

# Rogers Meets Cambodian Foreign Chief

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 6 — The Cambodian Foreign Minister, Koun Wick, flew to Saigon from Pnompenh for a hastily arranged visit today at the invitation of Secretary of State William P. Rogers. During his five-hour stay he sought to explain his Government's political, military and economic problems to allied leaders here.

Mr. Koun Wick, who became Foreign Minister last week in the regime of Premier Lon Nol, conferred at a lunch with the foreign ministers of the allied countries engaged in the Indochina war. Then he spent an hour and a half with Mr. Rogers at the United States Embassy residence here outlining Cambodia's needs for military and economic assistance.

United States officials said that Mr. Rogers, in inviting Mr. Koun Wick last night to come to Saigon, sought to emphasize the concern of the Nixon Administration for the survival of a neutral and non-Communist Government in Cambodia.

United States officials said that Mr. Koun Wick, in his conference with Mr. Rogers, had stressed Cambodia's immediate need for equipment and uniforms for her army, which has grown from 35,000 to 120,000 men in the rapid build-up that followed the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State last March.

The Cambodian minister was quoted as having said that arms and clothing were needed for 85,000 men. He also was said to have relayed in general terms to Mr. Rogers his Government's requirements for economic aid to replace the revenues lost through the destruction of rubber plantations during the allied incursions into the Communist sanctuaries near the Vietnamese border and the loss of foreign tourism as a result of this war.

Mr. Rogers replied, according to American officials, that there were political and budgetary limitations on United States aid to Cambodia, but that Washington would do its utmost to provide assistance.

The Cambodian minister also raised with Mr. Rogers the problem of Thai military assistance, which remains unresolved despite lengthy discussions between United States and Thai diplomats at last week's session of the ministerial council of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization in Manila and during the conference of allied foreign ministers here this week.

It was understood that the most probable solution would be the transfer from South Vietnam to eastern Thailand of about one-third of the Thai infantry division that, financed by the United States, has been operating in this country.

Under this tentative plan, which would not require any major new American aid, the Thai troops would be deployed along the border with Cambodia and engage in strikes into Cambodia whenever this might be required by Communist activity.

Mr. Koun Wick was flown from Pnompenh to Saigon and back again on a twin-engine U-21 aircraft of the United States Air Force. Marshall Green, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, returned here later from a three-day fact-finding mission in Pnompenh for Mr. Rogers.

Today's conference between Mr. Rogers and Mr. Koun Wick and Mr. Green's Pnompenh mission constituted the first direct high-level contacts between the

United States and Cambodia since the ouster of Prince Sihanouk on March 18 and the subsequent incursions into Cambodian territory by American and South Vietnamese forces.

This was the final day of Mr. Rogers's three-day visit to South Vietnam as part of his lengthy Asian tour. In company with the foreign ministers of Australia, South Korea, Thailand and South Vietnam, he began the day with a flying visit to Baxuyen Province in the Mekong Delta to inspect the progress of the pacification program.

The ministers and scores of their aides spent three hours under a burning sun trudging through rice paddy fields and listening to local officials and military officers describe their programs.

Baxuyen Province, on the shore of the South China Sea, and the village of Phutam are regarded as showcases of economic progress and relative safety from Vietcong guerrillas.

But two helicopters and a spotter plane hovered overhead, armed United States and South Vietnamese soldiers escorted the visitors, and State Department security agents with submachineguns closely followed Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Ambassador Elsworth Bunker and other American officials as they toured the hamlets comprising Phutam village.