

Lon Nol, Ending Visit in Saigon Reaches Accords

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Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 21—Ending a two-day visit here, Premier Lon Nol of Cambodia announced agreements today to expand relations and reduce tensions with South Vietnam.

But financial disagreements between the two allies were left unresolved.

Speaking in French, the Premier said at a news conference before departing that he would soon send back a Cambodian delegation to sign accords recognizing the common border and expanding telecommunications, transport, tourism and the joint use of the Mekong River by the traditionally uneasy neighbors. The two countries restored relatives only a half year ago upon the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State of Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk had broken relations in 1964.

Financial Talks Planned

The Premier, who was dressed in a light gray suit and matching tie, also announced agreement with the South Vietnamese on establishment of a mixed commission to oversee the treatment by each nation of the other's nationals. The accord grew out of allegations that Cambodians had massacred Vietnamese and that South Vietnamese troops had raped and robbed Cambodians during military operations in Cambodia.

As for the financial issues outstanding between the two nations, the Premier said they

would be taken up later at a ministerial level.

The difficulties, which all but wrecked two previous meetings, concern demands by the South Vietnamese that the Cambodians pay the costs of the Saigon troops fighting in Cambodia and counterdemands by the Cambodians that Saigon pay debts dating to the end of the French colonial era in 1954. General Lon Nol said that the possibility of a joint Cambodian—South Vietnamese military command would be taken up at the ministerial level.

However, he repeated twice that "Cambodia will keep her neutrality." *SEE 21 JAN 71

He also announced that Cambodia was prepared to exchange 17 North Vietnamese and Vietcong prisoners for the 17 journalists missing in Cambodia and believed captured by anti-Government forces. In the past, the enemy has ignored such proposals. To discuss them would mean admitting that Communist forces were fighting in other countries.

More Copters Sought

Asked about American aid, the soft-spoken Premier said he could use more U.S. helicopters. "We would like to have plenty," he said.

But when asked about U.S. combat troops he replied, "The need is not felt yet."

The subject of American aid presumably came up when Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker and Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, the U.S. commander in Vietnam, called on the Premier this afternoon.

The Cambodian Premier occasionally pressing his palms together in the traditional Buddhist greeting, often thanked his South Vietnamese hosts for their "instruction" and noted, "we are neighboring countries and we have agreed we should not be squabbling."

NEW YORK TIMES, FRI



Associated Press

Premier Lon Nol at news conference in Saigon.