

Cambodians Appoint Sihanouk for Life

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 25 (UPI)—The new Cambodian Government announced today that Prince Norodom Sihanouk would be Cambodia's chief of state for life. It also said that all Cambodian diplomats serving abroad would be dismissed and replaced.

The announcements were made by the Phnom Penh radio in a broadcast monitored here. The broadcast was on the second day of a three-day victory celebration ordered by the new Government.

Prince Sihanouk, who was ousted in March, 1970, in a coup by the forces of Marshal Lon Nol, has been living in exile in Peking. Marshal Lon Nol left Cambodia shortly before the Communist rebel forces captured Phnom Penh, and is now in Hawaii.

The Phnom Penh broadcast said Penn Nouth would remain as Premier of the National Union Government and Khieu Samphan as Deputy Premier and Commander in Chief of the armed forces.

Mr. Penn Nouth is regarded as a figurehead Premier. He is reported to be in poor health in Peking.

Prince Sihanouk has said that

Mr. Khieu Samphan, a Communist, would be in charge of the Government.

The changes in diplomatic missions will be decided by a committee of the National Front, the broadcast said. A number of embassy staffs that had remained loyal to the Lon Nol Government and its brief successor until the fall of Phnom Penh on April 17 have since declared their allegiance to the new Government.

Most communications with Phnom Penh remain severed.

FRANCE—Expressed concern today about the situation in her embassy in Phnom Penh where French citizens and a diversitV of foreign diplomat and newsmen have been living since the Communists occupied the capital.

"The French Government is closely following the situation created at the French Embassy in Phnom Penh and which is becoming more and more precarious where food and sanitation are concerned," a communique issued in Paris said.

The statement noted that "all French residents of the Cambodian capital have been assembled at the embassy.

"In addition, the city's authorities have successively brought there different foreign nationals, notably members of the Soviet, East German, Indian and Pakistani embassies."

French officials have said that 23 newsmen, including six Americans, were among those in the embassy.

In Peking Premier Chou En-lai congratulated Prince Sihanouk today on the fifth anniversary of a conference of Indochinese leaders, Hsinhua, the Chinese press agency reported.

The congratulatory message

also was sent to the head of the Pathet Lao movement in Laos, Prince Souphanouvong; Premier Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam and Nguyen Huu Tho, the Vietcong leader. These three and Prince Sihanouk met shortly after Prince Sihanouk had been deposed.

"At present, inspiring changes are taking place in the situation in Indochina," the message said, noting the communist victory in Cambodia, the Communist advances in South Vietnam and an "unremitting struggle" in Laos.

News Blackout Is Political

PEKING, April 25 (Agence France-Press)—A blackout on news report from Cambodia since the capture of Phnom Penh by the Communists is a result of political decisions rather than technical reasons, according to indications in Peking today.

The political nature of the silence was indicated by the handling of a message from Khieu Samphan, Deputy Premier of the Royal Cambodian Government of National Union, to Prince Sihanouk—the text of a detailed report on the situation in Cambodia was deleted by members of the Prince's staff before the balance of the message was made public.

The portion made public consisted of a reply by Mr. Khieu Samphan to a congratulatory message from the Prince following the capture of Phnom Penh.

Until now, members of the Prince's staff have been saying that the news blackout was a result of technical problems. The message from Phnom Penh was not dated. Prince Sihanouk sent his telegram on April 18.