

Latest Cambodian Candidate Doesn't Seem Hopeful

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, May 2—Brig Gen. In Tam made clear today his willingness to become Cambodia's Premier, but after a day of consultations he returned home tired and apparently discouraged.

The general said he hoped to see Gen. Lon Nol tomorrow to get his approval, but added, "One can't guess what his intentions are."

General In Tam, the fourth person whom Chief of State Cheng Heng has asked to end the 13-day government crisis, is the first to try actively to form a government. But in the absence of explicit approval by General Lon Nol, whose resignation for reasons of health caused the crisis, General In Tam appears unwilling to take the post.

Lon Non Is Intermediary

Because of General Lon Nol's condition following a stroke suffered last February, he has been all but incommunicado to political figures. His younger brother, Lieut. Col. Lon Non, has acted as intermediary, and apparently is taking an important part in the formation of a government.

Colonel Lon Non is supported by a group of colonels and majors who command sizable forces around Pnompenh and is the leader of what he calls youth and the intellectual élite.

While not openly objecting to General In Tam, Colonel Lon Non indicated in an interview today that he saw the general, who is also President of the National Assembly, as a possible means of solving the crisis but not necessarily as Premier.

The Premier-designate and the colonel met last night in the residence of Mr. Cheng Heng. General In Tam asked the colonel to convey to General Lon Nol his "respectful wishes" to a man "whom I will always consider as a brother."

Lon Nol Policies Endorsed

In a meeting with newsmen today, General In Tam said he sent assurances to General Lon Nol that a government he might form would always be within the general's political line.

Colonel Lon Non said he delivered General In Tam's words to his brother, who he said, acknowledged them with a movement of his head. General Lon Nol remains partly paralyzed.

Colonel Lon Non, who has wanted his brother to continue as Premier despite his illness, conceded today that this would not be possible. However, he published a statement suggesting a temporary arrangement in which his brother would hold a vital Government role and would take on a greater role when his health was restored.

In an unusual interview published by the official press agency, whose director is close to Colonel Lon Non, the colonel was reported as having said:

"It is therefore logical and wise to give the general the time to rest and to recover completely before he resumes the burdensome missions con-



Associated Press

Brig. Gen. In Tam on recent visit to troops near Romlich

ferred upon him by the nation. Moreover, in his quality as the elder, General Lon Nol could be the supreme counselor of the new government."

In a conversation today, the colonel referred to a meeting last Friday of youth groups that implicitly rejected such men as General In Tam as leaders. He

said that while these views of youth had to be considered, they did not constitute an absolute bar to the general.

General In Tam today questioned Colonel Lon Non's right to speak for Cambodian youth as though it were a clearly defined political grouping whose views one man could express. He said young people had come to him, too, during the crisis and asked him to ally themselves with him in the struggle against corruption and inefficient government.

"We must find out what youth really wants," he said in an impromptu press conference on the porch of his modest house on the road to Pochentong Airport.

A Farm Background

The general spoke in fluent French, his voice rusty with a cold. A sheep strained at its tether below, and geese waddled among the children and chickens in the yard. Clusters of soldiers of the First Military Region, which General In Tam commands, lolled in the yard. "I have no ambition to be Prime Minister," said the general. "But I am looking for a way out of this crisis."

In the morning, General In Tam met with 30 or 40 members of the 80-member National Assembly who informally approved of his candidacy. Last night, he called on Lieut. Gen. Sisowath Sirik Matak, after General Lon Nol the most powerful political personality in Cambodia.

General In Tam said that General Sirik Matak, who turned down the premiership last Friday, had urged him to end the crisis and offered to serve as his counselor when he became Premier.