

APR 7 1955
Cambodia War Said to Cause Major Peking Shift
 24 MAY 70

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Information reaching New York from sources close to Communist leaders in Asia suggests that the United States move into Cambodia has transformed the Indochina situation more radically than originally estimated. This evaluation is being taken seriously in Washington.

United States specialists there say the evaluation conforms in many respects to other information becoming available concerning China and its role in Southeast Asia.

'Wholly New Ball Game'

The key to the changed aspect in Indochina was said to be agreement by North Vietnam, the Vietcong, Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Communist Pathet Lao organization in Laos on an all-for-one and one-for-all arrangement to which China has pledged full support.

Those who have had a firsthand opportunity to assess the situation in Peking and Hanoi describe it "as a wholly new

ball game." What faces the United States now in Southeast Asia, they believe, is protracted war with virtually no possibility of arriving at a settlement in Vietnam unless there is a settlement covering Laos and Cambodia at the same time.

In fact, some who are close to Peking's thinking even suggest that the settlement would have to cover "all of Southeast Asia, including Thailand."

It is conceded by United States specialists that the sweeping description of changes in Hanoi's attitudes as well as in those of the others in the new Indochina association may be offered for bargaining purposes. But those who have been following Peking's attitudes with the greatest care believe that it has arrived at an entirely new posture since the opening of the Cambodian phase of the war.

Peking is said to have made it clear that the Indochinese people have its full backing. This goes not only for supplies

and materials but for specialists and experts if needed, and for "volunteers" if requested. It does not mean a joint military command, it was said, but it does mean common strategy, military and diplomatic.

What China, North Vietnam and their associates now foresee, it was said, is a protracted war. According to this view, they see no possibility that a diplomatic move by Washington, even if couched in the most generous terms, would provide an answering response from Hanoi—except in the unlikely event that the United States was prepared to negotiate complete withdrawal from Southeast Asia.

Prior to the United States entry into Cambodia, it was said, it was possible to envisage a settlement embracing only the North Vietnam and South Vietnam, with Cambodia and Laos left to one side, presumably continuing in their theoretically neutral status. Now, it was said, there is no question of such an approach.

Additional paragraph, carried by New Orleans States-Item:

As far as U.S.-Chinese relations are concerned, it was agreed by those with access to both Chinese and American circles that the prospect of effective negotiation had been killed for the foreseeable future as a result of the Indochinese events.