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Sihanouk's Plans for Exile Regime

Hong Kong

The Peking-based government-in-exile of Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced steps yesterday to transfer itself gradually to Cambodia.

According to Hsinhua, the Communist Chinese news agency, seven persons now fighting in Cambodia against the Lon Nol government (which ousted Sihanouk as chief of state last March) have been named vice ministers in the rebel government.

Hsinhua, quoting a statement issued by Prince Sihanouk's political organization, the National United Front of Kampuchea, and the exile government, said that several ministries will be transferred into Cambodia soon. "In this way," the statement said, "the United Front and the exile regime will install, step by step, the whole government there."

According to the statement, more than two-thirds of Cambodian territory and nearly three million of the seven million Cambodians are now under control of the rebels.

Hsinhua, in a dispatch from Hanoi, also reported yesterday that revolutionary governments have been set up in 80 of 103 villages in the key Cambodian provinces of Kandal, which surrounds Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, and Takeo, to the south, adjoining the South Vietnamese border.