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Rebels' U.S.-Made Guns Shell Landing Strip Near Phnom Penh

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, March 5—Cambodian insurgents heavily shelled this capital's airport today and for the first time used artillery as well as the less accurate rockets they had long been firing.

The shelling, the heaviest since the offensive began on New Year's Day, disrupted operations at Pochentong Airport, Phnom Penh's last link with the outside world.

By evening, more than 35 shells had fallen on the airport, which is about five miles west of the center of Phnom Penh. Six were identified as artillery rounds, and military sources said there might be more.

[An American DC-8 was slightly damaged by rocket fire at dusk, shortly after arriving at Pochentong from Saigon with a cargo of rice, American officials in the South Vietnamese capital reported. They said the plane, which was chartered by the United States Government, was able to return to Saigon safely.]

The rest were the usual 107-mm. Chinese-made rockets, which are not accurate. The shells, which fell on the run-

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ways, around the terminal, in the parking lot and on a road, kept passengers and ground crews scrambling for cover. One person was reported killed.

The insurgents' use of captured American-made 105-mm. guns emplaced northwest of the airport raised concern at the United States Embassy and the Cambodian command.

The insurgents in previous offensives severed highway supply lines to Thailand, South Vietnam and the sea.

In this dry-season they have used mortars and guns to cut a major route, which carries 80 per

cent of the country's exports. The government has several posts along the river, open to the sea.

Phnom Reap, a provincial capital about 200 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, student riots erupted in protest against soaring prices.

Premier Long Boret said at a news conference that neither President Lon Nol nor anyone else in the Government would step down unless the insurgents gave a guarantee that such a move would lead to peace talks.

The remark appeared directed at speculation, set off by the American Embassy last weekend during a visit by a 13-member Congressional delegation, that Marshal Lon Nol was willing to step down for the cause of peace.

The premier also seemed to dispute a prediction by the White House a week ago that if Congress did not grant additional military aid, Phnom Penh would fall "in less than a month."

Asked whether he agreed with the President's assessment, Mr. Long Boret said: "I would not say that Phnom Penh would fall, but there would be more bloodshed."