

**LONG DELAY IS SEEN  
IN FORMING AS USUAL**

**Long Delay Is Expected in Forming a Government**

Special to The New York Times  
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, April 19—Officials and politicians said today that forming a new Cambodian Government to replace the one that resigned Tuesday might take a long time, but that, in any case, President Lon Nol would continue to rule

as usual for the time being. The Cabinet resignation has little practical significance since all real authority is vested in President Lon Nol. The question today appeared to be whether the President and two major opposition figures would be able to eliminate their differences and agree on the formation of what would amount to an executive committee in which presidential power would be shared among several more-or-less equal members including the President. The opposition politicians are In Tam, a retired general who ran unsuccessfully against the President in an election last

June, and Sisowath Sirik Matak, a relative of the deposed Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and a former Premier under Lon Nol. Both have been colleagues of the President and both support his general policy of all-out war against the North Vietnamese and Cambodian Communists. But both believe that the Government should be streamlined, and both object to the behind-the-scenes policy-making role of the President's brother, Gen. Lon Non. Yesterday, the President offered Mr. Sirik Matak and Mr. In Tam positions in a proposed 11-member council, and this

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morning, the Phnom Penh radio announced that General Lon Non would be leaving on a mission for the United States. Later in the day, however, Information Minister Keam Reth said that while General Lon Non had traveled abroad before, no new mission had yet been ordered. The Information Minister did not say whether he had heard the radio broadcast. Cambodia's broadcasting facilities are Government agencies. The American scenario, as expressed by officials often in recent months, thus appeared to be falling into place. But several potential sticking points remained today. In an interview, Mr. In Tam

said that he and Mr. Sirik Matak were both optimistic today that President Lon Nol's move to decentralize his authority opened "an exit door from the current serious situation." But before either agrees to work with the President, both seek assurances that the council on which they will serve will have real authority and not be another shadow cabinet of mere advisers. If and when a council is formed, it will have authority to appoint a new government at its leisure, but its main priority will be more vigorous prosecution of the war.

The President and the politicians whom he has asked to join him agree that peace is nowhere in sight and that, therefore, the nation's forces must be united to face the Communists and Prince Sihanouk, who leads an exile regime from Peking. Mr. In Tam said that he hoped to have word from President Lon Nol on Friday as to whether the President agreed to his terms for participation in the Government. Yesterday, Mr. In Tam's party, the Democratic party, reiterated its repudiation of him for agreeing to consider joining the President.