

NYTimes
**Sihanouk's Press Aide Charges
Communists Betrayed Prince**

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HONG KONG, Oct. 17 (AP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk's press secretary says the Cambodian chief of state has been "double-crossed" by his country's Communist leaders and some of them "want to get rid" of him, the Far Eastern Economic Review reported today.

The Review, a weekly regional news magazine, said that the press secretary, Nouth Cheoum, also said Prince Sihanouk was apprehensive about leaving Peking, where he had lived in exile since 1970, to return to Cambodia in September following the Communist takeover.

The Prince stayed in Cambodia only a short while and is now back in Peking.

The press secretary quoted Prince Sihanouk as saying: "My decision to return to Cambodia does not express the fact that I agree with the cruel policy of the Red Khmers, but I must sacrifice myself for the honor of China and His Excellency Chinese Premier Chou En-lai who helped so much Cambodia and myself."

'Begged Him to Be Careful'

The Review said that it interviewed Mr. Nouth Cheoum when he stopped over in Hong Kong en route to Europe, where he hopes to settle in Britain or France.

Mr. Nouth Cheoum said that Lon Non, brother of former President Lon Nol, who ousted Prince Sihanouk, and former Premier Long Boret were "shot out of hand" after the Communist victory in April.

"Loyal supporters of Prince Sihanouk had also been forced out into the countryside, their homes and possessions confiscated; even their names were changed so that fathers could no longer find their families," Mr. Nouth Cheoum continued, adding:

"Personally I think the Prince has chosen a bold but dangerous path. I have begged him to be careful. It is no secret that a minority group of extremists want to get rid of

Sihanouk. He went back with plenty of misgivings because he felt this was the least he could do to restore stability and because he owed as much to the Chinese who had backed him from the start."

The Prince presided at a Cabinet meeting after his return, "but he was not allowed to question the proceedings," Mr. Nouth Cheoum said. "It was made brutally clear that his job was a sinecure—and an uneasy one at that."

Mr. Nouth Cheoum said that Prince Sihanouk was "appalled" at conditions in Phnom Penh, and he was not allowed to travel more than nine miles outside the Cambodian capital.

"Obviously, he has been double-crossed," said the aide. "In the privacy of the palace he wept."

Mr. Nouth Cheoum said that before Prince Sihanouk returned to Cambodia last month, he told his family and other members of his entourage in Peking:

"You can come back with me in my special plane, but I cannot assure you of your destiny. You should not put the blame on me or make me responsible if the Red Khmers will not let you out of Cambodia. I respect your wish and your freedom if you want to leave China and live somewhere else."

Mr. Nouth Cheoum said everyone decided to seek political asylum abroad.