

CAMBODIA IS PUT UNDER EMERGENCY

NYTimes

Premier Says New Cabinet Will Rule by 'Ordinance'—'Fifth Column' Warned

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By United Press International

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Oct. 20—Premier Lon Nol declared a state of emergency today and appointed a new Government to rule by "ordinance" rather than by constitutional law. He said he would no longer "play the game of democracy and freedom" since it stood in the way of victory in wartime.

The Premier, in a nationwide broadcast following a silent protest by Buddhists against the suspension of the National Assembly last Saturday, appealed for unity but also issued a veiled threat against dissenters.

'Curtail Anarchic Freedom'

"Recently certain groups have launched acts aimed at creating confusion," he said. "There is a fifth column at work."

He continued: "Should we vainly play the game of democracy and freedom that will lead us to complete defeat or should we curtail anarchic freedom in order to achieve victory? The Government has made its decision. We have selected the way that will bring

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us to victory."

Gen. Lon Nol came to power in March, 1970, when he ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State. Since then, the National Assembly has largely been an ineffective body.

Today the Premier announced that from now on the Government would rule by "ordinance"—by its own laws and not by the Constitution—under what he termed "a state of emergency."

Under the Constitution, the declaration of a state of emergency must be approved by the National Assembly, but the Premier stripped the Assembly of all powers.

As a result, the constitutional provision that a new



Associated Press

Premier Lon Nol

government must be approved by the Assembly also was not expected to be honored. This meant, in effect, that Premier Lon Nol could select whom-ever he wanted.

Four New Ministers

The new Government included all the former Cabinet Ministers and four new men—one of them from the military. One of the new members, Tim Nguon, has more power than the other Ministers. Mr. Tim Nguon—a relative of Sisowath Sirik Matak, who has been "Premier Delegate" since Premier Lon Nol suffered a stroke in February—replaced In Tam, who was ousted three weeks ago. Mr. In Tam has been the main opponent to the Premier's suspension of the Assembly.

The other new Ministers are May Lay Jhem, a banker who serves as Commerce Minister; Gen. Thappana Ngin, a close confidant of Premier Lon Nol, who becomes Minister of the Interior, and Chhan Sokhum, a former Education Minister who also will deal with industry and commerce. Their appointment appeared to be aimed at improving the economic situation in the country.

Government sources said the new Cabinet was also expected to crack down on local newspapers, many of which have been objecting to the action against the Assembly.

Information Minister Long Boret said at a news conference that the Premier's remarks about a "fifth column" did not mean that National Assembly deputies were suspected of being members of the Vietcong.

No U.S. Comment

The United States Embassy had no official comment on the political developments, although it was reported to be hopeful that economic reforms it had been urging will move more smoothly without the assembly.

Premier Lon Nol, who spent two months in Honolulu for treatment after his stroke in February, is a semi-invalid. He resigned last April because of ill health, but after a two-week government crisis he agreed to become titular Premier of a Government in which Lieut. Gen. Sirik Matak would exert active executive power.

On Saturday, When Premier Lon Nol acted against the Assembly, three of the Deputies, including Mr. In Tam, refused to accept the action, which they termed illegal. But 59 Deputies signed a petition saying they supported the Government in stripping the body of its powers.

Today, some 4,000 Buddhist monks held a demonstration protesting the action against the National Assembly and asked Premier Lon Nol to "rectify the state of affairs." The monks stayed in their pagodas.

The police and soldiers moved into the area of the 18 pagodas and urged the monks not to take to the streets.

Comment by Washington

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20 — State Department officials said today that Premier Lon Nol had been compelled to dissolve the National Assembly under terms of the Cambodian Constitution, which provides for only a one-year extension of an Assembly. The last extension expired on Monday.

In the view of the officials, the Premier's filling of two vacancies in his Cabinet and the addition of two other Cabinet members did not involve a major change in his Government.