vietnam; Troop Shift Believed Discussed

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 19 (Reuters)—Thailand's Premier, Thanom Kittikachorn, conferred with the principal American and South Vietnamese military commanders when he made an unexpected seven-hour visit to South Vietnam today.

A Thai Embassy spokesman said that Field Marshal Thanom also had inspected troops of Thailand's 11,000-man Black Panther Division, and reliable sources said he had hinted to the troops that some of them might be going to serve in Cambodia.

The Premier met with Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, the United States commander in South Vietnam, and Gen. Cao Van Vien, chief of Saigon's Joint General Staff, the spokesman said.

Observers believed the three men had discussed the question of sending at least part of the Black Panther division to Cambodia. The division has been stationed in South Vietnam's Bienhoa province since July 1967.

A spokesman for the United States military command said that he had no information on the meeting.

The Thai spokesman said the Premier's visit was a routine annual trip to visit Thai forces in South Vietnam. One brigade of the Thai division is scheduled to be rotated soon, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, South Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky said his country's armed forces would help defend Phnom if the Cambodian capital were attacked by enemy forces.

He said he did not believe Phnompenh would fall into Communists control, although it appeared that the enemy intended to encircle and attack the capital.

The Vice President, opening an exhibition of captured Vietcong weapons, said here it was "very possible" Thailand's Black Panther division would be redeployed to Cambodia.

Asked whether South Vietnam would help the Phnompenh Government establish control over the three-quarters of the country still contested, the Vice President said: "We only help them militarily. It is up to them to establish territorial control. We do not interfere with their internal affairs."

Cambodia Arms Aid Cited

WASHINGTON, June 19 (Reuters)—The United States

is providing Cambodia with arms aid up to the limit of \$7.9-million announced earlier for the fiscal year ending June 30, the State Department said today.

Carl E. Bartz, department press officer, said this did not mean that all deliveries of the arms would be made before the end of this month. Officials said that aside from the previously disclosed shipments of rifles, the aid being provided included radios, spare parts for Cambodian Army equipment and T-28 jet trainers.