

Cambodia Bars Foreign Bases; Move Believed Aimed at Hanoi

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BANGKOK, Thailand, April 28—The new Cambodian Government served notice today that no foreign military bases would be tolerated in Cambodia.

The notice, apparently aimed at North Vietnam, which has numerous troops and supply bases in Cambodia, came in a statement issued at the conclusion of the third so-called national congress held by the Khmer Rouge.

[In Paris, French officials said that they had lost contact with France's Embassy in Phnom Penh, where 600 people had taken refuge, Reuters reported. Page 16.]

The congress, attended by 311 delegates including representatives of the Buddhist clergy, the party organization and the military, was the first

formal organizational meeting since the Communist leadership took over almost two weeks ago.

Western analysts here placed principal emphasis on the prohibition against military bases and an implicit warning to voluntary relief agencies to keep their hands off Cambodia—an indication of a nonaligned policy for the country.

The statement was read over the Phnom Penh radio and monitored here.

"Concerning the foreign policy," the communiqué stated, "the special national congress reaffirms the policy of independence, peace, neutrality and nonalignment, absolutely prohibiting any country from establishing military bases the

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Cambodia, struggling against all forms of foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs and absolutely struggling against all forms of subversion and aggression against Cambodia from the outside—whether military, political, economic, cultural, social or diplomatic, under whatever form of so-called humanitarianism."

There has been a traditional hatred between the Cambodians and the Vietnamese people and in the early days of the war when the North Vietnamese were the principal fighters it was an easy matter for the Lon Nol Government to whip up enthusiasm for the war by portraying it as a struggle against North Vietnam. Even in recent months, the Cambodians exulted in displaying captured prisoners they said were North Vietnamese.

There are, according to Western estimates, at least 20,000 rearguard North Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, and numerous staging areas and supply bases along the Ho Chi Minh trail down through the Parrot's Beak area and even farther west into Cambodia.

This communiqué was the first substantive indication that Cambodia might order these troops and bases out.

The reference to humanitarian organizations was seen as a reaffirmation the new government would not be inclined to admit such American-oriented relief agencies as Catholic Relief Services, which has pri-

vately written off any chance of readmission to the country anyway.

But it did leave up in the air the status of other humanitarian groups such as UNICEF and the International Committee of Red Cross, which still have personnel in the country, in the sanctuary of the French Embassy compound, and have hoped to continue to provide relief services.

To what extent Cambodia will enforce or advance these first indications of neutrality, however, still remains to be seen.

This special national congress follows two other national congresses but pointedly does not call itself the third national congress, since the "second" was held only last Feb. 23, when the military offensive first began to achieve substantial successes.

Third Such Congress

The first congress was held in the summer of 1973, but attracted so little international attention at the time that, according to one Western analyst, "they apparently decided just to skip one in 1974 altogether."

Today's communiqué was signed by Khieu Samphan who, while he retains under the decisions of the congress only the title of deputy Premier and Defense Minister, is clearly still the key figure in the government hierarchy. The communiqué was read by him, accord-

ing to the monitoring report, and the text is signed by him.

Most Western analysts here believe that Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Penn Nouth, an elderly and virtually powerless nationalist, who was allowed to retain the title of premier and chairman of the party's central committee, are figureheads.

Sihanouk in Overture

WASHINGTON, April 28 (Reuters) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who has been named the chief of state of the new Cambodian Government, has said that he would be willing to establish diplomatic relations with the United States,

the Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield, said today.

The Montana Democrat said that the Cambodian leader had discussed the question of diplomatic relations in a cablegram three weeks ago.

Senator Mansfield, a friend of Prince Sihanouk, said the Prince had told him that he was prepared to forget that the United States had supported the Lon Nol Government.

Recognition by Jakarta

JAKARTA, Indonesia, April 28 (Reuters)—Indonesia today officially recognized the new Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh, a foreign office spokesman said.