

Lon Nol Wrapping It Up

Phnom Penh

Cambodia's political crisis appeared almost over yesterday with the way now cleared for Marshal Lon Nol to form a new government, according to informed sources here.

Cambodia has been without a government for five days after Lon Nol's takeover of supreme power as the country's first-ever president.

After several influential politicians refused to work unconditionally for the new regime, veteran independence fighter Son Ngoc Thanh on Saturday night agreed to head a new government as first minister under Lon Nol.

There has been no official statement so far from Lon Nol, but the government's acting chief spokesman, Long Boret, confirmed the acceptance in an interview over the national radio.

Son Ngoc Thanh told reporters: "I have no conditions to make. I am putting myself at the service of my country."

Informed sources said yesterday a 14-man provisional cabinet list discussed at a meeting Saturday had still not be made final.

Many of the list, including a number of military men little known in political circles, are regarded as follow-

ers of Lon ol.

Others owed allegiance to his close associate, Lieutenant General Sirik Matak,

who abandoned politics in the face of student agitation last week.

Reuters