

# Cambodians Die in Crash Of U.S. Jet

## Phnom Penh

An American fighter-bomber crashed near Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport yesterday, killing five persons and injuring ten, the U.S. Pacific Command said.

Command sources in Honolulu denied the A-7 Corsair hit a hospital, as early reports from witnesses had indicated. A command spokesman said the crash destroyed three farmhouses in the sparsely populated area about a mile southwest of the air field.

The command also said there was no indication that the crash had touched off explosions at a nearby ammunition dump, as eyewitnesses had reported. The crash site was near a storage area for small arms and petroleum, the command sources said.

The pilot, who was not identified, ejected and was taken to the Utapao air base in Thailand where he was in good condition, the command said.

A U.S. Embassy spokes-

man said the plane crashed because of mechanical difficulties. The spokesman did not know if the plane had been hit by gunfire. U.S.

warplanes have been flying missions against Communist forces, which control about two-thirds of Cambodia.

*Associated Press*