

# Cambodian Officials Attach Reservations to Lon Nol

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Oct. 14—Authoritative Cambodian sources attached reservations today to the Government's endorsement of President Nixon's peace proposal for Indochina.

While asserting that Cambodia supported all efforts to end the hostilities in Vietnam and Laos as well as here, the sources said that Premier Lon Nol's approval was not unqualified.

The Cambodian reservations are centered on Mr. Nixon's

expressed willingness to order a cease-fire that would leave all troops in the positions they hold at that moment.

The sources said that this could have only limited application to Cambodia because of the essential difference between the situation here and that in Vietnam and Laos. The difference, as officials see it, is that there are civil wars under way in the other countries, with the existence of opposing factions recognized in internation-

al agreements, but that is not the case here.

The officials emphasize that the war here is purely a result of the invasion by North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops.

In the absence of contrary evidence, that view is admitted even by diplomats whose governments openly support Prince Norodom Sihanouk's contention that a "Cambodian liberation army" has taken the field against the Government forces as well as by those whose gov-

ernments have taken equivocal positions.

The Government is determined to forestall any agreement that would carry even implied recognition of the right of Vietnamese Communist troops to be in Cambodia. For that reason, the public endorsements of the President's proposal have been accompanied with phrases to the effect that the Government would have to study the technicalities of the application of a cease-fire in place.

The sources said that Cam-

SDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1970

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## Government's Endorsement of Nixon Peace Plan

bodia could accept a cease-fire only if it carried an assurance that it would be followed directly by a long-term agreement removing all foreign troops—Communist as well as non-Communist vietnamese.

### Approval in Advance

The sources indicated that Pnompenh was not retracting its general approval of Mr. Nixon's peace offer, which was given before he disclosed it in his address a week ago, but that it wanted its approval to be understood in that light.

The Cambodian leaders drew encouragement from Mr. Nixon's emphasis on the application of the terms of the Geneva agreement of 1954 as a basis for a peace settlement. In their view, the Geneva accord recognizes Cambodia's independence, neutrality and territorial integrity and thus meets all of Premier Lon Nol's demands. Cambodia's endorsement of the President's plan, despite her reservations, are based on this assessment.

The Cambodian officials affirm in their conversations with official visitors that they feel that there is no military solution and that their emphasis remains on the search for a political settlement. The Nixon proposal, while not greeted here with optimism, is considered a move in that direction, since it calls for a broad conference to resolve the entire Indo-China situation.

Meanwhile, the military command is eager to profit by the

lull in enemy activity and the steady increase in Cambodian combat forces to extend Government control in areas contested by small marauding Vietnamese Communist units.

Officers believe that it is possible now for the Government to place an effective hold on regions south of here and around the beleaguered towns of Siemreap and Kompong Thom to forestall any enemy claim to occupy them in case of a cease-fire in place.