

CAMBODIAN DRIVE ON VICE REPORTED

NYTimes
Action at Battambang Said
To Seek Cultural Revival
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BANGKOK, Thailand, May 14 (Reuters) — Cambodia's new rulers are destroying nightclubs and gambling dens in Battambang, the nation's second largest city, as part of a campaign to assert authentic Cambodian culture, the Phnom Penh radio said today.

"Our fighters and our administration are destroying all sequels of imperialism at Battambang—nightclubs with taxi-girls, gambling houses and the black market," the broadcast monitored here said.

It added that they were repairing war-damaged public buildings and roads and the two big state-owned factories in Battambang with a view to reopening them.

Rice mills, farm machinery and the city's airport were being repaired, and the aim was to keep Battambang Cambodia's second city, the radio said.

It made no mention of the town's former residents, who are believed to have been evacuated to work in the rice fields. Foreign refugees who passed through Battambang on their way to Thailand last week said the town seemed deserted.

'Revolutionary Culture' Taught

The radio said that Cambodia's "revolutionary fighters," while engaged in reconstruction work during the day, were spending their evenings learning "revolutionary culture."

The new regime, it added, was developing and protecting national civilization, culture and customs.

Throughout the five-year Cambodian war, which ended with the victory of the Khmer Rouge forces on April 17, "the American imperialists and the traitors of the Lon Nol regime wiped out young people's real Khmer character," the radio said.

"In Phnom Penh and all other towns not liberated before April 17, one saw only corrupt and fascist civilization and culture," it said. "The 'yeah-yeah' civilization, with long hair and the modern songs of the imperialists, had spread in all the towns."

But in towns already under Communist control, "there was only room for national culture," the radio said.

"In the new Cambodia," it said, "we honor marital fidelity. The 'taxi-girls,' drug addicts, divorce—all that has disappeared."