

Agnew Briefs President, Sees Hope for Lon Nol

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Sept. 1—Vice President Agnew said here today that the Cambodian Government "has at least a fighting chance for survival" as a result of the United States and South Vietnamese assault on Communist border sanctuaries.

But the Vice President, speaking to reporters on the lawn outside the Western White House, said that the United States regarded the Government of Premier Lon Nol as that of a neutral, not an ally.

Mr. Agnew made the comments moments after he briefed President Nixon on his tour of five Asian nations, from which he returned here today. The President asked him to make a similar report to former President Lyndon B. Johnson tomorrow in Johnson City, Tex., before returning to Washington.

In his optimistic report to Mr. Nixon, the Vice President said that Asian allies had been "uniformly reassured" by the Cambodian operation.

"The Cambodian situation seems to be developing very well," he said. "A nation that had virtually no chance before the cleaning out of the sanctuaries now has at least a fighting chance for survival."

First Such Statement

It was the first official indication that United States concern for the survival of the Lon Nol Government was a consideration in the joint military operation against the Communist sanctuaries last May and June. President Nixon said throughout the offensive that it was aimed at enhancing the security of the United States combat forces in South Vietnam as they withdrew.

At the end of their meeting, the President and Mr. Agnew chatted about the rest that the Vice President plans in Ocean City, Md., over the Labor Day weekend.

"I'll give you a golf ball," said Mr. Nixon, handing the Vice President a ball bearing a

Presidential seal. "It's for putting only."

The Vice President, who has been known to occasionally hit a golf partner with a ball, replied: "I have some that say 'You have just been hit by . . . and then I sign it.'"

Mr. Nixon told the Vice President that his arduous journey to South Korea, Nationalist China, South Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand was "sort of a trial run" for the Congressional campaign, in which Mr. Agnew is to be the leading White House spokesman.

Then the President patted Mr. Agnew on the arm and said: "You've had enough work to do. Now go rest."

Cambodian Demands Pullout

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Sept. 1—Koun Wick, Cambodia's Foreign Minister, said today that he foresaw no solution of the war here short of a total withdrawal of enemy troops from Cambodia.

"Our problem is very simple—we have been attacked by foreign troops," he said at a news conference here. "The solution to our problem is very simple—that is, they have to get out of Cambodia; that is all."

Mr. Koun Wick spoke in English.

Asked whether negotiations with the enemy could begin before a withdrawal of Communist forces, he replied: "The aggressors came to Cambodia uninvited and they have to leave Cambodia. There is no question of negotiations."

"We leave the door open for peace, but what kind of negotiations can we have?" he said at another point.

The Foreign Minister also disclosed that he would lead a Cambodian delegation to the conference on nonaligned nations at Lusaka, Zambia, next Tuesday. A delegation from the government in exile of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Chief of State, is also expected to seek to represent Cambodia at the conference.

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BRIEFING AT THE WESTERN WHITE HOUSE: President Nixon and Vice President Agnew meeting with newsmen in San Clemente, Calif., after Mr. Agnew reported to the President on his five-nation Asian tour last week.