

# Cambodia Accuses U.S. Of New Bombing Raids

## Bangkok

Cambodia charged yesterday that United States planes bombed Siem Reap in northwestern Cambodia three days ago, killing 15 persons and wounding 40 others.

American embassy and military officials in Bangkok immediately characterized the charges as "ridiculous and completely without any truth."

The Cambodian report, broadcast by the Phnom Penh radio station and monitored here, said that two separate attacks by what were described as F-3 jets occurred in the morning and afternoon of February 25 on Siem Reap and its airport. The report said the planes turned north toward Thailand after they had allegedly dropped their

bombs.

It was believed that the Cambodians were referring to F-111 jets whose figures could be mistaken for the Roman numeral three. A number of these planes were stationed at airbases in Thailand during the Vietnam war and used for air attacks over Indochina. But American and Thai officials said the last American warplanes left Thailand last December.

The broadcast described the "attack" in considerably more detail than most releases from the Cambodian Communists, leading most analysts here to believe that some sort of incident did take place. It was read by Cambodia's information minister, Hu Nim, who makes only the most important government statements.

Nim reported that the first sortie by "one U.S. imperialist jet plane — an F-3 type — flying at high altitude" took place at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. He said the plane dropped a 500-kilogram bomb that left a crater more than 20 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter.

The second attack "on the same spot" came the same day at 2:30 p.m., the information minister reported.

"The bombing on these two occasions caused heavy damage to Siem Reap town, especially the hospital, the child care center and schools, and killed 15 people, combatants and children, and wounded more than 40 others," Nim continued.

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