

LON NOL ORDERS STERN MEASURES

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Suspends Press and Holds Some in House Arrest After Bombing Attack

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, March 18—President Lon Nol ordered a series of stern measures today after an apparent attempt to assassinate him in a bombing raid on the presidential palace.

Acting under a state of emergency and seige declared yesterday, the President suspended the publication of all newspapers and periodicals except those published by the Government. No time limit has been put on the suspension, which gives the apparent coup de grace to a press that was already operating under strict controls.

The Government also put under house arrest a number of members of the former royal family. The total affected by the measures is not known, but a number of persons of royal blood were said to be under confinement in the house in which former Queen Kos-somak, the mother of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has been living since her son's over-

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throw three year ago today.

In another measure, the Government ordered all teachers, who have been on strike for a month, mainly over economic issues, to resume work. About 20,000 teachers are estimated to be participating in the countrywide strike, which has halted public education.

The declaration of the highest state of national emergency came after the bombing attack early yesterday afternoon, when an American-built light bomber of the Cambodian Air Force swooped low over the palace where Marshal Lon Nol was presiding over a Cabinet meeting, and dropped two bombs.

They fell on a series of low barracks housing the families of Government employes and killed 43 persons, about half of them children. About 30 were hospitalized with serious burns.

The pilot has been identified as Capt. So Potra, who had not been allowed to fly since his marriage in 1971 to one of Prince Sihanouk's 13 children, Princess Bothum Bopha.

It was not known how Captain So Potra managed to take off in the T-28 that stood ready with four bombs under its wings. An investigation at the military air base at the capital's airport is under way and a number of arrests have been unofficially reported.

The incident is assumed here to be a prelude to a renewed campaign against members of the two branches of the royal family, the Norodoms and the Sisowaths. Such campaigns have flared periodically although the two families have been remarkably subdued. The only exception has been Lieut.

Gen. Sisowath Sirik Matak, a former chief of government who helped to stage the overthrow of Prince Sihanouk and who was second in importance in Cambodia until last year, when this role was taken over by Brig. Gen. Lon Non, the President's younger brother.

Although the bombing attempt on the presidential palace was the most spectacular event of the day, diplomatic sources here believe that an earlier act of violence, a grenade incident that killed two at a meeting of striking teachers, is of greater and more lasting significance.

The Government identified the grenade throwers as enemy agents, presumably Cambodian insurgents. Students, however, said that they identified them as soldiers. The Government has attempted to persuade the teachers to resume work to no avail.

Raids Termed Heavy

HONOLULU, March 18 (AP)

—American heavy bombers and tactical aircraft conducted air operations over Cambodia today, responding to an increase in Communist attacks against Government forces, military sources at the Pacific command reported.

The command's official daily statement said United States aircraft, including B-52's, conducted the operations at the request of the Cambodian Government.

There was no elaboration of the official statement, but the sources indicated that the American air strikes were heavy and numerous including raids along Route 2 south of Phnom Penh.