

# Lon Nol Orders Army to Cease Fire

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Jan. 28—President Lon Nol made an attempt today to bring about a peace in Cambodia on the basis of the Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

He asked North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces in his country to stop fighting and leave Cambodian territory. To enable them to leave in the shortest possible time, he ordered Government troops to suspend offensive military operations starting at 7 A.M. Monday (7 P.M. Sunday, New York time).

The President also made a new public appeal to all Cambodians fighting against his Government to cease hostilities, accept a promise of no punishment and join his regime as a group "against the expansionist and imperialist aims of our enemies."

Finally, he asked the four parties who signed the Paris cease-fire agreement, as well as the United Nations, the old International Control Commission and "all countries that cherish peace and justice" to assist Cambodia in assuring strict adherence to the Paris pacts.

These agreements — signed yesterday by the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam and the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government — provide for a withdrawal from Cambodia of all foreign forces, armaments, munitions, advisers and military equipment and reaffirm the terms of the Geneva agreements of 1954 applying to Cambodia. Foreign nations were pledged by the 1954 accords to respect Cambodia's independence, territorial integrity, neutrality and sovereignty.

President Lon Nol's new concerted effort to achieve peace, despite the lack of any reciprocal move from hostile forces, was made today at a special convocation of both houses of the Cambodian National Assembly and of members of the diplomatic corps.

Today, the Cambodian capital was adorned with national emblems everywhere, and slogans and cartoons on walls stressed the themes of national unity, support for the army and vigilance against the enemy. Phnom Penh residents, including thousands of Buddhist monks, jammed streets around the Assembly building and the neighboring palaces of the kings who ruled when Cambodia was a monarchy.

President Lon Nol's initiative today was spurred by a desire for an early end to a war that is draining and shattering his country, as well as a realization that the Government faces great difficulty in combatting Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist forces that hold large areas, with large parts of the nation's population.

The Government believes that it could successfully deal with the Cambodian Communists alone — they are estimated at 30,000 to 40,000 in scattered guerrilla formations — by either

military means or compromise. But for the predictable future Phnom Penh knows that it cannot defeat the combined Vietnamese and Cambodian Communists on the battlefield.

These forces have given no indication that they are prepared to consider peace in Cambodia at this time. No one has come forward to promote peace, and in Peking, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Head of State who says he represents resistance forces in Cambodia, has spurned any dialogue with the Government here or any end to the war short of com-

plete victory for his side.

It had been expected that the President's order suspending hostilities would become effective at 7 A.M. Sunday (7 P.M. Saturday, New York time), simultaneous with the cease-fire in Vietnam. No explanation was given for the delay.

Military activity in Cambodia has subsided to exchanges of mortar and small-arms fire in the last few days, with Government forces in sufficient control of Phnom Penh's three vital supply routes to permit regular recent transport of cargo.