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Sihanouk Seen Ready To Return to Cambodia

TOKYO, Aug. 21—North Korean President Kim Il Sung said at a banquet last night in Pyongyang that a Cambodian delegation headed by First Vice Premier Khieu Samphan has arrived in the North Korean capital "to accompany Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk home."

Kim gave no exact date for Sihanouk's departure from Pyongyang, where he has been living for three months.

Sihanouk, with the end of his five-year exile now in sight, said that Cambodia has chosen "once and for all, non-alignment, as its unshakeable line in its conduct in the international arena, in its international affairs and in its relations with foreign countries."

Sihanouk called Kim "a double hero" who has brought North Korea "genial, extremely dynamic and enlightened leadership," while the president described the prince as "our brother, comrade-in-arms and closest friend."

The prince, recognized by the ruling Khmer Rouge as Cambodia's nominal head of state, has lived out of the country since being ousted in 1970 in a right-wing coup. He did not return after the April Communist takeover in Cambodia.

Pyongyang radio quoted the Cambodian leader as saying he would come back to Pyongyang as head of a Cambodian delegation Oct. 10, "on the occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the Korean Labor (Communist) Party."

Khieu Samphan met ailing Premier Penn Nouth in Peking and both traveled to Pyongyang to attend the dinner with Sihanouk.

Penn Nouth has long been a close associate of Sihanouk, but Khieu Samphan—a North Vietnamese-trained theoretician—is known to be at ideological odds with the prince.

Sihanouk drove the Communist underground when the prince was effective ruler of Cambodia.