

# AGNEW, ON A VISIT, ASSURES LON NOL

FEB 2 1973

He Tells Cambodians That  
U.S. Will Support Them—  
Is Kept From Public

NYTimes

By TILLMAN DURDIN

Special to The New York Times

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Feb. 1—Vice President Agnew, paying a five-hour visit, assured Cambodia today of continued U. S. support.

In a prepared press statement issued as he left, he said the assurance was given in conversations with President Lon Nol, during which he also reaffirmed the United States respect for the independence, unity sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

Supporting Cambodian demands for the departure of Vietnamese Communist troops, Mr. Agnew's statement said peace in Indochina would not be complete "as long as a formal cease-fire has not been established here and as long as all foreign forces have not been withdrawn from Cambodia." The Vietnamese are the only foreign troops in Cambodia.

The Vice President, who described the purpose of his visit as a renewal of his relations with the leaders here and a request for information on conditions, arrived this morning from Saigon by special Air Force jet. He departed this afternoon for Bangkok to continue his tour of Southeast Asian capitals to discuss United States policy and interests in the wake of the cease-fire agreement in Vietnam.

## Security for Visit Tight

Extreme security precautions marked the stop here. Three Cambodian battalions made sweeps through suburban areas for miles around the airport. Whole districts of the capital were closed to motor and pedestrian traffic for hours. Mr. Agnew's exposure to public view was minimized by his use of a helicopter from the airport into the city and back.

The Vice President had no contact with the public or the press, and during a visit to the United States embassy lower-ranking staff members were not allowed to approach him.

On arrival Mr. Agnew flew to Chamcar Mon, the residence of President Lon Nol. He then went by car to the embassy for a session with the Ambassador, Emory C. Swank, and his aides.

Later Mr. Agnew held discussions with Marshal Lon Nol and members of his Cabinet.

## Peace Outlook Clouded

The visit came at a time when uncertainty continued to mark the prospects for peace in Cambodia. Government troops are under orders not to initiate offensive actions, but the Communist forces continue desultory, small-scale shellings and attacks, as unready to and attacks, as if unready to move into a firm cease-fire.

The Government has said that the main reason for the suspension order is to make it easy for the North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops to withdraw.

According to the latest estimates, which show a reduction from a month ago, there are roughly 10,000 Vietnamese Communist combat troops and a 13,000-man logistic force in Cambodia, mostly concentrated along the 350-mile border with South Vietnam.

Cambodian insurgents cooperating with the Vietnamese, and usually aided by Vietnamese specialists and advisers, are reported to total about 40,000.

So far there is no evidence that the Vietnamese are withdrawing. Government efforts to use the suspension of offensive action to persuade the Cambodian insurgents to come over to the Government side have had only scattered results. They have been told in leaflets and radio broadcasts that they will not be punished, will have full political freedom and can become soldiers if they wish.

## Air Action Suspended

All American and Cambodian air action against the Communist forces has been suspended. However, the delivery of American military supplies from bases in Thailand and by ship into the southern Cambodian port of Kampong Soam continues.

The lack of a cease-fire and peace has motivated opposition political groups in Phnom Penh to become more open in their demands for political change.

An important group, the Democratic party, issue a statement saying that only a new government with a freer, more democratic base could bring about reconciliation. Roughly the same message came from representatives of the Association of Cambodian Youth, who announced opposition to any government that was monarchic, feudal, dictatorial, military or founded on personal power.

Both groups demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops and military supplies.

## Vice President in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand, Feb. 1 (AP)—Vice President Agnew arrived here today for the third stop of his Southeast Asian tour.

Tomorrow he will hold discussions with King Phumiphol Aduldet, Premier Thanom Kittikachorn and other leaders. On Saturday he will fly to Vientiane, Laos.