

FOE SAID TO PRESS DRIVE IN CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh Reports a New Area of Attack in South

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Feb. 12 (Reuters) — Communist forces opened a new area of attack in southern Cambodia today and redoubled their attacks in other regions despite the cease-fire in other parts of Indochina.

The military command here reported simultaneous ground assaults against at least six Government positions 25 to 31 miles southwest of Phnom Penh the sea.

It is only three weeks since the same positions, which have changed hands repeatedly in recent months, were relieved by Government clearing operations.

Casualties Listed

A command spokesman said that five Government soldiers were killed and seven were wounded in this morning's fighting and that three communist soldiers were killed.

Heavy attacks were also reported from the southeast, where towns and villages along Route 1 toward Saigon and on the Mekong River have been under increasing pressure in the last week.

An attack this morning just outside the town of Phumi Prek Khsay, where the road and the river meet, cost Government forces 27 wounded.

The nearby town of Phumi Banam, 32 miles southeast of here, fell to the Communists Saturday.

Phumi Prek Khsay, deserted by its civilian population of about 5,000, has been under steady shellfire.

Fighting on the river bank has aroused fear that the Communists are again trying to pre-



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The Phumi Prek Khsay area (1) and Government posts southwest of Phnom Penh (2) were attacked.

vent the weekly ship convoys from reaching Phnom Penh with fuel, food and military supplies. The road has been closed for nearly a year.

The danger to convoys was underscored today when Communist rocket fire hit the western bank of the river, killing three Government soldiers and wounding three.

Shelling and ground attacks were reported this morning for the third successive day close to Route 1 about 16 miles east of the capital.

Six-Mile Stretch Cut

The road has been cut for a six-mile stretch there, and the command has described the situation as serious.

According to military sources, one highway garrison was overrun during the weekend and another was isolated and under attack. The nearby state-owned plywood factory was badly damaged by the shelling.

No new clashes were reported today along the South Vietnamese border or at the isolated northern provincial capital, Kampong Thum, where an outlying position was lost to the Communists yesterday.

Elsewhere, scattered activity continued, as the Government

held to its pledge not to undertake offensive military activity. The curb went into effect Jan. 29, 24 hours after the cease-fire in neighboring Vietnam.