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Hundreds in Embassy Need Food, Medicine

U.N., Paris Ask Cambodia Mercy Flight

France and the United Nations appealed yesterday to the new pro-Communist government in Cambodia to permit mercy shipments of food and medicine to hundreds of foreigners holed up in the French embassy in Phnom Penh. There was no immediate reply.

Phnom Penh radio, in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok, said the victorious Khmer Rouge had decided to keep Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chief of state. It said nothing of the fates of more than 600 foreigners, including a handful of American newsmen, who were in Phnom Penh when it fell April 17.

French government officials in Paris said an epidemic of dysentery had bro-

ken out among the refugees in the embassy. French sources at the United Nations said the foreigners needed food, medicine and a way to leave the complex.

French sources also said the Khmer Rouge had taken away the embassy's radio transmitter and that authorities in Paris had heard nothing since Saturday. It was not clear whether the Communist authorities had confiscated the transmitter or forbidden its use.

A French military transport plane was standing by at the Laotian capital of Vientiane with a load of medical and other relief supplies, awaiting permission from Cambodia to land at Phnom Penh.

A French spokesman said that if the flight could be made, the aircraft would try to evacuate at least some of the refugees now inside the embassy compound.

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim appealed to Phnom Penh and to Sihanouk in Peking to permit relief missions to the embassy. There was no word from Phnom Penh as to the fate of whereabouts of former Premier Long Boret and other leaders of the deposed government, some of whom the Khmer Rouge once said were marked for death.

Phnom Penh radio carried a statement, under Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan's signature, that a "special National Congress" of the Cambodian liberation movement had decided un-

animously to maintain Sihanouk as chief of state. There were these other developments: • A detachment of 55 Thai police and a naval patrol boat have been sent to Thailand's coastal province of Trat, southeast of Bangkok, after between 1,500 and 2,000 Khmer Rouge soldiers, equipped

with mortars and grenade launchers, were seen digging bunkers on the Cambodian side of the border at the weekend, Thai officials said.

• Chinese leaders in Peking joined in Buddhist rites marking the death there of Queen Kossamak of Cambodia, mother of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The 71-year-old queen died Sunday night.

• Indonesia officially recognized the new Cambodian government in Phnom Penh, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Jakarta.