Cambodia Peace Setback

Phnom Penh

Hopes receded yesterday for an early settlement to the Cambodian war as a Phnom Penh government spokesman said no peace moves would be undertaken for at least three weeks.

Information Minister Keam Reth said the government will not announce whether it will negotiate with the Communists until after the 12-pary conference on Indochina in Paris which starts February 26.

The news came shortly

after the deposed head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the pro-Communist exile government, announced that his forces will continue the war.

In earlier statements, the prince had raised hopes that he was prepared to make some conciliatory gestures to the Phnom Penh government.

William Sullivan, Senior Aide to U.S. peace negotiator Henry Kissinger, arrived in Phnom Penh for talks with president Lon Nol after attending Kissinger's meeting with North Vietnamese leaders in Hanoi earlier this week.

Neither North Vietnam nor the U.S. has shown signs of cutting back military aid to the warring Cambodian parties until the Cambodians themselves agree to a formal cease-fire.

U.S. planes were in action over Cambodia again Wednesday, attacking Communist forces on the banks of the Mekong river about 35 miles below Phnom Penh, according to military sources.

Reuters