

Chief of Communist Forces in Cambodia Hails Victory

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BANGKOK, Thailand, April 22 — The commander of the Communist forces in Cambodia, in his first broadcast from Phnom Penh, today hailed the victory of his troops over the former Cambodian government.

The commander, Khieu Samphan, thanked "the people of the entire world" for support during the five-year war and he selected some Americans for special praise.

"Our deep thanks and gratitude," he said, "also go to the peace- and justice-loving American people and to high-ranking American personalities who have aided and supported our struggle."

Americans Unnamed

He did not say who these people were. And he did not specifically cite those of any other foreign nation for appreciation.

Mr. Khieu Samphan said that the policy of Cambodia would be "one of neutrality, independence within our borders — we will be neutral and nonaligned."

While his statement could have been recorded, it was the first indication that some top leaders of the new regime might have entered the newly captured capital.

Since the Cambodian government's surrender last week the Communist radio, no longer a clandestine service, has filled its broadcast with martial music. This, combined with suspension of all telephone and telegraph service there, has contributed to what has been virtually a total news blackout.

Today's broadcasts heard here shed little light on life in Cambodia since the surrender. However, in a short statement before Mr. Khieu Samphan's address, Hou Nim, Minister of Information, said that Communist forces "have taken over and are governing in Phnom Penh and the entire country."

This was a contradiction of earlier reports that fighting was continuing in some areas between Communist forces and elements of the former government, most of whose leaders have fled the country or been captured.

But there was no way of confirming Mr. Hou Nim's report.

Focus on Khieu Samphan

Much of today's broadcast was focused on Mr. Khieu Samphan, who is also Deputy Premier and Defense Minister. He is expected to play a major role in the new Government.

His address, rambling and often repetitious, was largely devoted to denunciations of imperialism and "traitorous cliques of lackeys." He praised the sacrifices of the "great and wonderful Cambodian people" and he saluted the memory

of those who died in battle and wished prompt recovery of the wounded.

"This is the greatest historic victory our nation and people have ever experienced," he said.

"This army was created, trained and has grown up in the hot fire of a difficult, complex people's war against U.S. imperialism, the largest, most ferocious imperialist force in the world.

"This army began fighting empty-handed and fought until it created an excellent path for the struggle, successfully attacking the enemy everywhere—in the mountains and in the plains—continuously attacking in the dry and rainy seasons, and successfully crushing all forms of the war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists."

'Enemy Died in Agony'

He said the people had waged a courageous and stubborn fight and had endured suffering and hardship.

After five years and a month of struggle, Mr. Khieu Samphan

said, "finally the enemy died in agony."

As a result, he said, the Cambodian people were "beating the victory drum."

"This great historic victory opens bright prospects," he said. But, he warned, "there will certainly be many obstacles in carrying out our task of national defense and construction," and he called for "increasing revolutionary vigilance."

In Thailand, meanwhile, Government officials reported that 5,058 Cambodian refugees had entered in recent days. Some 800 arrived in southern Thailand today aboard two Cambodian landing craft. But harbor authorities reportedly ordered them to remain offshore.

The Government is seeking increased allotments to care for the refugees. Thai officials said they would give 75 cents a day to each refugee for food.

However, the Government, which is anxious to establish diplomatic relations with Phnom Penh, has ordered pro-

vincial authorities to return the refugees to Cambodia "as soon as possible."

Refugees Reach Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, April 22 (Reuters)—Three Cambodian patrol boats have arrived off the east coast of northern Malaysia with 625 refugees, the national press agency Bernama reported today. The agency said Malaysian welfare officials were distributing food to the refugees, who included 346 soldiers.

Some Leave French Embassy

PARIS, April 22 (AP)—French officials reported today that the number of refugees at the French Embassy in Phnom Penh was dwindling and arrangements were being made with local authorities to get food and water to them. They said about 600 remained out of more than 1,000 who had taken refuge there after the Communists took over the capital.

The officials said most of those leaving were reported to be Cambodians.