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Cambodia to Be 'Neutral,



KHIEU SAMPHAN
... independent policy

From News Dispatches

One of the top figures in the new Cambodian government said yesterday that it would follow a "neutral and nonaligned policy."

Khieu Samphan, deputy premier and defense minister of the Khmer Rouge government, spoke for 15 minutes over Radio Phnom Penh which resumed broadcasting for the first time since last Thursday when Communist-led rebels captured the Cambodian capital from the troops of President Lon Nol.

"The future policy of Cambodia will be one of

neutrality and independence within our own borders," he said. "We will be neutral and nonaligned."

Khieu Samphan is believed to be the leading government official of the rebel movement physically present in Cambodia. His precise ranking within the Khmer Rouge hierarchy is not clear, however.

Khieu Samphan said, "I wish to thank the people of the entire world, notably people of nonaligned nations and progressive Americans who support our government."

In an earlier broadcast,

the new Information and Propaganda Minister, Hou Nim, made a similar statement about the future direction of Cambodian policy.

He also indicated that the Khmer Rouge forces were still fighting to put down the last pockets of resistance in the provinces. "We must continue our struggle to liberate our entire nation," Hou Nim said.

The two officials gave no indication of the fate of several hundred foreigners, including diplomats and newsmen, who were in Phnom Penh at the time of its cap-

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Nonaligned,' Official Says

ture. On Monday, however, the International Red Cross and the United Nations said word had been received that most of them were well.

French officials in Paris said that the new Cambodian government had given permission for fresh food, drinking water and medicines to be delivered to the French embassy in Phnom Penh where many of the foreigners had taken refuge.

The official Soviet news agency Tass reported in a dispatch from Phnom Penh that life was "fast returning to normal" there with war-

damaged streets, roads and bridges being repaired.

In Peking, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, titular leader of the new government, denied reports that atrocities, including beheadings of former officials, had been carried out by the Khmer Rouge. He said that the reports stemmed from a radio station operated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency from a country adjoining Cambodia.

Sihanouk said the reports were attempts to discredit Cambodia internationally and sabotage "our task of general reconstruction of

the nation," according to a dispatch from the Chinese capital by the Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug.

Sihanouk said he had been flooded with cables from ambassadors of the former government asking to retain their posts.

Sihanouk also criticized Indonesia for delaying recognition and issuing a statement calling his government a "government in exile."

Cambodian sources in Bangkok reported that Khmer Rouge troops in the border town of Poipet executed four men accused of

stealing a motorcycle by cutting their throats.

A police spokesman in Penang, Malaysia, said that three Cambodian navy patrol boats had arrived there with 625 refugees on board. The ships were given temporary permission to moor near Tumpat.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore arrived in Bangkok for discussions with Thai officials about developments in Indochina, including the fall of Phnom Penh and the resignation of South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu.