

TRUCE CONTACTS MADE IN CAMBODIA

Aide of Lon Nol Sees Little
Reason to Continue War

NYTimes FEB 1 1973

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Jan. 31 (Agence France-Presse) — Cambodia's Information Minister said today that "promising" contacts had been established between Government troops and anti-Government forces since President Lon Nol ordered a halt in offensive military operations.

The minister, Keam Reth, said at a news conference that there had been no large-scale attacks by opposing forces since Government troops ceased offensive operations at 7 A.M. Monday.

He said he was convinced that peace would return soon to Cambodia "because we have no reason to remain in conflict when the war in Vietnam is reaching its end."

Asked about a recent statement by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Chief of State, that anti-Government groups would re-evaluate their positions following the signing of the Paris cease-fire agreements, he said, "We pay no attention to his statements."

"Prince Sihanouk," the minister declared, "represents only himself."

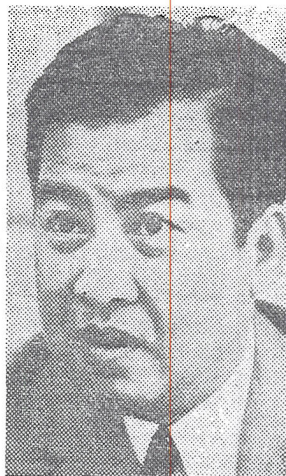
Mr. Keam Reth asserted that three members of the so-called National Sihanouk Front had shifted to the Government's side and that a fourth was now in Phnom Penh.

Sihanouk Backs Standdown

HANOI, North Vietnam, Jan. 31 (Agence France-Presse) — Prince Sihanouk, who arrived here yesterday from Peking for a one-week visit, said today that anti-Government forces in Cambodia would "not launch offensive actions" under a new policy that was evolving.

Speaking at a luncheon with a few newsmen, he said, however, that he had not yet received the final word on what he described as the policy "reevaluation" from resistance leaders in Cambodia headed by the Deputy Premier and Defense Minister in his exile government, Khieu Samphan. The Prince stressed that "the last word" belonged to Mr. Khieu Samphan.

Prince Sihanouk said the resistance fighters had already communicated to him their



United Press International
Prince Norodom Sihanouk

agreement with his policy of offering to restore good relations with the United States.

"If the United States is prepared to act in a friendly manner with an independent and nonaligned Cambodia," the Prince declared, "we are prepared for a rapid reconciliation with Washington."

The Prince made it clear that he did not think the Cambodian problem could be settled without the departure of "Lon Nol and his clique of traitors."

"They have sufficient well-stocked bank accounts in Switzerland," he declared. "They should leave."

"The others," he said, referring to other officials in the present Phnom Penh Government, "will benefit from a general amnesty."

U.S. Role Assailed

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 — Prince Sihanouk said in a cabled message to The New York Times today that "true peace" could never come to Southeast Asia until the United States stopped supporting the "renegade regimes of Indochina" in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Answering questions put to him by The Times, he repeated a pledge to return to Cambodia eventually. He has not been there since he went into exile in Peking in 1970 after his ouster as Chief of State.

"I have already asked the leaders of the resistance located in the interior of Cambodia permission to enter Cambodia as soon as possible," he said. "I await their answer."

"If they refuse to let me return to Cambodia within two months at the latest, I will offer to them my resignation from my present position and I will retire to France."