

Sihanouk Is Willing to Pass Up Cambodian Rule

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PEKING, April 23—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has said that he will not be upset if the victorious Khmer Rouge did not abide by their offer to let him return to Cambodia as chief of state.

In a statement circulated here, the Prince said that he did not want to return to Phnom Penh, which had "bad memories" for him and would instead ask the Khmer Rouge to restore the airport near the ancient capital of Angkor. There, he said, he would bring the ashes of his mother. She is ill in Peking and the Prince said she would die shortly.

Prince Sihanouk said that elections would be unnecessary

in Cambodia because the Khmer Rouge victory constituted "the only valid popular verdict."

"It was the leaders of the Khmer Rouge themselves who asked me to remain as chief of state of Cambodia until my death," Prince Sihanouk said. "If one day these leaders change their minds about me I shall not be upset in the least since the only goal of my life has been already achieved: the total and irreversible liberation of Cambodia and the restoration of its independence and its nonalignment."

In Tam in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 23 (AP)—Another Cambodian

leader on the Communist death list has fled to Thailand, leaving only two of the seven unaccounted for.

Thai officials said that former Premier In Tam fled across the border Saturday with three other persons as they were being fired on by Communist soldiers. The officials said that the four men were in police custody in Prachin Buri Province, near the border.

Mr. In Tam headed the government in Phnom Penh in 1973 while President Lon Nol was in the United States for medical treatment. After the Communists captured Phnom Penh, he vowed to lead a guerrilla movement in northwest Cambodia.