

# Lon Nol Announces He and Sirik Matak Exercise Full War Power in Cambodia

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PNOMPENH, Cambodia, July 2—Premier Lon Nol asserted today on his own behalf and on that of Deputy Premier Sisowath Sirik Matak that they jointly have full power to make all governmental decisions during the war emergency.

The proclamation of what most political and diplomatic observers consider unrestricted power came in two messages to the nation, one by Chief of State Cheng Heng and the other by the Premier. Both were based on a vote of "full confidence and total support" for Lieut. Gen. Lon Nol and Maj. Gen. Sirik Matak by the National Assembly last Saturday and announced today.

The effect of the proclamations, in the view of qualified sources, is largely to ratify and make more specific the existing state of affairs.

### No Criticism of Move

Since neither of the two leaders is suspected of dictatorial strivings, the reassertion of wide wartime powers appears so far not to have aroused criticism from the limited number of Cambodians who take an active interest in politics.

The nature of General Lon Nol's attitude to power and its exercise was indicated in his message. He said, after noting the confidence vote and the subsequent message from the Chief of State giving him and Gen. Sirik Matak full powers:

"But we ask in advance your indulgence for the measures that we shall be called upon to take in all urgency to face up to the present situation."

The first measure he mentioned was a shuffling of the Cabinet, increasing the number of ministers from nine to the 16 called for in the Con-

stitution. However, five of these cases involved the raising of officials who had headed ministries from the rank of state secretary to that of minister.

A number of younger, well-educated men of modern outlook were added to the Cabinet. This move was believed intended to lessen the criticism from the intellectual élite that the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak leadership was not sufficiently employing the talents of the university-educated younger men who had also been kept out of influential posts under Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was deposed as Chief of State March 18.

Keuk Kylin, a representative of the younger intellectual élite, was named Information Minister, replacing Trinh Hoanh, who had come under criticism for his performance in presenting Cambodia's case to the world. Mr. Trinh Hoanh was left out of the Cabinet but retained his post as secretary general of the Sangkum, Cambodia's single political party.

Other moves included the shifting of Yem Sambaur from his post as Foreign Minister to Minister of State charged with justice and relations with Parliament. He was replaced by Koun Wick, who was Ambassador to Yugoslavia until that country broke relations with Cambodia. Yugoslavia has recognized the Peking-based exile Government of Prince Sihanouk, formed May 5.

### A Concern for Legality

In the shuffling, Premier Lon Nol retained the defense portfolio, signifying the division of responsibilities between the two leaders, with the Premier in charge of the military side and his deputy in charge of administrative and diplomatic functions.

General Sirik Matak is now known as Deputy Premier instead of First Deputy Premier as he was before the shuffle. The posts of second and third deputy premiers have been abolished.

Commenting on today's developments, a Cabinet Minister said that a principal reason for the reaffirming of the existing state of affairs was General Lon Nol's concern for legality. He said the Premier wanted to avoid being suspected of assuming power for its own sake and asked for the confidence vote for that reason.

In a similar bow to legality, the Government is putting Prince Sihanouk on trial in absentia tomorrow. The principal charge before the military tribunal is believed to be high treason, and the principal reason for the trial is to provide legality for the impending confiscation of Prince Sihanouk's vast holdings, palatial houses, motor pool and other properties.

Only two members of the Prince's close family remain in Pnompenh, living in enforced retirement. They are Queen Mother Kossomak, his mother, and a daughter, Princess Boup-ha Devi, a beautiful, much married dancer in her twenties. They are playing no political role and appear to be as forgotten as the very institution of royalty in this kingdom, which has been without a king since Prince Sihanouk father's death a decade ago.

In all but in name and the letter of the Constitution, Cambodia is a republic and "vive la republique" signs are widespread in Government offices.

General Sirik Matak has renounced his title as a prince and was referred to in the new Cabinet roster as "monsieur le major-general."



Associated Press

**DEFENSIVE MEASURE:** Cambodian soldier goes to evening bath with an automatic tucked in his waist.