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NYTimes

Rebels Set Up  
Phnom Penh Rule

## 5-YEAR WAR ENDS

### Former Aides Invited to Join Meetings on Restoring Order

By The Associated Press

The Cambodian Communists swiftly set up headquarters yesterday in Phnom Penh a few hours after the Cambodian capital was surrendered to them.

According to a broadcast monitored in Bangkok, Thailand, they invited all ministers and generals of the Phnom Penh military Government "who have not run away" to meet and help formulate measures to restore order.

White flags fluttering from downtown buildings signaled the end of the five-year Cambodian war. The Phnom Penh Government had surrendered at 9 A.M. (10 P.M. Wednesday New York time) as the attackers pressed on the city from all sides.

#### Communications Cease

Several hours after the surrender communications between Phnom Penh and the outside world ceased. There were reports that five American newsmen, among them Sydney H. Schanberg of The New York Times, were at the Hotel Le Phnom, which the International Committee of the Red Cross on Wednesday declared a neutral protected zone for the treatment of the sick and the wounded.

The last Associated Press dispatch, filed by Cambodian newsmen before 6 A.M. yesterday, New York time, or nearly eight hours after the surrender, reported that the streets were quiet. But earlier they had said that thousands of people had

stood on Phnom Penh's sidewalks waving their hands in greeting the Communist troops.

From windows and roofs people were said to have cheered and waved white strips of cloth as the black-clad troops walked triumphantly through the streets in groups of three or four.

#### Firing Into Air

There was some shooting, but it was said to have come from jubilant Communist soldiers firing into the air.

Army vehicles with loudspeakers toured the city an hour before the formal surrender instructing residents to display white flags.

About the same time, Premier Long Boret, who had been on a Communist list of "traitors," emerged sad-faced from his villa with Information Minister Thong Lim Hong. They went to Government headquarters, and aides said that the Premier would make a broadcast. But none was heard.

#### Premier Reported to Flee

What happened to the Premier after that was unclear. There were reports that he had fled in a helicopter. Military sources in Bangkok were quoted as having said that Mr. Long Boret flew from Phnom Penh to Kompong Chhnang north of the Cambodian capital.

There were rumors that he then went on to Thailand along with Gen. Sak Suthsakan, head of the Phnom Penh Govern-

The first Communist troops to enter Phnom Penh were said to have moved in from the north, parking their armored vehicles by the municipal stadium and strolling along a riverside boulevard by the Tonle Sap.

Government gunboats sailed up and down both the Tonle Sap and the Mekong River fly-

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ing white flags and banners. Communist troops reportedly embraced Government soldiers and lifted them aboard personnel carriers for a victory parade along the waterfront.

Unarmed soldiers in one armored personnel carrier drove along a boulevard shouting "Bravo!" and "Peace! Peace!"

Al Rockoff, a freelance American photographer, climbed on the hood of a jeep loaded with Communist-led soldiers, and the jeep drove up and down the streets.

Another group of 50 armed men drove up the Hotel Le Phnom in a truck, but the victorious soldiers did not try to enter it.

"The white flag means cease-fire," one officer said. He said the display of surrender flags was ordered by the Cambodian military command.

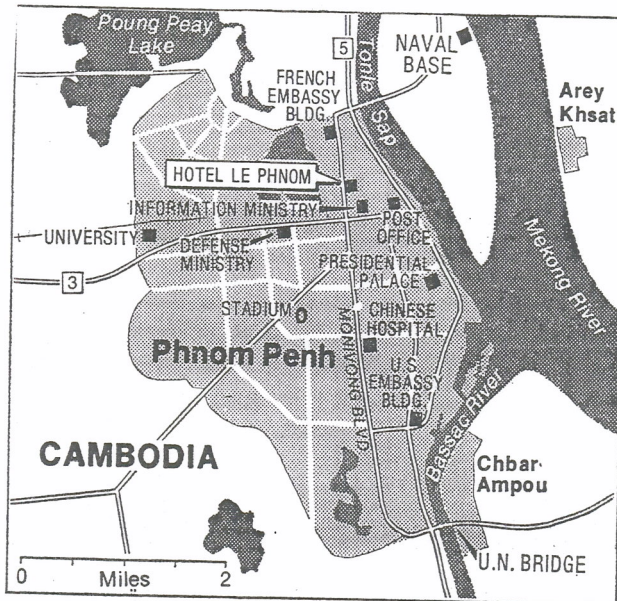
Three hours after the surrender, thousands of students paraded along the main boulevards, waving banners to greet the Communist force.

Soon thereafter, the Phnom Penh radio began broadcasting a message saying that talks between members of the surrendered military command and Communist leaders were beginning.

But the broadcast was interrupted by a Communist spokesman, who said Phnom Penh had been taken by force. "We did not come here to talk," he added.

An hour later the radio announced that "Gen. Chhim Chhuon, commander of the special Phnom Penh military region; Brig. Gen. Lon Non and the chief monks of the two Buddhist sects have come to meet with us."

It said that the Communist military commanders from fronts around the capital had joined the meeting and that others were on their way. General Lon Non is the younger



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brother of the former President, Lon Nol.

Gen. Sisowath Sirik Matak, one of the leaders of the coup that overthrew Prince Norodom Sihanouk five years ago, took refuge in the Hotel Le Phnom. With him were several other generals and Op Kin Ang, the vice president of General Sirik Matak's Republican party.

The Communist forces established their headquarters at the Information Ministry building, and the leader of the victorious Hem Ket Dara, announced that he was taking command of the city. He said that henceforth the Cambodian Communists would be known as the National Movement Front.

### Thailand Seals Border

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 17 (UPI)—Thailand sealed her border with Cambodia today after the surrender of Phnom Penh, but refugees managed to fly into the country on Cambodian aircraft.

The refugees came in a C-123

transport, propeller-driven T-28 bombers, C-47 gunships and one helicopter that carried 29 persons, far beyond its normal 12-man limit.

At least two of the fallen Government's Cabinet Ministers sought refuge in Bangkok—Foreign Minister Keuky Lim and Culture Minister Long Botta. It could not be established whether Premier Long Boret and the Army chief, Gen. Sak Suthsakan, had also fled to Thailand, as was rumored.

Cambodian sources said that Mr. Long Boret's wife and family were in Poipet, a small Cambodian town just across the border.

Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan of Thailand said that the former Cambodian leaders would not be allowed to seek permanent exile here because that might jeopardize relations with the new Phnom Penh Government. The Foreign Minister said that Thailand would recognize the new government,