

Scarcity of Information On Cambodia Continues

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NYTimes

A purportedly Communist radio station in Cambodia broadcast revolutionary music and heroic exhortations yesterday, but provided no news of developments in the war-torn nation. Virtually no other sources of substantive information were available.

Customary news channels have been silenced since the surrender of Phnom Penh, the capital, to Communist forces on Thursday. Confused, unconfirmed and often conflicting reports have filtered out through refugees and from clandestine radios.

But doubts remained about the fate of former Cambodian government leaders and foreigners and about the possibility of continued fighting in isolated outlying provinces.

A Thai Government intelligence report and a French news correspondent in Phnom Penh reported through channels that were not explained that former Premier Long Boret had been captured by the Communists and was still alive.

The Phnom Penh radio was silent yesterday, and efforts to communicate with the capital by telephone or Telex machine from neighboring countries were unsuccessful. One broadcast attributed to a Communist radio station in Cambodia was believed to be from Kratie, a provincial capital 95 miles northeast of Phnom Penh.

Authenticity Uncertain

But word from Bangkok, a main listening post for news from Cambodia, urged caution toward broadcasts that purported to be by the Khmer Rouge. Dispatches from Bangkok stressed that anyone in Cambodia with a radio transmitter could claim to speak for the Communists but that not all areas of the country appeared yet to be under Communist control.

The purported Kratie broadcast confined itself to heroic descriptions of Communist victory in Phnom Penh and songs of revolution. One of these, entitled "Red Flag of the Revolution Is Flying Over Liberated Phnom Penh," included these words:

"Liberation forces moved forward from all directions like a powerful and stormy fire, killing the abject Phnom Penh traitorous clique and complete-

ly liberating Phnom Penh."

The "clique" was an apparent reference to former government officials, but there was no way to ascertain whether the words reflected actual executions or were merely metaphorical phrases. The insurgents had vowed to execute the government leaders.

Radio stations in neighboring Communist countries also had little information on the situation in Cambodia.

According to Agence France-Presse, the Hanoi radio in North Vietnam reported that some fighting was still going on in parts of western Cambodia, but there were no details and the report was unconfirmed.

A Reuters reporter said that more than 600 Cambodian refugees fled into southern Thailand yesterday. About half the group was said to have been soldiers. The Thai Government has reported that approximately 10,000 Cambodians have crossed the border in the last five days.

Troops Reported at Border

A reporter for The Associated Press on the Thai-Cambodian border opposite the Cambodian town of Poipet reported that several hundred Communist troops marched into the town unopposed yesterday.

In Peking, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nominal leader of the Cambodian Communists, who has been living in exile for five years, was reported to have spent the day in quiet vigil at the bedside of his dying mother, Queen Mother Kossamak. He was said to be delaying his return to Cambodia because of her failing health.

The leadership of whatever new government may have been installed in Phnom Penh is as yet unclear. There has been no word on contacts with foreign governments, but a small number of other countries have nonetheless extended diplomatic recognition to the Cambodian Communist regime.

The coalition Government of Laos announced yesterday that in a telegram last Friday to Prince Sihanouk it recognized the government he had set up from Peking. The Governments of Tunisia and Iraq also sent messages of congratulations to Prince Sihanouk. Tunisia recognized Prince Sihanouk's government-in-exile in September, 1973.