

A270

lbylcczsc

TOKYO AP - Prince Norodom Sihanouk, ousted last spring as Cambodia's head of state, charged Monday that the government of Premier Lon Nol is abandoning Cambodian border provinces to South Vietnam.

In a broadcast made in Peking and monitored here, Sihanouk claimed Cambodia was occupied by "several ten thousand" South Vietnamese troops and hundreds of frontier villages were taken over by Vietnamese families on orders of the Saigon government.

Sihanouk was deposed by Lon Nol and has established a government-in-exile in Peking.

In his 13th message issued from Peking, Sihanouk said, "Lon Nol asserted that his government had officially protested against the Vietnamization of Cambodia. But the day after his protest, Lon Nol himself begged his masters in Saigon to colonize the country by sending more South Vietnamese troops to Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom provinces."

In Saigon, South Vietnamese headquarters said Sunday it had withdrawn 1,500 men from Cambodia after completing a border operation in the fishhook area about 80 miles north of Saigon. According to the command figures, this reduced South Vietnamese strength in Cambodia to 8,500 troops.

Sihanouk said Lon Nol deceived Cambodians by claiming the country was being invaded by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong but instead these were "demonstrations of our youth demanding my return to Cambodia as head of state."

He appealed to Cambodians to support his exile government "against the regime of the usurpers and traitors."

dd834pes Jan. 3