

Bangkok Talks Start

BANGKOK—Negotiations between Cambodia and Thailand on the establishment of diplomatic and trade relations got off to a promising start Wednesday, a senior Thai foreign ministry official reported.

However, the question of when the two neighboring Southeast Asian nations would exchange diplomatic missions seemed to have been put off for future discussion.

The only countries that have been allowed to open diplomatic missions in Phnom Penh since the April Communist victory in Cambodia are China, North Vietnam and North Korea.

Diplomatic observers in Bangkok consider it highly unlikely that the Cambodians will be willing to allow a Thai mission to open in Phnom Penh at this stage. However, as Cambodia is known to be in dire need of food, gasoline and other critical goods, the Khmer Rouge may have to accept a Thai embassy if the Bangkok government insists on it as a basic price for trade.

Following a two-hour meeting between Cambodian Vice Premier Ieng Sary, who arrived here Tuesday, and Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, journalists were told that "the appointment of ambassadors depends on facilities."