

CAMBODIA REPORTS VILLAGE RETAKEN

FEB 27 1973

Reds Had Seized Area Near

Phnom Penh Friday

NYTimes

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Feb. 26 (Reuters) — Cambodia Government troops today recaptured the battered township of Siem Reap, nine miles south of Phnom Penh, the military command announced.

The township was abandoned by its garrison Friday and became a no mans land between opposing frontlines.

A command spokesman gave no details of the fighting to recover the town, which straddles the main southern highway.

On another major road through the area, just south of Phnom Penh, Government troops were locked in battle today with Communist forces.

There was no word on the fate of the province capital of Tram Khnar, where heavy fighting was reported over the weekend.

Paris Parley Discussed

PHNOM PENH, Feb. 26 (Agence France-Presse) — The Cambodian Government held an emergency meeting today to discuss the Vietnam conference in Paris.

Information Minister Keam Seth said afterward that the Government took steps "to make our position known and to ask our friends to be ready to help us."

Although the Paris conference, which opened today, was principally concerned with Vietnam, government circles here believe that the question of Cambodia will be raised.

Only last week, the Head of State, Marshal Lon Nol, said he hoped the Paris conference "will act to put an end to the foreign aggression to which the Khmer Republic is still a victim."

Cambodia had originally hoped to send an observer to the Paris conference, but was reportedly dissuaded by the participating nations. She will be informed of progress by her embassy and by the Cambodian Senate chairman, Sau Kham Khoi, who arrived in Paris last week.

On the political front, reports still circulated that Marshal Lon Nol, in spite of official denials, might leave for an American military hospital in Honolulu. "The marshal has never planned to leave," and added, "The reports were 'without any foundation.'"

Raids by U.S. Continue

HONOLULU, Feb. 26 (UPI) — The Pacific command today announced continuing American bombing operations over Cambodia. A spokesman for Adm. Noel A. M. Gayler, command of the United States forces in the Pacific, said that "at the request of the Cambodian Government, United States aircraft, including B-52's, conducted operations over Cambodia."