

# 'Toxic Gas' Attack in Cambodia

## Phnom Penh

Cambodian Communist forces attacking behind a "toxic gas" barrage overran two battalions of government troops at an outpost southeast of Phnom Penh, killing 20 and capturing 580 others who had been disabled by the gas, military sources said yesterday.

The sources said the attack occurred Monday near Neak Luong, an important ferry town and naval outpost on the Mekong river about 35 miles southeast of Phnom Penh. They said details of attack were sketchy.

The exact type of "toxic gas" the sources said the rebel forces were using was not disclosed. However, it was believed to be one of the varieties of tear gas, which has been used widely by the allies and fairly frequently by the Communists in South Vietnam.

The gas attack near Neak Luong was not reported by the Cambodian high command, but it was confirmed by both Cambodian and U.S. military sources with access to secret reports from the front.

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