

Cambodia Expected to Announce a 72-Hour Cease-Fire to Test Foe;
Laos Hears Hanoi Vows Pullout

A TRUCE AWAITED

JAN 26 1973

Phnom Penh Official Assured by U.S. on Hanoi's Sincerity

NYTimes

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Jan. 25—A high diplomatic source said today that Cambodia would halt her offensive military operations by Sunday on the strength of American assurances that Henry A. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho had reached an understanding during their negotiations that the cease-fire in Vietnam would be extended to Laos and Cambodia as well.

Cambodia was informed of the understanding by William H. Sullivan, a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, who briefed the Cambodian Foreign Minister, Long Boret, here yesterday on the cease-fire agreement. Mr. Long Boret stopped in Paris briefly on his way to home to Phnom Penh after a tour of South America and Europe.

The source reported that Mr. Sullivan, who participated in the cease-fire negotiations, left Mr. Long Boret with the impression of high American confidence that Hanoi intended to do its best to stop all fighting in Indochina.

Responsibility Is Limited

However, only the United States and the three Vietnamese parties that participated in the Paris peace conference—the Saigon Government, the National Liberation Front and North Vietnam — are bound by the agreement to end military operations in Laos and Cambodia. This would leave the Cambodian and Laotian adversaries free to continue their civil war, in which they have been heavily supported until now by North Vietnam from the ground and the United States from the air.

The diplomatic source said that Cambodia planned to suspend her offensive operations for 72 hours, probably beginning Sunday, and to wait to see whether the North Vietnamese — who with their Cambodian supporters control more

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than half of Cambodia's territory — would do the same.

If they do not, the source continued, Cambodia intends to resume military operations and will feel free to ask the United States to resume bombing of Communist forces in the country. The Cambodians were reported to feel that the United States would give consideration to such a request, following the meeting between Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Long Boret yesterday.

But the diplomatic source emphasized that the United States had underlined to Cambodia its firm belief that Hanoi intended to live up to its agreement that all foreign military operations in Cambodia and Laos cease.

Cambodian official sources said that if the North Vietnamese left and only Cambodian guerrillas remained on the other side, a settlement would not be difficult to obtain.

They do not discount the possibility that Cambodian guerrillas might continue the war alone—in which case the Government troops would be obliged to do the same—but they say that, left to each other, the Cambodians would find it possible to remain at odds without remaining at war.

However, unlike Laos, where the Communist Pathet Lao as well as the Government recognize the authority of the King and where peace talks between the two sides have been under way, no commonly recognized central authority exists in Cambodia and the opposing sides have made no contact except on the battlefield.

High Cambodian officials count heavily on the influence of the Soviet Union, which has maintained diplomatic relations with the Government of President Lon Nol, to exercise its influence on behalf of a peaceful settlement in their country, although the agreement to be signed Saturday contains no such provision.

Cambodia Bombing Halt Hinted

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Jan. 25 (Agence France-Presse)—A source close to the American Embassy here said today that the United States would end all air action over Cambodia at 7 A.M., Monday (7 P.M. Sunday, New York time).

The source added, however, that American military assistance, including the supply of arms and ammunition for Cambodian troops, would continue.

A 'Plan of Maneuver'

Special to The New York Times

PHNOM PENH, Jan. 25—Information Minister Kean Reth said today that he could give no indication of when warfare in Cambodia might be brought to an end.

Commenting at a news conference on the agreement for a cease-fire in Vietnam, he said the Government had set up a special headquarters to carry out a "plan of maneuver" that must for the present be kept secret. But he reiterated the Government position that a peace between the Government and Cambodian guerrillas loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Chief of State, was dependent on the withdrawal from Cambodia of Vietnamese Communist troops supporting the anti-Government Cambodians.