

WXPost APR 20 1975
Killing Claim

From News Dispatches

A clandestine radio station, saying it represented the Khmer Rouge, said Saturday that several leaders of the defeated Cambodian government—including former Premier Long Boret and Gen. Lon Non, younger brother of exiled ex-President Lon Nol—had been beheaded.

There was no confirmation of the report from Khmer Rouge Radio, however, and monitoring sources in Bangkok said that the broadcast was not over the regular frequencies of the Khmer Rouge Radio or of Phnom Penh Radio, the government station.

Agence France-Presse reported that some observers believe the station, which calls itself the Voice of the Future Nation, is manned by a psychological warfare unit trying to sway local and international opinion against the new Cambodian government.

A correspondent of the Paris newspaper Le Monde radioed through the French embassy that both Long Boret and Lon Non were alive but being held prisoner in Phnom Penh by the Khmer Rouge.

Correspondent Patrice de Beer reported, in the only dispatch sent directly from Phnom Penh, that he had seen both former leaders at the Ministry of Information.

"The atmosphere was relaxed. The prisoners—Lon Non, many generals, some

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ministers—were laughing and chating and with soldiers. There was one 'super traitor,' former Premier Long Boret, who had given himself up and had been well received."

De Beer's dispatch was the only one sent directly from Phnom Penh, where communications have been cut since Friday.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge radio, monitored in Bangkok, appealed for demonstrations and uprisings "to overthrow all the stubborn provincial governors, mayors and commanders in several provincial capitals "still under temporary enemy control."

The radio said the Khmer Rouge had seized nine provincial capitals, including Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city, and the deepwater port of Kompong Som, 120 miles southwest of Phnom Penh.

The radio told officials and commanders who refused to surrender and join the National Union of Cambodian Forces that they would be killed.

About 500 Khmer Rouge troops, many of them girls and young boys, moved into the Cambodian border town of Poipet on jeeps captured from the forces of the Cambodian government troops in Phnom Penh.

Several foreign correspondents were in Poipet, 190 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, but a Khmer Rouge official instructed them to withdraw to the Thailand border because "the new administration may not like you there," reported Reuter.

From the border, 300 yards away, the reporters observed a Khmer Rouge leader addressing a large crowd and heard loud applause. About 20 armed soldiers, clad mostly in black pajamas, later made their way toward the border and eventually, at the urging of the Thais, shook hands with

Thai civilians across the barbed wire barriers at the frontier.

The Thai citizens spoke in Cambodian, and said they were of Cambodian descent, but they did not want to go to Cambodia now.

The Khmer Rouge soldiers referred to themselves as Khieu Sampan's army. Khieu Sampan is the best known of the Khmer Rouge leaders. He holds the posts of defense minister, commander-in-chief of the army and deputy prime minister in the new government. He is expected to become prime minister when the new Cabinet is named.

In Bangkok, Thai Premier Kukrit Pramoj said that the Cambodians who had fled to Thailand now numbered 10,000. He said the refugees were being given seven-day visas, but he said he expected the United States to move them to another country later.

The Thai premier said his government was attempting to stop the flood of refugees from Cambodia and that reinforcements may be needed along the border, which has been officially closed.

The Cambodian embassy staff in Bangkok pledged its allegiance to the new government.

Some Cambodian refugees in Bangkok told of executions by Khmer Rouge forces at the provincial town of Pailin, a gem-mining town 220 miles northwest of Phnom Penh.

Col. Horl Tone, former governor of the town, said 43 former government soldiers were slain Friday after he complied with rebel orders to raise white flags over the towns.

"When the Khmer Rouge came they beat up my troops and shot people who resisted," he told an AP reporter. He said Capt. Lon Vera, younger brother of Lon Nol, was among those killed.