

Hanoi Delegation Confers With Cambodian Leaders

Top-Level Discussions Are the First Since the End of the Fighting in Indochina—
'Unanimity of Views' Announced

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By DAVID A. ANDELMAN
Special to The New York Times

BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug. 3 —For the first time since the end of the warfare in Indochina, earlier this year top-level discussions have taken place between officials of North Vietnam and the new Communist regime in Cambodia.

Word of the meetings, which were held in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, was contained in communiqués broadcast simultaneously by the Phnom Penh and Hanoi radios. The broadcasts did not say, however, when the meetings had taken place.

They said that the Hanoi delegation had been headed by Le Duan, First Secretary of the "Central Committee of the North Vietnamese Communist party. But there was no indication who had represented Cambodia.

There was also no mention whether any agreements

emerged from the sessions, although both communiqués stated that the two delegations had "unanimity of views on all questions which were raised." The Hanoi version added the word "complete" before "unanimity."

That such a senior delegation from Hanoi would go to Phnom Penh—and that the Cambodians would extend an invitation in the first place—was seen here as indicating an improvement in what had been thought to be seriously deteriorating relations between the two Communist countries.

However, a Western diplomat who has followed Indochinese Communist politics for years, observed tonight that the presence of Le Duan, who rarely leaves North Vietnam, as head of the delegation could also signify that relations between the two countries have deteriorated to the point that the North Vietnamese felt they "had to send in the first team to avoid catastrophe."

Newspapers in Bangkok, Thailand, have published reports in recent weeks of an imminent possibility of border clashes between the two countries. American intelligence sources have reported clashes

between forces of the two countries on offshore islands that are disputed territories.

There was, however, no indication that such disputes had been taken up at the Phnom Penh discussions.

An editorial in the North Vietnamese party newspaper, Nhan Dan, also broadcast today by Hanoi radio, said that the "recent visit and talks are highly significant as they took place at a time when the situation in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos has fundamentally changed."

Clearly a number of problems

remain to be worked out between the two countries; in addition, there is a long historical tradition of ethnic animosity.

In the early phases of the war in Cambodia, the Government of Marshal Lon Nol was frequently able to whip up fervor for the conflict by characterizing it as an "invasion from North Vietnam."

Sihanouk Mystery Deepens

By FOX BUTTERFIELD

Special to The New York Times

HONG KONG, Aug. 3—Communist leader has sent a letter to Prince Norodom Sihanouk in North Korea wishing him good health but not mentioning a possible return by the Prince to Phnom Penh, the official North Korean press agency disclosed today.

News of the letter, sent by Khieu Samphan, the Commander of the Cambodian armed forces, deepened the mystery over the future of Prince Sihanouk, who is the nominal Cambodian head of state. He has not gone back to Phnom Penh since the overthrow of the Lon Nol Government in April and has been on an extended visit in North Korea since May 19.

He was deposed by Marshal Lon Nol in March, 1970, while visiting the Soviet Union.

In his two-sentence letter, Mr. Khieu Samphan said he wished to express his "most respected feelings" to Prince Sihanouk and to warmly wish him "good health and a long life as well as great success in the noblest patriotic work," according to the North Korean report. It was unclear what the latter reference meant.

The letter said that the Cambodian Communist leader also wished Princess Monique, the Prince's wife, "good health and happiness."

There was no explanation why the letter had been sent or when it was dated.

Mr. Khieu Samphan, in addition to being commander of the Communist forces, is also officially Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense in the Prince's exile Royal Government of National Union. During the war he reportedly lived in northeastern Cambodia, where he directed military operations.

Prince Sihanouk lived in Peking throughout the five years of the Cambodian war. In recent weeks, according to diplomats, he has expressed mounting frustration at his position in exile and has told diplomats that he plans soon to return to Phnom Penh.



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Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the North Vietnamese Communist Party, headed the Hanoi delegation.