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SIHANOUK PLEDGES 'DEMOCRATIC' RULE

Prince Says a New Regime Would Not Be Communist

PEKING (Agence France-Presse), April 15 — Prince Norodom Sihanouk the exiled Cambodian leader, said here today that the government that would be installed in Phnom Penh after victory of the insurgents would be nonaligned, democratic and progressive, not Communist.

In a writen statement, the Prince said there would be no changes in the leadership of the Khmer National United Front, which he heads, nor in the Royal Cambodian Government of National Union.

He added that there would be parliamentary elections within a year or two. The Prince, nominal head of the Cambodian insurgents besieging Phnom Penh, said his forces controlled 97 per cent of the country.

He has lived in Peking since he was ousted in 1970.

The statement added:

"Following the liberation of Phnom Penh, the Khmer National Front regime that will be installed in our capital will make no changes among our present leaders. The Khmer Rouge leaders themselves have said that Norodom Sihanouk will remain head of state and the head of the Kmer National United Front.

"The Government will still be led by Premier Penn Nouth and Deputy Premier Khieu Samphan. Finally it must be made clear that Cambodia, ruled by the Khmer National United Front, will not be a Communist state but a democratic, progressive and nonaligned one."

Plans for Regime Reported

PARIS, April 15 UPI — A spokesman for Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today that Khieu Samphan, the insurgent leader, would head a new government in Phnom Penh once the Cambodian capital was controlled by the insurgents.

"As soon as our capital has been liberated, the Royal Government and its administration will move immediately to Phnom Penh to assume all national responsibilities," the spokesman said by telephone from Peking in an interview broadcast here.

Sentenced to Death in 1966

Mr. Khieu Samphan, a French-educated economist in his early forties, was once a member of the Government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. He broke with the Prince and was sentenced to death by him in 1966, but he escaped and disappeared into the jungle.

He is a Communist favored

by Peking but is also a nationalist. He has a reputation for integrity, incorruptibility and concern for the peasants. He is reported to be highly respected among non-Communist Cambodians.

Mr. Khieu Samphan, who is listed as Deputy Premier in the insurgent government, appears to be its top man. The Premier, Penn Nouth, who is old, ailing

and without power, stays in Peking with Prince Sihanouk.

Mr. Khieu Samphan is also listed as defense minister, commander in chief of the armed forces and a member of the Politburo of the Khmer Communist party. Western analysts generally believe that he is not actually the top leader of the party but shares significant power with others.