

## SIHANOUK THANKFUL FOR PEKING BACKING

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PEKING, Sept. 8 (Reuters)—  
On the eve of his long-delayed return to Cambodia, Prince Noraddom Sihanouk paid tribute tonight to the Chinese leaders who granted him sanctuary here.

In a speech at a farewell banquet, Prince Sihanouk expressed "infinite and inexhaustible gratitude" for China's support to the Cambodian revolution.

The 52-year-old Prince, Cambodia's titular head of state, leaves for Phnom Penh tomorrow after five years and five

months of exile.

From among China's leaders, Prince Sihanouk singled out Premier Chou En-lai for special thanks. He said Premier Chou had "extended himself unsparingly day and night since the first minute of our struggle."

The Premier was not at tonight's banquet in the Great Hall of the People, but eight deputy premiers attended.