

WXPost AUG 14 1975 Cambodia Shifts Cabinet

The Cambodian government yesterday announced the appointment of two new deputy premiers in the first major Cabinet reorganization since the Communists took over in April.

The announcement that Ieng Sary and Son Sen will join Khieu Samphan as deputy premiers led to speculation in Bangkok that there would be a significant increase in North Vietnamese influence in Phnom Penh and that Khieu Samphan, the leading government official in the Cambodian capital, is being pushed aside.

In Washington, however, analysts said they would hesitate

to make such a conclusion yet. "The Cambodian hierarchy is just too murky to make any judgement," one analyst said in a statement echoed by others.

Adding to the confusion over the division of power in Cambodia was the announcement by the New China News Agency that Khieu Samphan and Ieng Sary will jointly lead a delegation to Peking Friday.

The conclusion in Bangkok that Khieu Samphan had lost power appeared to be based on a translation of the Phnom Penh Radio broadcast that had Son Sen being named deputy premier in charge of defense. That would mean he had supplanted Khieu Samphan who has long carried the title of defense minister, in the field of military affairs.

Sources in Washington, however, said their translation had Son Sen being named "deputy defense minister." The Cambodian broadcast reportedly said that "the members of the former Cabinet remain unchanged."

Cambodia's head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and its premier, Penn Nouth, have both lived in Peking since 1970 but neither man is thought to have influence on the administration which is dominated by Khmer Rouge, or Cambodian Communists.

Yesterday's announcement of the appointments said they had been approved by Sihanouk and Penn Nouth.

Analysts in Bangkok, largely on the strength of Ieng Sary's reported close associa-

tion with North Vietnam in the past, believe the appointments represent a victory for a purported North Vietnamese faction in the Cambodian government.

Several analysts in Washington, said, however, that the only hard conclusion that can be made about the new government is that it is intensely nationalistic. Since the communists' military victory Cambodia has almost wholly shut itself off from the outside world.

The analysts in Washington noted that only China has established a diplomatic mission in Phnom Penh, a fact they believe tends to discount any claim that North Vietnam may be in the ascendancy there.

According to Western intelligence sources, Cambodian and Vietnamese Communists have had fought several clashes along their border since their conquests of the U.S.-supported governments. The Vietnamese also forcibly occupied an island in the Gulf of Siam claimed by Cambodia.

Last week Cambodia and North Vietnam announced that they had held a conference in Phnom Penh in which they reached "unanimity of views."

Of the men named to the Cabinet yesterday, virtually nothing is known about Son Sen. During the fighting he was given the title of chief of staff of the armed forces.

Ieng Sary's position during that period was listed as spe-

cial advisor to Khieu Samphan. He was said to have acted as liaison with other Communist parties in Asia.

Some reports say that Ieng Sary is an ethnic Vietnamese born in northern Cambodia. He is said to have lived for a considerable time in North Vietnam as part of his liaison duties.

The analysts in Washington said they would be watching closely the talks in Peking for a clearer indication of the course Cambodia will be setting. They will be especially watching whether Prince Sihanouk, the nominal head of state, will participate.

Sihanouk, who has complained publicly about not being invited back to Cambodia, has been in Pyongyang, North Korea, for more than two months.

Germans Battle Fire on Plains

LUENEBURG, West Germany, Aug. 13 (AP) — Wind-whipped fires burned out of control in a 30-square-mile area of the tinder-dry north German plains today. Ten thousand fire fighters backed by French and U.S. Air Force planes fought to save threatened villages.

Six communities with 3,000 residents in Lower Saxony were evacuated as winds shifted the flames westward on the sixth straight day of West Germany's worst series of forest and brush fires in years, authorities said.