

Sihanouk's Mother Dies; Exile d

From News Dispatches

Queen Kossamak, the mother of Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, died in Peking yesterday with her son at her bedside, an official Chinese announcement said.

Prince Sihanouk, titular head of the Khmer Rouge insurgents who captured Phnom Penh 10 days ago, had delayed his return to his homeland after five years of exile partly because of his mother's illness. She was 71.

The announcement of the queen's death did not mention funeral plans or Sihanouk's return to Cambodia.

The prince, 52, said a few days ago that when his

mother died he would carry her ashes to Siem Reap in the northern part of Cambodia.

Queen Kossamak had remained in Cambodia after Sihanouk was overthrown in 1970, but left for China in 1971. It was reported at the time that the Cambodian government of President Lon Nol allowed her to leave only after the intervention of former President Richard Nixon, who was asked to do so by Chinese Premier Chou En-lai.

In another development, Walter Schwartz, a correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, reported from Paris that the French government is describing condi-

tions at its embassy in Phnom Penh as "precarious, both in the matter of food and sanitation."

Since Khmer Rouge took over the capital 10 days ago, the embassy, with a relatively junior diplomat in charge, has been surrounded by troops who refuse to allow anyone in or out. Six hundred people have taken refuge in the embassy, 515 of them French and the rest other foreigners.

Meanwhile, heavily armed troops of the Communist-led Khmer Rouge briefly crossed the border into Thailand Sunday morning.

The Khmer Rouge troops talked to a Thai provincial governor and Red Cross of-

ficials before returning to their side of the border on the Gulf of Siam. One of the Khmer Rouge soldiers told a reporter that they had come in peace.

The seaside border is marked by sticks planted in the sand by the Thais on one side and trenches dug by the Khmer Rouge on the other.

Puthipong Chaiyasothi, the governor of Thailand's Trat Province, where many Cambodians sought refuge after Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge, talked with the troops.

Afterward, he told newsmen that the refugees had come to Thailand because they were frightened but

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THE WASHINGTON POST Monday, April 28, 1975 A 11

Prince May Return

that they were returning after seeing that there was peace between the Khmer Rouge and the Thai border guards. Eleven of nearly 2,000 Cambodian refugees living near the beach border returned home Sunday.

Haji Daran, leader of 163 Cambodian Moslem refugees, complained, however, that "the insurgents forced my people to do many things, such as eating pork, which is against their religion."

A number of U.S. officials from Utapao air base 150 miles to the northwest of the border area, arrived at the beach to talk with Gen. Moul Khleng, a former Cam-

bodian military commander from the seaside town of Kompong Som, AP reported. They would not reveal what they discussed.

The blackout of news from the Cambodian capital continued, with Phnom Penh radio playing music and propaganda.

One message outlined Cambodia's major tasks now as defense and reconstruction, saying: "We must continue our struggle with arms in one hand and tools in the other."

Most of Cambodia's diplomats abroad seemed to be out of a job. An announcement by the Khmer Rouge information agency said only those who were

"appointed and accredited to friendly countries" by Sihanouk, Prime Minister Penn Nouth and Deputy Premier Khieu Samphan now represent Cambodia. This would exclude Cambodian diplomats around the world who have announced allegiance to the new government but who were appointed by the former.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's acting prime minister, Ghafar Baba, told newsmen that, for humanitarian reasons, 1,500 Cambodian refugees in his country may remain pending further government decisions and possible talks with the new Cambodian authorities.