

# Sihanouk Says He Will Step Down After Victory

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PARIS, April 14 (Reuters)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia affirmed in a broadcast interview today that he would withdraw from public life after the war ends.

Prince Sihanouk, speaking from his Peking residence, was interviewed by Radio Europe No. 1, a French-language station based in the Saar. He said he was not a Communist and would clash with the Khmer Rouge insurgents if they brought him to power in Cambodia.

"After victory, I seriously believe I will retire," he said. "I was placed on the Cambodian throne at the age of 18½ and I am now 52½. I think

## In Radio Interview, He Sees No Role in Phnom Penh Under a Red Regime

I have amply served my country.

"I am not a Khmer Rouge, I am not a Communist and I do not understand communism, but the Khmer Rouge have always recognized me as Cambodian chief of state.

"They have made me president of the Cambodian popular resistance, but that does not mean that I can see any role for myself after victory."

"Even if one thinks of a

sharing of power, there will be a clash. I am a very independent man.

"After victory, I will be chief of state and there will be an entirely Communist government and administration. So either I am a puppet of the Khmer Rouge or I remain independent and there will be trouble."

Prince Sihanouk's role in a new Cambodian Government has been the subject of speculation as his forces close in around Phnom Penh although he is titular head of the insurgents' Royal Government of National Union, the prince has acknowledged that there were few "Sihanoukists" in the rebel movement.