

Cambodian Says Only Aid From U.S. Will Bar Defeat

By IVER PETERSON
Special to The New York Times

AUG 6 1970

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Aug. 5—One of Premier Lon Nol's closest advisers said today that the Cambodian Government could last only six months more without important military and economic aid, principally from the United States.

He added that Washington was "morally and materially responsible" for the situation in which Cambodia finds herself.

Sim Var, a member of General Lon Nol's six-man Political Council and a Deputy, added that the Vietcong and North Vietnamese were rushing to encircle Pnompenh and cause its economic collapse before help could be delivered.

The United States, Mr. Sim Var said, has an obligation to assist Cambodia in her worsening military situation because the American incursion into Communist sanctuaries in the spring pushed the enemy into the countryside and toward the capital.

"So it should not be forgotten," he said, "that the United States is to a certain degree responsible for the war in Cambodia. In my opinion, they should therefore help us."

Mr. Sim Var, who spoke in French during an interview, stressed that his country wanted only military equipment and arms—not troops—in addition to economic aid. He added that the five-month-old Government had recently submitted a new aid request to Washington but he declined to give details.

The worst problem Cambodia faces, he said, is economic, although that problem is closely tied to the military situation. Pnompenh's food supply is dwindling, he added, as the Communists continue to inter-

rupt road and river transport, and prices have been rising slightly in the last two months.

At the same time, he went on, the population of Pnompenh has nearly doubled to 1.1 million people because of an influx of refugees from the countryside who, in better times, raised food for the city.

According to Mr. Sim Var, only two of the seven roads leading into Pnompenh are open and supplies cannot be brought in as quickly as they are consumed.

Military aid is essential, he asserted, if the Cambodian Army is to reopen the roads and keep the Communists out of the capital region. Enemy forces are now operating in strength in an arc about 40 miles to the north, west and south.

Throughout the conversation Mr. Sim Var reiterated his belief that the United States was withholding aid because the American people mistakenly considered the fighting here part of the Vietnam war, from which they want to withdraw. It is an argument frequently made here, by officials intent on showing that Cambodia has a separate claim on American sympathy and support.

"The United States is tired of fighting in Vietnam because it is a civil war—Vietnamese fighting Vietnamese," Mr. Sim Var said. "But here it is not so. We have been invaded by foreigners, and if the [South] Vietnamese fought like the Cambodians, the Vietnam war would have been over in two years."

Mr. Sim Var said he was not hopeful of receiving aid from Thailand, explaining: "The Thais give us a lot of support, but only with words. When they suddenly find the VC at their door, perhaps they will react."