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CAMBODIAN DELAY
ANGERING FRENCH

**Communists Fail to Deliver
610 Who Fled to Embassy
as Phnom Penh Fell**

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, May 2—French anger and concern rose sharply today over the continued failure of the Communist Government in Cambodia to deliver to freedom the 610 Frenchmen and other foreigners who took refuge in the French Embassy in Phnom Penh when the city fell more than two weeks ago.

Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues conferred with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing about the refugees this afternoon and said, upon leaving the Elysee Palace, that France had employed "all her diplomatic means, but the local Cambodian authorities refuse all contact."

[On the Thailand-Cambodia border, Communist Cambodian soldiers told the special envoy of the President of France that the foreigners were about 30 miles from the Thai border, but did not explain what had caused the delay in their arrival there.]

The Foreign Minister said that France would ask Secretary General Waldheim of the United Nations to help resolve the problem, since all direct French contacts with the Cambodian Chief of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and leading members of his government in Peking had failed to produce results.

Direct Links Are Cut

A Foreign Ministry source said that requests to the Chinese Government and other third parties had been equally fruitless.

During the day both President Giscard d'Estaing's press office and the official Government spokesman, Andre Rossi, expressed concern over the fate of the refugees, who include

six Americans, and the refusal of the Cambodian authorities to respond to requests for information on their whereabouts.

French official sources said that since the Cambodians cut the embassy's radio contact last Saturday, no direct news of any kind has reached here

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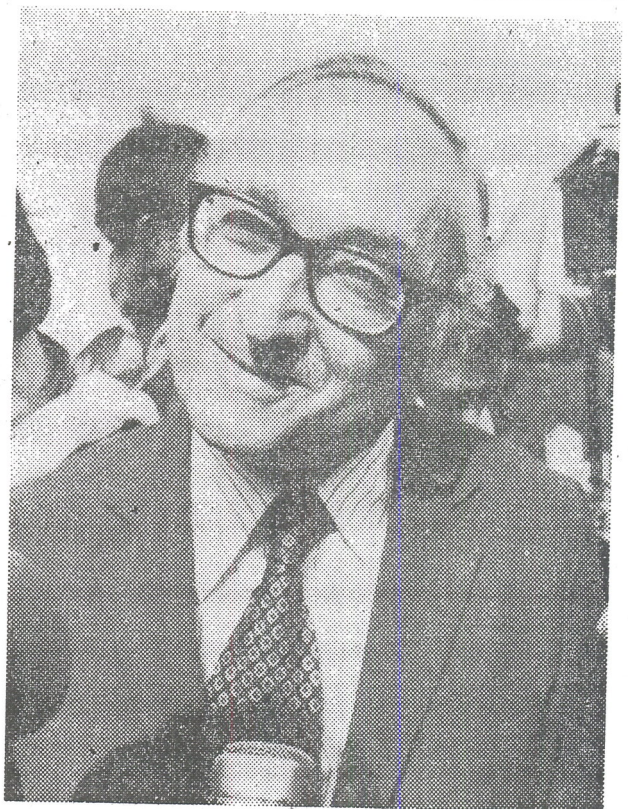
from inside Cambodia. The Government feels that all information that has reached here about the refugees since then has proved unreliable and that it has no way of knowing whether the expected convoy of buses, trucks or automobiles has ever left Phnom Penh for the day's 250-mile drive to the border.

An official assessed the situation thus: Important Cambodian officials assure France blandly that all will be well; Cambodian troops at the border apparently make fun of the anxious French and other diplomats awaiting the refugees; those in real power are out of France's reach. France, he said, might threaten stronger measures, but he could not think what might be done about a regime that remains invisible.

Foreign Minister Sauvagnargues termed the situation "absolutely abnormal." Knowledgeable sources, French as well as Cambodian, were speculating intensely on the significance of the apparent abnormality.

