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Thais, Cambodians Clash Near Border

From News Dispatches

BANGKOK — Thai officials said that a 40-man Cambodian patrol crossed into Thailand early yesterday and exchanged shots with border police.

There were no casualties in the shooting, according to Thai officers at Surin, 200 miles northeast of Bangkok near the Cambodian border. They indicated that there had been several other small border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia in the two months since the Cambodian Communists took power in Phnom Penh.

Meanwhile, Cambodians who have escaped to Thailand recently have reported that mass executions have been carried out by the Khmer Rouge. The refugees said most of the victims were former Cambodian soldiers.

Two former soldiers said they saw Khmer Rouge soldiers beat about 40 officers and enlisted men to death with shovels and clubs in Siem Reap Province at the end of April.

The corpses were buried near the village of Phnom Prong, nine miles west of the provincial capital, the two men said. They said they watched the killings from separate hiding places.

Another refugee said he had been a policeman in the northwestern province of Oddor Mean Chey. He said he and 16 other police and military intelligence men were rounded up and taken to a pit surrounded by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Enroute they were beaten with shovels and clubs, the man said. He said he was able

The rightists were said to be led by Prince Chanrangsai, an uncle of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, nominal head of the new Cambodian government. The group was said to include soldiers of the Free Cambodia movement, a right-wing group.

A U.S. analyst in Bangkok said he was "very skeptical of these reports."

"I don't think there is an effective counter force," he said.

Diplomats in Bangkok reported that major North Vietnamese troop movements are being made in Laos in areas already under the control of pro-Communist Pathet Lao forces.

They said that about nine battalions of North Vietnamese soldiers were moving from northern Laos to the road junction of Sala Phou Khoun, 100 miles north of Vientiane. They said two divisions of North Vietnamese troops had recently entered southern Laos.

Reports from Laos Monday also told of a North Vietnamese troop movement in southern Laos and said it might be linked to factional disputes within the Pathet Lao.

The diplomats in Bangkok said the North Vietnamese soldiers arriving in Laos were pro-Soviet, and their presence was intended to check the influence of the pro-Chinese faction in the Pathet Lao.

In other developments in Laos, three Pathet Lao soldiers armed with submachine guns have been withdrawn from the grounds of the residence of U.S. Charge d'Affaires, Christian A. Chapman after several days of protest by the American mission.

U.S. sources attributed the delay in their removal to the fact that the government bureaucracy had come to a standstill because of the absence of the senior Pathet Lao representative in Vientiane, Deputy Prime Minister Phoumi-Vongvichit. He left the capital two weeks ago to attend a meeting of the Pathet Lao Central Committee in Sam Neua.

The Pathet Lao announced that it has taken over control of the police force in Luang Prabang at the request of rightist police officers on the force.

to escape into the jungle.

A former diplomat who escaped with 11 members of his family reported that on May 31 a Khmer Rouge official stopped him about 30 miles from the Thai border and told him: "You are lucky. Three days ago we received instructions not to kill any more people of the old government."

The Bangkok Post quoted reliable sources as saying that fighting had broken out near the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh and three other towns between Khmer Rouge and rightist troops. The newspaper, citing sources at the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, said about 2,000 men were fighting on the rightist side.