

24 APR 71
NYTimes

Cambodia Without a Premier For 4th Day as Lon Nol Confers

By HENRY KAMM
Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, April 23 — Cambodia remained without a government for a fourth day today as Gen. Lon Nol consulted with his medical and political advisers on whether to accept a renewed mandate to serve as Premier.

The general resigned on Tuesday for reasons of health. A stroke has left his left side paralyzed and he also suffers from diabetes and chronic high blood pressure.

An American physician who came here to examine him has found him doing well under the circumstances and capable of giving one hour a day to the work of government.

She was reliably reported to have found her patient enthusiastic about the program of therapeutic exercises she had prescribed.

General Lon Nol's brother, Lieut. Col. Lon Non, said in an interview tonight that the general's political advisers, whom he summoned yesterday, met with him today and counseled him to accept the premiership again.

Brother Is Confident

The colonel said that his brother would also submit the issue to his military associates before announcing his decision.

Colonel Lon Non expressed a firm belief that his brother would accept the office proposed to him by Chief of State Cheng Heng on Wednesday.

The colonel, who heads a group of officers with commands in the Pnompenh area, has made clear his reluctance to accept any other solution to the crisis. There are conflicting opinions on whether he could effectively oppose a settlement that he considered undesirable.

According to reliable sources,

the United States would not continue its military and economic aid to Cambodia if it were governed by a junta of colonels. Colonel Lon Non said in an interview yesterday that he planned no coupe d'état.

The sources also reported that the United States would be pleased with a government in which General Lon Nol continued to lend his prestige and popularity to the premiership while the daily work of government were done by Lieut. Gen. Sisowath Sirik Matak, the Deputy Premier.

General Sirik Matak, who resigned his title of prince last year, is considered by Westerners here an easier and more practical man to work with than the more mystical and therefore difficult general.

General Sirik Matak has not gone to his office since the Cabinet resigned, but he continues to conduct daily affairs of government from his home.

Reports from informed diplomatic sources indicate that General Sirik Matak insists that his authority be clearly established before he accepts the position of deputy to a Premier working only one hour a day.

Ministers in the Dark

There are unconfirmed reports that he wants stringent limits put on the activities of Colonel Lon Non.

During the present uncertainty, the former Cabinet ministers are among those most in the dark. They continue to conduct urgent business but are without a hint of their future. Colonel Lon Non and his associates want all of them dismissed.