

NY Times  
**Sihanouk's Mother  
Mourned at Rites  
In Chinese Capital**

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PEKING, May 4 (Agence France-Presse)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian Chief of State, lit the funeral pyre today to cremate the body of his mother, Queen Sisowath Kossamak, at a Buddhist ceremony attended by high-ranking Chinese, Vietnamese and North Koreans.

The queen died a week ago in Peking after a long illness. She was 71-years old. Prince Sihanouk earlier indicated he would return to Cambodia to place her ashes at Angkor, one of Cambodia's most sacred places.

The Chinese Government was represented by Deputy Premiers Li Hsieh-nien and Chen Hhi-lien. Special aircraft brought Deputy Premier Phan Trong Tue of North Vietnam, Nguyen Van Kiet, Vice President of the South Vietnamese revolutionary government, Vice President Kang Ryang Uk of North Korea to Peking for the funeral, which was held at the Pa Ta Chu pagoda on the outskirts of the Chinese capital.

There was no representative, however, from the Cambodian administration in Phnom Penh.

The Queen's pyre was surrounded by low brick walls that hid all but the upper part of a gilded wooden coffin, which lay beneath a wooden pagoda-like canopy. The Prince and Princess Monique and members of their retinue wore white, the color of mourning in Southeast Asia.

They placed flowers carved from sandalwood chips on the coffin, as did the Chinese representatives and diplomats attending the funeral. The ceremony, which was held without prayers or music, ended with a minute of silence.

Some diplomatic observers here were beginning to ask whether Prince Sihanouk might be deliberately delaying his return to Cambodia because of reports filtering out of the country that the situation was far from normal in Phnom Penh and in other large towns.