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plan to flee

Cambodia

Examiner News Services

PHNOM PENH — President Lon Nol has decided to leave Cambodia to better the chances for U.S. aid to his country, reliable sources close to the president said yesterday.

The reports came as Cheng Heng, the No. 2 man on the Khmer Rouge death list, flew with his family to Paris and insurgent forces dug in seven miles from Phnom Penh after penetrating the northern defense perimeter.

The sources said the Cambodian president will leave the capital "in a few days," possibly as early as Tuesday, for visits to Indonesia, Japan and Hawaii. They did not say when or if he would return.

The sources said his trip

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tery and rockets that landed on Pochentong Airport, killing one person and injuring 14 others.

As the civilian-flown U.S. cargo planes arrived at the airport, Cheng Heng boarded a plane for Paris, ostensibly for "Medical treatment."

Also at the airport, a light plane carrying a South Vietnamese major, Lieutenant and sergeant believed to have been involved in an abortive coup in Saigon several days ago arrived, source surces said. They said the three were taken in by the South Vietnamese Embassy, but no other de-

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to Hawaii, where he received medical treatment following a stroke several years ago, could be described as an "unofficial visit."

State Department officials in Washington would not comment on the reports.

Both Cheng Heng and Lon Nol are on the seven-name death list of persons the insurgents have vowed to execute if they come to power.

The American airlift of vital food, fuel and ammunition — the lone source of supply for Phnom Penh — continued yesterday despite at least 30 rounds of artil-

Two government positions on the northwest defense perimeter of Phnom Penh were abandoned by about 1,500 troops, according to military field reports.

Retreating from the villages of Kap Srauv and Prey Thom, less than seven miles from Phnom Penh, the troops called in air strikes to destroy what they couldn't take with them. The insur-

military maps there, disclosed that the government controls only a 3½ mile stretch of the river, where the Mekong curves to the

gents reportedly were driven back slightly at a later time.

Elsewhere, it was learned that government forces have conceded large portions of the east bank of the Mekong River, directly opposite the capital, to the insurgents. It has been believed that the insurgents had only gained a foothold on the east bank.

But a visit to the east bank and an inspection of

east. When asked about the rest of the east bank, a local field commander said, "That is the enemy territory."