

## 'Brute Force'

# Nol's Charge of Red Atrocities

**Honolulu**

Former Cambodian President Lon Nol yesterday called for world condemnation of alleged Khmer Rouge atrocities in his country and blamed Cambodia's defeat on "the brute force massed against us by a determined coalition of communist aggressors."

Despite acute shortages of promised U.S. aid and armaments, Lon Nol said, he did not feel America had betrayed Cambodia.

He produced a document signed by the Cambodian cabinet inviting him back

to Phnom Penh. He cited the document as refutation of the "crazy lies" that he had been given a million-dollar bribe to flee Cambodia and had taken with him tons of government gold.

During an hour and 45 minute discussion of Cambodia and himself — his first since leaving Phnom Penh — he said, "I was never paid a million dollars to leave Cambodia.

"When I left it was on a diplomatic mission whose expenses were to be paid in monthly installments through a government letter of credit issued on the Bank of Cambodia. We were only able to draw a small amount when the government fell and this paper became worthless.

"As for the tons of gold," he said, shaking his head in amazement, "How was I supposed to have done it? There was only one airplane when we left Cambodia. Then we transferred to the Indonesian plane, and then we flew here from Guam in an American Air Force jet. It would have been impossible to have carried even a small amount of gold to say nothing of the 16 tons I was supposed to have brought away with me."

The president said his financial situation could not even be described as "comfortable" by American standards, and said he was going to have to be "very tight" to support his family in Hawaii.

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