

## War in Cambodia Is Unabated; Communist Assaults Reported

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Feb. 21 (Reuters)—The war in Cambodia showed no sign of abating today as several new Communist attacks were reported along the main southern highways close to the capital.

Though the Laotian truce apparently raised hopes abroad that a cease-fire might follow soon in Cambodia, Information Minister Keam Reth ruled out mediation by China or North Vietnam. He insisted that North Vietnamese troops—estimated at 23,000 here—and the Vietcong must leave Cambodia.

The Government has ruled out any peace initiative toward the Communists until after the international conference on Indochina in Paris beginning next week. No political or military negotiations are known to be under way with the Communists.

The Cambodian command reported three new attacks by Communist forces last night and this morning only 14 miles from the center of Phnom Penh.

Most of the latest assaults took place on or near the two main highways that run parallel through the region toward the South Vietnamese border. The routes have been scenes of frequent battles in the last year.

Government forces reportedly lost three killed and 10 wounded in one of the attacks, but casualties in the other two were not known.

These new battles brought to seven the number of attacks in the region over the last 24 hours. The command had reported 30 soldiers killed in clashes yesterday morning.

East of Phnom Penh, Government troops again reported little success in their counter-attack began six days ago to clear the banks of the Mekong River. Near the capital itself, opposing troops were only yards apart after Government forces were bogged down 17 miles from the capital over the weekend. Cambodian T-28 warplanes struck Communist positions.