SFChronicle Embassy in Phnom Penh Is Silent

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The French government has lost contact with its embassy in Phnom Penh, where 610 persons sought refuge after the Khmer Rouge takeover of the city, a presidential spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said that France has asked United Nation Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to intervene.

The last radio contact between the Phnom Penh embassy and Bangkok was reported to have been last Saturday. The government has addressed an appeal through North Vietnam to the Khmer Rouge committee governing the city to have the embassy evacuated.

A French plane has been standing by in Vientiane for almost a week to take food into Phnom Penh for the embassy but has been unable to make the flight because the Phnom Penh airport remains closed.

Associated Press