

In Cambodia, Gloom After U.S. Withdrawal

JUL 4 1970

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, July 3 — With all United States troops withdrawn from Cambodia, highly placed Cambodians in private conversations are returning to a mood of gloom about the North Vietnamese and Vietcong invasion. That was the mood of April, when the attack began in force.

News

Analysis

The difference now is that the South Vietnamese Army is operating in Cambodia, but to most Cambodians that raises as many problems as it helps to solve.

While officials speak publicly of Saigon as an ally, privately they voice concern that Cambodia is becoming Vietnamized, with the opposing Vietnamese sides fighting their civil war in another country. The officials hate the Vietnamese who invaded Cambodia and fear those who have come to the rescue.

Disappointment with the American action, based largely on exaggerated initial expectations, is also mounting in official circles. Highly placed Cambodians remark that while the United States intervention has served South Vietnam's interests by removing the notion of a privileged sanctuary to the Communists and by forcing them farther away from Vietnam, it has had an opposite effect on Cambodia.

A Sense of Resignation

They believe that the American announcement of the limitations of the Cambodian campaign drove the enemy out of the sanctuaries to carry the war even more intensely and deeply into Cambodia than before.

Among senior officials, intellectuals and young people, the patriotic fervor of March and April, when Cambodia was imbued with a sense of righteousness, has given way to resignation that the country is in for a long struggle and the knowledge that many Cambodians are bound to die and that much of Cambodia faces destruction.

There is deep disappoint-

ment, expressed to foreigners only in rare moments of a candor that Cambodians usually consider rudeness, that Cambodia's appeals for help have not convinced any disinterested nation and have not produced from the United States and South Vietnam the kind of help that Cambodia requested. Cambodians point out that they had never asked any nation to intervene with troops. They requested arms for their willing but unarmed soldiers.

So far, the United States and South Vietnam have responded favorably but, according to high Cambodian officials, slowly, and with arms of minimum efficiency.

The bulk of American aid received so far has consisted of 20,000 carbines. The Cambodians say that the semiautomatic M-2 carbine, a World War II weapon with a limited range, is an inadequate weapon against the fully automatic Chinese rifles that are the Vietnamese Communist soldier's basic arm.

Heavier weapons, partly from captured Communist stocks, have included less than 400 machine guns and about 200 mortars and 200 rocket launchers. About 8,000 Chinese automatic rifles, captured in Vietnam, have also been supplied.

There is growing disenchantment with the other powers of the region, particularly Thailand. Much was expected of this strongly anti-Communist neighbor, because of Thailand's evident interest in keeping the Vietnamese Communists from her borders.

But more than three months after Premier Lon Nol's appeal for help, Thailand has supplied only 10,000 pairs of black socks, 5,000 raincoats and 20,000 mosquito nets.

Thailand has also lent Cambodia five American-built propeller-driven T-28 light bombers while the United States overhauls, as part of the \$7.9-million aid program, the 14 T-28's of the Cambodian Air Force.

High Cambodian officials report no knowledge of a report yesterday that Thai planes had bombed a Communist arms depot on the Cambodian side of the border. It is believed that it

is more likely that the bombers were American planes stationed in Thailand.

Unhappiness over South Vietnamese disregard for Cambodian property is unabated. South Vietnamese sources concede that for many South Vietnamese soldiers Cambodia represents an opportunity to do to foreigners what others have done to them and to get for nothing what their low pay and inflated prices do not allow them to buy at home.

Behind the spreading gloom over the present situation lies a deeper fear. Highly placed Cambodians are becoming increasingly alarmed that a protracted war, allowing the enemy long-term control over large indefensible regions of the country, is increasingly turning a foreign invasion against a largely united nation into a budding civil war.

Sustained Communist pressure on inhabitants of occupied

zones, South Vietnamese excesses and American and South Vietnamese bombing of populated areas are believed to have as their inevitable result the rallying of Cambodians to the other side.

Convinced that the United States is Cambodia's principal hope, a group of Cambodian intellectuals has raised money through contributions to send to the United States four or five young men educated at American universities. Their mission will be to meet with as many Americans as they can and advance Cambodia's case.

A principal theme will be to persuade Americans that no matter what they think of the war in Vietnam and America's involvement, the case for Cambodia is that of a country that wanted peace and neutrality at almost any price but was invaded by a foreign power nonetheless and deserves the help of the world.