

3 More Supply Vessels Run Cambodia Blockade

A Total of 8 Have Reached Phnom Penh in 2 Days, but a 3d Ship Is Lost— Sea Route Reported Reopened

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By Reuters

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, April 9—A tanker with fuel for this beleaguered city was destroyed today by rockets fired by Communist gunners, but three other supply vessels managed to slip through the blockade along the Mekong River and were reported to be approaching the city.

Their arrival would bring to eight the number of supply ships to complete the voyage in two days. The tanker is the third ship to be lost in the same period.

[The Cambodian Government announced, meanwhile, that its troops had reopened Route 4, Phnom Penh's only land link with the seaport of Kompong Som, The Associated Press reported. Five other main roads from the capital to outer provinces reportedly remained closed.]

Naval sources said that the destroyed tanker, a South Korean vessel named the Boo

Heung 9, was struck as it tried to slip across the South Vietnamese border into Cambodia. No one was hurt, the sources said. The crewmen abandoned ship and were picked up by South Vietnamese gunboats.

The sources added that the tanker's sister ship, the Boo Heung 7, was also hit and lightly damaged today at about the same place in the Mekong, three miles inside South Vietnam and about 80 miles from Phnom Penh. However, that vessel got through and sailed on to Cambodia to join another South Korean tanker, the Hang Seung 2, and the Cambodian freighter Angkor Wat in the 12-hour upriver.

Four other ships trying to run the blockade were caught in the same ambush today, but they were able to turn around and headed back to the South Vietnamese port of Tan Chau.

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Tanker Lost

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They were reported not damaged.

Yesterday three tankers and two cargo ships of a convoy of 18 vessels managed to reach Phnom Penh, delivering the city's first fuel in two weeks, enough for about six days.

Gasoline Rationing Planned

Gasoline is expected to be available here tomorrow, but it will be rationed. Electricity and water supplies remain widely disrupted because pumps and generators are all gasoline-powered.

With rice stocks dwindling, the Government was trying to restrict purchases to 12 ounces a day per person.

The five ships that reached Phnom Penh yesterday were aided in running the Communist blockade by heavy air raids by United States B-52's and fighter-bombers.

[The bombing was continuing at the request of the Cambodian Government, the Pacific command said today in Honolulu in what for several weeks has been a daily announcement.]

Two of the ships were struck by Communist fire and lost and the rest turned back. Naval sources reported that the freighter Ally, which was struck by rockets yesterday, was completely burned out but still afloat at the South Vietnamese border town of Tan An.

The three ships that got through the border ambush today were among those that turned back yesterday.

Japanese to Leave Cambodia

TOKYO, April 9 (AP) — The Foreign Ministry instructed the Japanese Ambassador in Phnom Penh today to evacuate women and children to Bangkok as soon as possible in view of the military situation there. Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsaku Hogen said there were 55 Japanese in Cambodia, including 15 women and children.

Haig Meets Souvanna Phouma

VIENTIANE, Laos, April 9 (Reuters) — President Nixon's representative, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., met the Laotian premier, Prince Souvanna Phouma, for talks on the cease-fire in Laos today soon after arriving from Thailand.

The six-week-old cease-fire

between Prince Souvanna Phouma's Government and the Communist-led Pathet Lao has been broken by continued fighting. The Government military report today charged five violations by Communist forces.

The Premier was believed to have briefed General Haig on the progress of talks with the Pathet Lao to set up a new provisional coalition government.

After his talks here, General Haig was scheduled to go to Phnom Penh. He arrived today after talks with Thai officials in Bangkok.

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