

# Phnom Penh Evacuation Is Ordered

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From News Dispatches

The new Khmer Rouge authorities in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh called on the 2 million inhabitants of the city to evacuate it yesterday because of what they said was an imminent U. S. bombing attack.

Several Khmer Rouge spokesmen denied that there had been any such evacuation call, but the French Foreign Ministry confirmed it after receiving reports from its consul still in Phnom Penh. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the titular leader of the new government also confirmed it in a French radio interview from Peking.

Phnom Penh is a "bourgeois" nest which must be "cleaned out," Sihanouk told the radio station Europe No. 1.

The Soviet news agency Tass said that "scores of thousands" of peasants were going back to their farms from the city. It said that the capital's normal population of 600,000 had been swollen to 2 million by refugees from the countryside.

A report received in Bangkok, capital of neighboring Thailand, said that Khmer Rouge loudspeaker trucks toured the city warning that "American bombers" were about to "raze the city." The loudspeakers reportedly told residents to flee at least a dozen miles into the countryside.

There were immediate reports of panicked evacuation scenes, but a later dispatch from the French consul in Phnom Penh radioed to the French embassy in Bangkok said that the city seemed quiet and deserted after the initial wave of departures.

He said that 2,000 foreigners had sought refuge in the French embassy compound from the Hotel Le Phnom, the neutral zone set up by the International Red Cross before the fall of the city.

Among those reported to be safe inside the French embassy was Sidney Schanberg, the correspondent of The New York Times, con-

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trary to a Thai radio report that he had been shot by the Khmer Rouge.

Radio reports and news agency dispatcher from Cambodia were cut off by refugees reportedly stormed Thai border crossings, even though the Thai government had closed the frontier to prevent just such an influx. The refugees who penetrated the Thai barriers bet of high-ranking Cambodia were said to include a number of high-ranking military officers.

A long list of governments recognized the new Cambodian rulers diplomatically. Heading the list were the five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Other countries recognizing the Khmer Rouge government included neighboring Laos. Japan said it would recognize it as soon as it proves its effective control over the entire territory of Cambodia.

The Soviet Union, which avoided mention of Sihanouk on Thursday, sent him a message of congratulations in his exile headquarters in Peking. Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro also Moscow has previously scrubbed him because of his close lines to China. Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro also congratulated him.

French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues offered to exchange ambassadors with the new government. The French consul in Phnom Penh is currently the ranking French diplomat there.

A number of Cambodian diplomatic missions abroad cabled their offers to serve the new government.

Sihanouk said that he would not take up residence in Phnom Penh, but in the former royal capital of Angkor, because of his bad memories of the present capital. He was ousted from power in Phnom Penh in 1970 while he was on a trip abroad.

Japan's Kyodo news service reported that Sihanouk had called upon China to "remain the prime supporter" of the Khmer Rouge government.

Sihanouk repeated that he would only serve as a figurehead for the government to be headed by Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan. Washington analysts cautioned, however, that they do not believe Samphan wields the dominant power in the Khmer Rouge organization.

There was still no word on the whereabouts of former Premier Long Boret, the last chief of government before the Khmer Rouge takeover.

Some reports said that he had managed to get to Thailand, but the Thai Foreign

Ministry denied any knowledge of his whereabouts. Other reports said he had been captured by the Khmer Rouge, and still other dispatches said he had escaped to an area under control of republican forces and was organizing a resistance movement against the new rulers.

Gen. San Suthsakman, the last president of the Cambodian republic, landed in Thailand yesterday morning aboard a Cambodian air force plane.

Diplomatic sources in Saigon and Bangkok said the republicans were still in control of several provinces, especially near the northwest border with Thailand.

A Thai Defense Ministry spokesman said that a number of the refugees to cross the border were soldiers with their tanks and trucks. He said the troops surrendered themselves to the Thai military across the southern border. It was not immediately known how many troops or civilian refugees had entered Thailand.