

Cambodians Will Train in Vietnam

Saigon

Cambodia will send about 10,000 troops to South Vietnam in the coming weeks to receive combat training, informed sources said yesterday.

The South Vietnamese military sources reported the first units will begin training in the next two weeks at three Vietnamese facilities. The instructors will be Vietnamese army personnel.

The first Cambodian elements are scheduled to arrive about Monday at Duc My Ranger School and Lam Son Infantry Training center near Nha Trang, 200 miles northeast of Saigon.

ADVISERS

A spokesman for the United States Command said he had no information on whether American advisers would be involved in training the Cambodians.

In recent days, a group of Cambodian officers and non-commissioned officers has been observing troop training at QUANG Trung center north of Saigon. Quang Trung is used for training South Vietnamese forces defending the military district surrounding Saigon.

The Cambodian trainees are in addition to soldiers of Cambodian stock born in South Vietnam who have

been sent to Cambodia since the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong began battling the army of Premier Lon Nol in March.

About 800 more of these Cambodians, trained by U.S. Green Berets, arrived in Phnom Penh yesterday from South Vietnam. They joined 4000 others already there.

While some of these forces have taken to the field, they are charged primarily with defending Phnom Penh.

In war action yesterday, field reports said elements of the South Vietnamese 1st Division are engaged in heavy fighting west of Quang Tri, just below the demilitarized zone. Government militiamen also are said to be involved in the battle.

A South Vietnamese task force of more than 5000 troops, supported by armor, swept northwest and northeast of the Cambodian capital, but there were no reports of contact with the enemy.

The U.S. Command reported that two American helicopters were shot down Tuesday just south of the Cambodian border. Eight Americans were killed and five wounded.

The crashes raised to 3863 the unofficial total of helicopters lost in the war.

Associated Press