

Secret Bid Related On Cambodia Talks

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ANKARA, Turkey, March 10

—The State Department was reported today to have turned down a proposal by the American Embassy in Phnom Penh to try to make diplomatic contacts with local Cambodian Communists last spring because such an effort might have interfered with a secret attempt to start negotiations with the former Cambodian leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

[In Peking, Prince Sihanouk said Monday that Mr. Kissinger had made no attempt to get in touch with him in the last four years.]

In response to a query put to the traveling Kissinger party,

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'74 CAMBODIA BID BY U.S. REPORTED

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The New York Times was told today that Secretary of State Kissinger was at that time planning to seek the creation of a Laos-style government in Cambodia, with Prince Sihanouk serving as the head of a government in which the Communists, the so-called Khmer Rouge, and members of the present Phnom Penh Government, headed by President Lon Nol would participate.

An article from Phnom Penh in The New York Times yesterday reported that ambassador John Gunther Dean was rebuffed by Mr. Kissinger when he proposed that peace feelers be made to the insurgents because Washington did not believe the military situation was propitious.

Mr. Kissinger's thinking, as related today, was that the best hope for a negotiated solution lay in combining the three major political forces in Cambodia into a coalition. But Mr. Kissinger has never been very optimistic that any negotiations would produce results after Congress halted the American bombing in 1973.

No Contacts, Says Sihanouk

By JOHN BURNS

The Globe and Mail, Toronto

PEKING, Tuesday, March 11—

Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday that Secretary of State Kissinger had made no attempt to contact him during Mr. Kissinger's seven visits here in the last four years.

Mr. Kissinger compounded the offense, Prince Sihanouk said, by telling Chinese officials during his visit here in November that the United States would not accept a Khmer Rouge Government in Phnom Penh because they were puppets of the North Vietnamese.

The Prince said he had publicly expressed willingness at an earlier stage of the conflict to negotiate with the United States.

Compromise Spurned

The Ford Administration is deluding itself, Prince Sihanouk said, if it believes the argument it has made to Congress in its pleas for additional arms shipments to the beleaguered Government in Phnom Penh—that the arms will buy time for fresh efforts toward a negotiated peace.

In an interview in his Peking residence, the Prince said that a discussion he held last night with one of the leaders of the Communist Khmer Rouge was marked by a common resolve not to accept a compromise settlement whatever decision Congress made about arms supplies.

"We will never accept any compromise—never, never," the Prince declared. "We prefer to die. We will not accept any dictate from the United States or from anybody else."

The 52-year-old Prince also dismissed the Ford Administration's argument that there will be a bloodbath in Phnom Penh if the insurgents capture the city.

Assurances Renewed

He said that at last night's talks Ieng Sary, a high-ranking Communist who acts as a liaison officer between insurgent leaders at the battlefield and the Prince, had renewed assurances that all but a handful of top figures in the Government of Marshal Lon Nol would receive humane treatment.

"The Khmer Rouge has declared very solemnly before the whole world that it will not conduct any bloodbath when it enters Phnom Penh unless the anti-Communists there resist with weapons," the Prince said. "Otherwise the Khmer Rouge is ready to pardon everybody except seven people."

These seven, whom the insurgents have already announced they intend to execute, include Lon Nol and his Premier, Long Boret, Gen. Sos-thene Fernandez, the armed forces commander, and Lieut. Gen. Sisowath Sirik Matak, a cousin of the Prince who serves as special adviser to Lon Nol. The others are In Tam, a former Premier, Cheng Heng, Lon Nol's predecessor as President, and Son Ngoc Thanh, an army general accused of treason by the insurgents for leading Cambodian troops into battle against Communist forces in South Vietnam.

Washington's Move

Prince Sihanouk said that it was up to Washington to end the suffering it had caused by allowing the Phnom Penh Government to collapse. This was what American public opinion wanted, he said, but he doubted that Congress would persevere in its refusal to vote the additional aid sought by the Administration.

"The war can be ended in a few days after a negative decision of the Congress," he declared, "but I do not believe that the Congress will follow the wise advice of the people of America."

If new arms funds were voted, he said, Washington could prop up the Phnom Penh Government for a few more months, possibly into next year, but not indefinitely. In the meantime, he continued, much of whatever arms assistance might be given would pass quickly into the hands of the insurgents, who were now relying heavily on captured American weapons.

"The more arms and ammunition President Ford gives to Lon Nol the better we will be equipped," he said.