Embassies Reported Razed

A French official expressed a new widely held view when he said that since their military triumph on April 17 a profound xenophobia has characterized



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Marc Bonnefous, envoy of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, talking to reporters in Aranyaprathet, Thailand, on Cambodian border, of delay in arrival of people from embassy in Phnom Penh.

the actions of the Cambodian Communists. In that context, French sources cited unfriendly reports reaching here to the effect that since the capture of Phnom Penh, a number of 175 deserted foreign embassies have been physically destroyed.

A knowledgeable Cambodian said that the Communists appeared determined, at long last, to free their country from France's pervasive influence; to end Cambodia's long-time reliance on French guidance and example.

Punishment Is Seen

A Cambodian well placed to study French relations with his country in recent years said the Communists mean to punish France, as well as Prince Sihanouk, for a diplomatic maneuver that failed.

The Cambodian said that since late last year, in cooperation with the United States, France had been trying to get Prince Sihanouk, exiled after the 1970 coup, back in power

to replace Marshal Lon Nol and pre-empt a Communist take-over. The French wanted to install at least one ruler in Indochina who would have no strong ideological prejudices against foreign economic interests, the Cambodian said.

Frenchmen own almost all of Cambodia's lucrative rubber plantations—as they do in South Vietnam—and most of the country's commercial interests as well. A number of Cambodians, despairing of Marshal Lon Nol's misgovernment and obvious lack of course, are known to have pursued similar aims for more nationalistic reasons.

France recognized Prince Sihanouk as the Cambodian head of state on April 12, five days before the Communist military victory. This, in retrospect, fueled French anger over the declaration by the prince's representative here yesterday that the new authorities in Phnom Penh recognized neither the existence of a French em-

bassy nor the diplomatic immunity of its personnel.

30 Miles, Cambodians Say

By DAVID A. ANDELMAN

Special to The New York Times

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand, May 2—Cambodian Communist soldiers told the special envoy of the President of France today that the foreigners held for more than two weeks in the French Embassy in Phnom Penh were about 30 miles from the Thai-Cambodian border. However, the soldiers did not explain what caused the delay in their arrival on the frontier here.

Ambassador-at-Large Marc Bonnefous, sent here yesterday by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, met for about 10 minutes today with about two dozen Cambodian troops across the barbed-wire strung over the narrow wooden bridge that is the only road link between the two nations.

As he walked from the bridge, which spans a small stream, Mr. Bonnefous told re-

porters on this side that the soldiers "are saying that our compatriots are about 55 kilometers from the border."

"But," he went on, "they say, 'We have problems.' I am not very optimistic on the refugees coming in tomorrow." Also, he said, he did not know whether all 610 evacuees would arrive together.

Mr. Bonnefous said that the head of the Cambodian delegation today had been the "head of the Cambodian frontier region." But Chhay Born Lay, the Cambodian interpreter, who is a newsmen for the associated Press, said later that the Communist spokesman had appeared to be only a sergeant in charge of the border-patrol unit.

No Firm Proof, No Word

And so there was no firm proof today that the foreigners were, in fact, about 30 miles from the frontier, nor was there any word whether that group included all of those who took refuge in the Phnom Penh embassy.

For two days, Cambodian soldiers have been saying across the barbed wire that the foreigners are "nearing." They have advanced several explanations for the delay: Bridges washed out or bombed out; lack of gasoline for the vehicles, of which, Mr. Bonnefous said, he "understood from Paris," there are four. None of this has been confirmed.

The special Paris envoy said that he had not explored the nature of the "problems" the Cambodians had mentioned, nor had he asked why the delay had developed in the 250-mile trip from Phnom Penh to the frontier. He said he did not want to press them.

Waldheim Urges Speed

VIENNA, May 2 (AP)—Secretary General Waldheim of the United Nations said today that he had instructed his office in New York to urge the new Government of Cambodia to allow 610 foreigners to travel to Thailand "as fast as possible."

Asked about the delay in arrival of the foreigners at the border, Mr. Waldheim said, "I have heard of some technical problems but I do not know any details, especially if this means lack of gasoline or something else." He added that he had hoped the refugees could be evacuated by airplanes, "but this was not possible."