

# Cambodia Gloomy on Thai Troop Aid

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— Cambodian officials who took part in the first round of talks today between Premier Lon Nol of Cambodia and Premier Thanom Kittikachorn of Thailand expressed pessimism that there would be any significant increase in Thai aid to Cambodia.

At the same time, a high Thai official, who declined to be identified, confirmed that no change in the Thai position was now expected. He said that Thailand would send ground troops to Cambodia only if there was a direct threat to Thailand by the Vietnamese Communists or if there was a danger that the Communists might overthrow the Government of Lieut. Gen. Lon Nol.

## U.S. Attitude a Factor

The official stressed that General Lon Nol had described the situation of his country and his Government in confident terms in his talks with Marshal Thanom and other high Thai officials. The Cambodian Premier arrived this morning on his first trip from his country since he and his associates deposed Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State on March 18. He is scheduled to return to Cambodia tomorrow.

The Thai official strongly indicated that a key factor in Bangkok's reluctance to commit herself to the defense of

her hard-pressed neighbor was American unwillingness to underwrite the cost.

He said that the United States had wanted Thai troops to take part in the war in Vietnam to give it a "semblance of an allied effort." To help to persuade Thailand, he said, the United States offered to pay a share of the cost. "In the future it's up to them again," he said, referring to the conflict in Cambodia.

The largely negative Thai attitude was expressed tonight in a toast pronounced by Marshal Thanom at a dinner for Premier Lon Nol. The Thai leader said:

## Firmer Pledge Sought

"In the light of this morning's discussions between Your Excellency and myself, the Thai Government has under serious consideration other measures that may become necessary to meet the mounting Communist onslaughts and to stem the tide of aggression."

Gen. Lon Nol had come here in the hope of a firmer commitment and one that, similar to the South Vietnamese intervention, would engage Thai troops in Cambodia.

Thai officials stressed that Thailand would continue to help Cambodia. The Thai Air Force flies reconnaissance and tactical support missions over northwest Cambodia, although Thailand refuses to acknowledge the latter role. Thailand

also plans to train and send to Cambodia 2,000 to 3,000 ethnic Cambodians for incorporation into Cambodia's army. One-third of the first contingent of regular Cambodian troops to be trained in Thailand arrived over the weekend at training bases in southeast Thailand.

Thailand is also sending uniforms and equipment as well as medical support.

## Thanat Explains Thai Aid

BANGKOK, July 22 (Reuters)—Foreign Minister Thanat Khotman told reporters today that Thailand had promised to give Cambodia all necessary military aid but had not promised to send troops. Mr. Thanom said the Thai Government promised all the help it could give Cambodia without entering into any written agreement.

## U. S. Role is Defended

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, July 22 (AP)—Maj. Gen. Sisowath Siri Matak, Cambodia's Deputy Premier, declared today that "if the United States had not intervened we would be in a very desperate position now."

"Events here have not been well understood in America," he said in an interview. "When President Nixon decided to intervene, opinion in the United States thought it was aggression. As a matter of fact, it was not. The true aggression was by the North Vietnamese and Vietcong."