

# Peking Congratulates Sihanouk, Victorious Cambodian Forces

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PEKING, April 18—The Chinese leaders have conveyed their "warmest congratulations and highest esteem" to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the new Cambodian leaders on their victory.

Hsinhua, the official press agency, released a message sent yesterday in the name of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Premier Chou En-lai, and Chu Teh, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Accusing the United States of having engineered the coup in which Prince Sihanouk was deposed five years ago, the Chinese leaders said that the Cambodian events were "a brilliant example for the revolutionary people of the world."

"The Chinese people heartily rejoice over the victory of the Cambodian people as they would over their own," they said.

Last night Prince Sihanouk said he was overjoyed at the news of the capture of Phnom Penh. He said he did not know when he would be returning to Cambodia because his mother was ill in Peking and he expected her to die soon.

## Asked Him to Keep Title

The Prince, who has lived in Peking since his ouster, said the new leaders had asked him to retain the title of chief of state. However, he saw his future functions as mainly formal.

He said he considered that members of the Khmer Rouge were not Communists, although "certainly leftists."

Jenmin Jih Pao, the Chinese Communist party newspaper, denounced the Soviet Union for having maintained relations with the defeated Cambodian Government until almost the moment. It said the Russians had thereby "exposed to the world the predicament of a po-

litical gambler who has lost his all."

In an editorial, it added that the victory in Cambodia showed that "although quite strong in appearance, imperialism is not in fact so frightening."

Prince Sihanouk joined Chinese leaders today in a welcome for President Kim Il Sung of North Korea, who arrived for a visit announced only two days ago.

At a dinner in his honor in the Great Hall of the People, Marshal Kim Il Sung said he had had a significant meeting with Chairman Mao. This was the first disclosure that Mr. Mao had returned to Peking after nine months during which he is believed to have been living in southern China.

## 'Final Fatal Blow'

Special to The New York Times

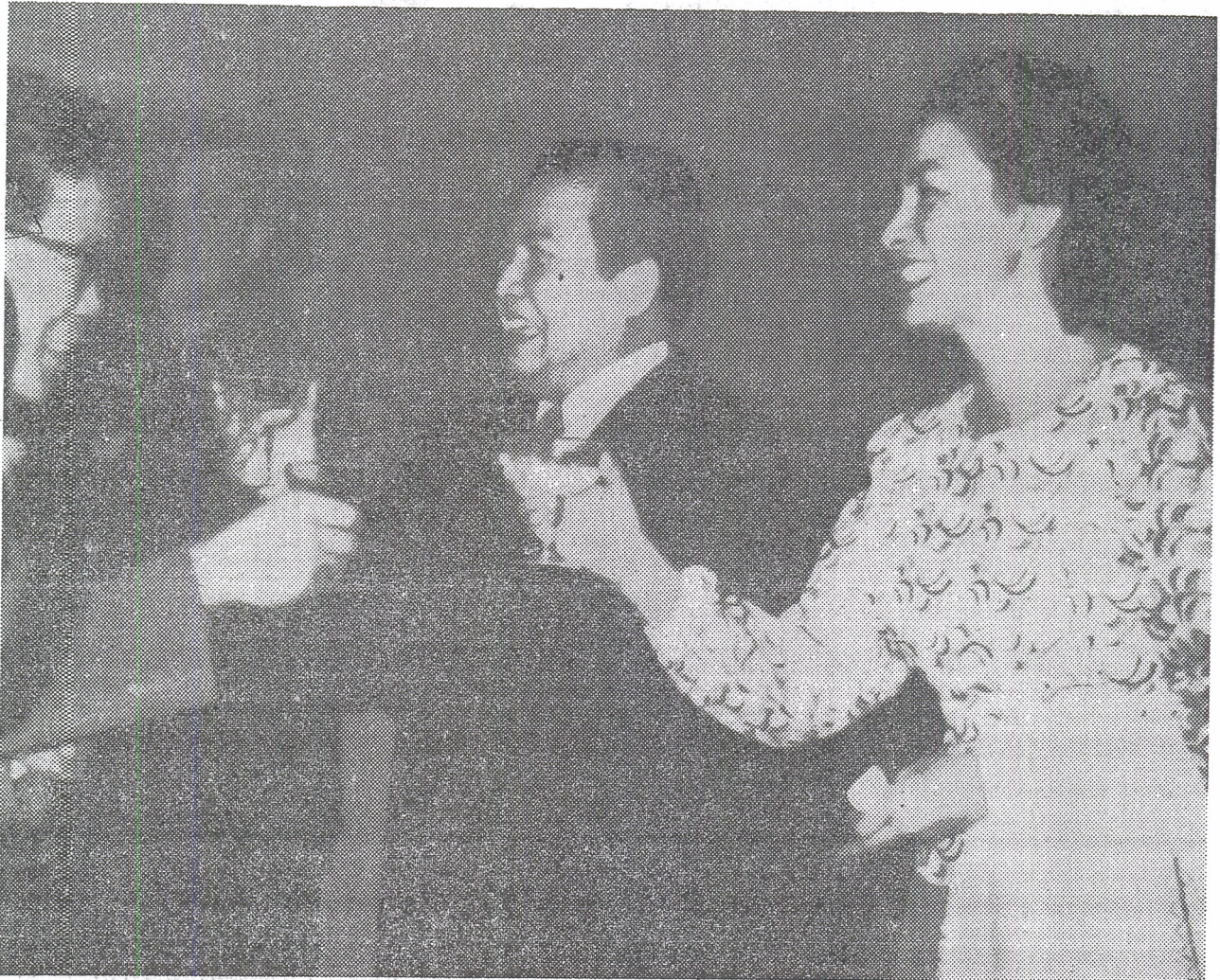
TOKYO, April 18—The North Koreans here, who always explain their Government's policy faithfully, said today that President Kim Il Sung was expected to ask Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai to "give a final fatal blow to the Americans after the Indochina debacle."

The North Koreans said that Marshal Kim saw the possibility of a stronger alliance between the United States, Japan and South Korea, referring to a recent statement by Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger.

In it Mr. Schlesinger dwelt on the need to maintain forces in northeastern Asia because "the security of Japan and the peace of northeast Asia are critical to international stability."

The North Koreans also noted that President Ford emphasized the American commitment to South Korea in his State of the World message to Congress.





Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and his wife, Monique, at victory party in Peking. Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai sent expressions of congratulations and esteem to Prince Sihanouk and Cambodian Communists.

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