

Cambodia Uneasy

Over Truce Plans

Pnompenh, Initially  
Pleased, Now Sees  
Perils in Pact

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Special to [NYT]

Pnompenh,  
Cambodia, Dec. 12 -  
The attitude of the  
Cambodian Govern-  
ment toward the  
Indochina cease-fire  
now being negotiated  
seems to have  
changed from one of  
wishfulness and  
plaintive optimism  
to more realism and  
worry.

The Government's  
initial reaction to  
the announcement in  
late October of the  
proposed nine-point  
late October or the propo-  
nine-point agreement between  
North Vietnam and the United  
States was a deep sigh of re-  
lief.

Government officials from  
President Lon Nol down told  
visitors at that time that a  
cease-fire in Vietnam would  
mean that North Vietnamese  
and Vietcong troops would au-  
tomatically withdraw from  
Cambodia. The Cambodian  
Government would then settle  
its differences with the local  
rebels, the Khmer Rouge, and  
peace would return, they said.

This view has now changed  
and stiffened considerably.  
Marshal Lon Nol's Government,  
whose former attitude was de-  
scribed as naive by most for-  
eign diplomats here, has now  
apparently recognized the seri-  
ousness for Cambodia of the  
terms of the proposed accord,  
as announced on Oct. 26.

**No Mention of Supervision**

The only one of the accord's  
nine points that dealt with Laos  
and Cambodia—Article 7—said  
nothing about extension of the  
Vietnam cease-fire to these two  
countries and nothing about  
international supervision there.  
It said that all "foreign" troops  
should withdraw from Cambod-  
ia and Laos, but it did not  
specifically mention North Viet-  
namese troops. This is signifi-  
cant, since Hanoi has never ad-  
mitted that its troops are pres-  
ent in these countries.

Recent speeches by high  
Cambodian officials and state-  
ments in Government publica-  
tions make it clear that the  
Lon Nol regime now considers  
this original agreement full of  
traps and quicksand for Cam-  
bodia, particularly because of  
the absence of any guarantee  
of North Vietnamese with-  
drawal.

The Government press  
agency said in a political com-  
mentary a few days ago that  
if the final version of the ac-  
cord should closely resemble  
the text of the nine points,  
"then the outlook for the fu-  
ture of our region would not  
be very encouraging."

**Officials Show Anxiety**

"Everything hangs on a with-  
drawal of the North Vietname-  
se invaders," the commentary  
went on, "and the other parts  
of the accord are only of sec-  
ondary interest compared to  
this essential point."

That is the essence of what  
Cambodian officials are now  
saying. While they still ac-  
knowledge privately that they  
are totally dependent on Amer-  
ican aid and thus will have no  
choice but to accept any ac-  
cord the Americans work out  
for Cambodia, they have be-  
gun to ask hard questions and  
to become extremely anxious  
about the future.

Whereas they were initially  
puzzled and irritated by the  
objections to the accord posed  
by President Nguyen Van Thieu  
of South Vietnam, and regarded  
him as a delayer of peace, the  
Cambodians are now praising  
Mr. Thieu and calling his ob-  
jections "legitimate" and "far-  
seeing."

**'No Cause for Rejoicing'**

The Pnompenh Government  
has avoided any criticism of  
the Nixon Administration, but  
commentaries by the Govern-  
ment press agency and other  
official statements continue to  
express disbelief that the Unit-  
ed States would enter into an  
accord that did not contain  
written guarantees of North  
Vietnamese troop withdrawal.

Commenting on foreign press  
reports that the final accord  
will be very close to the one  
originally announced, the edi-  
tor of Le Republican, a Gov-  
ernment paper, wrote in a re-  
cent column: "In that case,  
there would truly be no cause  
for rejoicing." A cease-fire  
without troop withdrawal "will  
not be peace," he said. The  
column went on to express  
hope "that the new text will be  
better than the first."