

# Smoke Seen From Capital

## U.S. Air Attack Near Phnom Penh

### Phnom Penh

American fighter-bombers flew over the Cambodian capital all day yesterday, pouring bombs, rockets and napalm into Communist positions just across the Mekong river.

The bombardment was apparently aimed at rocket, mortar and artillery positions from which the enemy is now capable of shelling every part of the city. The air attacks were also meant to soften up Communist defenses for government counterattacks.

Dense columns of smoke were visible from downtown Phnom Penh.

### SHELLING

Earlier in the day, Communist gunners fire four more heavy rockets into Phnom Penh's Pochentang Airport, but no damage or casualties were reported. The capital itself has not yet been shelled, as it was during previous periods of Communist pressure.

President Lon Nol delivered an angry address to the nation condemning the enemy for causing, in addition to some military casualties, 19 civilian deaths and 55 civilian wounded in a rocket attack Thursday.

He asserted that government forces are moving forward in many areas, including outside the besieged provincial capital of Takeo, 40 miles south of here. Hanoi

Radio claimed three days ago that Takeo had fallen to insurgent troops.

"The enemy will surely pay for their crimes as did the Nazis in Europe," Lon Nol said.

### NORMALITY

Despite the noise of nearby tactical air attacks during the day and the distant rumble of B-52 raids at night, Phnom Penh remains calm with life nearly normal.

So far there has been little infantry fighting, both sides apparently preferring to smell each other out from considerable distance.

Government landing craft continued to move ammunition, supplies and troops into the region along the east bank of the Mekong where enemy troops suddenly materialized practically without a fight two days ago.

### JUNTA

Meanwhile, Cambodia's new four-man ruling council, which was appointed last Tuesday to unify all anti-Communist political elements in a showdown fight with the Communist enemy, has still not held its first meeting.

In Tam, an opposition politician who agreed to join the government on condition that its members have real authority to make national policy, told the New York Times that Lon Nol has still not convened the council.

"We are still waiting for

the marshal to call the first meeting. Only then will we see whether we shall really have authority to govern," he said.

But Im Tam, a former brigadier general, said he did not see the military situation as desperate.

"This situation will pass," he said. "We foresaw that there would be very heavy

Communist pressure on us from the time the Vietnam cease-fire was signed. The Vietnamese want to put all Indochina under Hanoi's hat, and Cambodia is important for the Viet Cong as a place to revitalize and resupply themselves.

"But they won't succeed," he said.

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