

# Rebels Take Over Inside Phnom Penh

## PHNOM

### Hong Kong

The Khmer Rouge insurgents swiftly set up headquarters in the captured city of Phnom Penh yesterday and invited all ministers and generals "who have not run away" to meet and "help formulate measures to restore order."

The United Nations said it received reports from its representatives in Cambodia that fighting stopped in Phnom Penh in mid-morning, about four hours after the city gave up amid tumultuous scenes of reconciliation and defeat.

The surrender of Phnom Penh apparently ended the fighting throughout the country after five years of war that had caused uncounted casualties among its seven million people. There were no reports of resistance elsewhere.

The fate of Premier Long Boret was unknown, but unconfirmed reports said he and other officials, including the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Sak Suthsakhon, had fled in a helicopter.

The Khmer Rouge commander, General Hem Ket Dara, established his headquarters in the Information Ministry building in Phnom Penh soon after the formal surrender.

White flags and banners flew from every building in the city welcoming the Khmer Rouge forces. Rebel troops embraced Cambodian soldiers and took them aboard their armored personnel carriers for a victory parade.

Government gunboats steamed up and down the Mekong and Tonle rivers, flying white flags and banners. An officer said the display of surrender flags was ordered by the Cambodian military command.

It was not known what happened to those who surrendered. A bloodbath by rebel forces has been a major fear in Phnom Penh.

Thailand sealed off its border with Cambodia, but at least 140 refugees managed to fly over the border in a variety of Cambodian aircraft.

At least two of the fallen government's cabinet ministers sought refuge in Bangkok — Foreign Minister Keuky Lim and Cultural Minister Long Botta.

About 2000 foreigners

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caught in the capital, including some Americans, took refuge in the Hotel Le Phnom under Red Cross protection. Many were reported sick and wounded.

The International Red Cross in Geneva said it had lost radio contact with the hotel, which was declared a neutral zone Wednesday.

The United States had evacuated all its diplomatic personnel and other Americans last weekend and closed its embassy.

Still unidentified rebel leaders in the heart of the capital went on radio Phnom Penh to demand the unconditional surrender of all troops and officials of the former government.

"We enter Phnom Penh as conquerors," said the first broadcast, five hours after the rebels claimed complete control of the capital.

Radio Phnom Penh said the ousted government's capital commander, General Chhim Chhuo; General Lon Non, brother of ex-President Lon Nol who now is in Hawaii in self imposed exile, and senior monks from Phnom Penh's largest pagodas responded to the surrender order.

Under white flags, they reported to the rebel-held Ministry of Information, a three-story cream building at the edge of a tree-lined boulevard in the center of the capital, the radio said.

On the sun-scorched grass in front of the ministry, the rebel commander of the northern sector of the nation — not identified by the broadcast — accepted their surrender.

*A.P. & U.P.*