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Sihanouk Looks to an Asia Without U.S.

Le Monde, Paris

PEKING, April 24 — "We did what they said we could never do," Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia said here. "we defeated the Americans."

Holding a dish of sherbet, the nominal leader of the Cambodian Communists was speaking in his home at a gathering of the diplomatic colony's Friends of Badminton.

"What little Cambodia was able to do," he went on, "any other country ought to be able to try."

"The war lasted five years, as long as the United States was involved, but once America got out, the Phnom Penh regime lasted four days, from Saturday to Wednesday. Isn't it all perfectly clear?"

The Prince was speaking of the closing of the United States Embassy and the evacuation of the last Americans on Saturday, April 12. The Phnom Penh Government surrendered the following Wednesday.

"The same thing is happening in Vietnam," Prince Sihanouk said, turning to representatives of the Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam who were present.

"It is not Thieu you are defeating, but the United States. And the consequences in Asia are incalculable."

New Asia Depicted

Then, sketching an Asia in which "we will soon have a reunited Vietnam," the Prince predicted that "the United States won't be able to hold onto Taiwan forever."

"The same goes for South Korea," he said, and added:

"Perhaps the United States will have to abandon its outer defense perimeter and fall back to Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia. Then we will constitute a formidable body—from Cambodia to Korea—because in Laos, too, the reactionaries will have to get out. In Thailand, the people will also rise."

"How long will it take? Not very long."

Asked whether he thought the danger of American interference in Cambodian affairs was past, he replied, "No, certainly not."

Recalls Ties With U.S.

He said he thought the Americans would try to do something through the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines—which on Saturday announced recognition of the new Cambodian Government.

"All these people trying to send me ambassadors—I find their haste suspect," the Prince said, also mentioning Japan.

Prince Sihanouk, who was Cambodia's chief of State until he was deposed and went into exile in 1970 to lead the insurgents, recalled that he had had friendly relations with the United States and

had received \$30-million a year in American aid.

Marshal Lon Nol, who succeeded him, later pocketed \$750-million a year in American aid, he said.

"You see how lucrative it is to sell one's country," the Prince remarked.

Speaking of what he described as the continuing struggle in Phnom Penh, he said:

"There are structures to dismantle. We must know who is who, tag those who must be watched, weed out the pro-Americans."

"And once again, we must look with suspicion on Asians above all and on foreigners in general, even Frenchmen, for who knows whether there are C.I.A. agents among the staffs of one embassy or another?"

On the subject of returning to Cambodia, the Prince said the trouble with going back to Phnom Penh was that his palace had been bombed.

"I have no intention of

living in a bunker," he said, noting that he would go to the temple complex of Angkor.

"When I get back to Angkor, I will accept accreditation letters and sign decisions from the Khmer Rouge," the Prince said, referring to the new Communist authorities.

"Oh, you know, I'll sign them with my eyes closed, without getting too deeply into what they say—at the rate of a hundred documents in five minutes."

"I'll come back to Peking to give receptions, and then I'll go and harass the United States at international conferences, at the United Nations, etc., in the interest of our African friends and the Palestinians, among others."

The Prince said he would also spend some time in France, noting that he was "also a Parisian."

"I'm not going to go to night clubs," the Prince said, bursting into laughter, "just to great restaurants."