

A French Reporter Describes Rebels in Cambodia

PARIS, June 1 (Reuters)—A French journalist says he accompanied a group of anti-Communist guerrillas in Cambodia earlier this month and found growing armed resistance to Cambodia's Government.

Yves-Guy Berges wrote in the daily newspaper France-Soir that groups of anti-Communist guerrillas occupied large jungle areas of Cambodia that the country's new authorities did not attempt to control.

Mr. Berges, a longtime war correspondent, who has reported from Vietnam and accompanied foreign mercenaries fighting in Angola this year, said the group he accompanied included some former soldiers of the Communist-led force known as Khmer Rouge. These men, he said, had defected

since the Communists took over last year.

The group, which consisted of about 100 guerrillas, was led by a man known only as Colonel Rithysac, Mr. Berges reported.

Colonel Rithysac was quoted as saying of the areas where his group operated: "The Khmer Rouge are where we were and we are where they were. The initiative is now in our hands."

Mr. Berges said that the anti-Communist guerrillas collected information on the Communist forces and made contact with the population.

He said that the guerrillas avoided making contact with Communist forces because they did not want to cause reprisals against the population.

Several groups of anti-Com-

munist guerrillas were active in the area he visited and the Communists avoided the region, Mr. Berges reported.

Some members of the group said that they were well-received by villagers they visited at night after the Communist forces had withdrawn into camps in the jungle, he said.

Reports of armed opposition to the Phnom Penh authorities have been filtering into neighboring Thailand for some time; but Mr. Berges is believed to be one of the first Westerners to have accompanied anti-Communist forces inside Cambodia.

Mr. Berges said that he believed the Communists did not fight the guerrillas because they were too busy watching over the population, but he quoted Colonel Rithysac as saying: "The peace of the Khmer Rouge is only provisional."