

Lon Non, in Paris, Urges Wider American Bombing

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PARIS, May 11—Brig. Gen. Lon Non, brother of the Cambodian President, Marshal Lon Nol, has called for the United States to "use stronger measures, renew bombing of North Vietnam more intensively if necessary," to force the North Vietnamese to withdraw from Cambodia.

General Lon Non is in Paris for a checkup at the American Hospital and for visits to French and Cambodian friends. He is scheduled to continue to the United States on a visit of two months or more starting early in June.

In an interview conducted in French he repeated denials that he was pushed out of Cambodia by American pressure so that the Government of Marshal Lon Nol could be enlarged to include non-Communist leaders who objected to General Lon Non's intense behind-the-scenes influence.

The general had been accused by sources in Cambodia of corruption and authoritarianism as well as of responsibility for the

bombing stopped. But he said that it was "always useful because the North Vietnamese have increased their numbers and their equipment in Cambodia since the cease-fire."

"Now they have tanks," he said. The number of Cambodians fighting Government forces has also increased, he said, estimating that there were 35,000.

American sources in Cambodia here said, however, that there is no evidence that Vietnamese Communist troops are serving in combat, roles against the Phnom Penh Government. The sources estimate that there are 40,000 Vietnamese Communist troops in Cambodia but say that they are either advisers to Cambodian insurgents or are operating in the border areas of Cambodia against Saigon Government forces.

In the spring of 1970, when Prince Norodom Sihanouk was deposed as Chief of State and the United States intervened, the Communist-led insurgent force was estimated at 2,000 men.

Subversion Also Target

Now, according to General Lon Non, Cambodia is conducting a struggle against subversion as well as a war. "The Communists have grown very strong, very perspicacious, in subversion," he asserted. "For example, we sell gasoline at 25 riels a liter [about 80 cents a gallon], but they pay 150 riels a liter, so of course the people fill up bottles and take it to them."

He said that while there were no American advisers in Cambodia involved in the "struggle against economic, political and social subversion," Cambodians had been sent to South Vietnam, Taiwan and Thailand to be trained in this field.

In response to a question about reports of widespread corruption in Phnom Penh and criticism of the Government from many sides, General Lon Non said the criticism was natural.

"We are a young republic, a young democracy," he asserted. "We cannot do everything well, but we are learning. Our defense against subversion has been tested. We are holding despite the Communists' efforts."

"The big blame" for corruption "is the war," he said, adding: "It is difficult to look for perfection in such circumstances. In peacetime, without the war, there would be less stupidities. But with shortages, troubles, well—"

'Upset Means Disorder'

When it was suggested that such problems doubtless undermined the war effort, the general said that there could be improvements but it took time. "We changed the regime, which upset everything and upset means disorder," he said. "At the same time the war came, and that influences everything."

General Lon Non confirmed persistent reports that China offered a compromise shortly after his brother deposed Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was in Moscow at the time

and went to Peking. He said the offer came from the Chinese Ambassador, who was withdrawn shortly afterward when Peking recognized Norodom Sihanouk's government in exile and broke relations with Phnom Penh. The offer proposed recognition of Marshal Lon Nol, his brother said, in return for agreement to allow North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces to maintain their sanctuaries on the Cambodian side of the South Vietnamese border.

In General Lon Non's view the United States played no part in the Cambodian rejection of the offer. The rejection, he said, was based on the conviction "that we couldn't play Sihanouk's neutralist game any more—if we let the North Vietnamese stay, the South Vietnamese would have taken the position that we weren't neutral."

The republicans who displaced the Sihanouk regime were aware that the Cambodian Army was virtually nonexistent and incapable of forcing out the Vietnamese Communists, General Lon Non said. "But Cambodia is not South Vietnam," he continued. "We didn't think the North Vietnamese could imagine open aggression. We realized we were weak, but we thought we would have political, not military, difficulties. We thought the difference in forces wouldn't matter."

As for the future, he said Phnom Penh was willing to negotiate "to let the North Vietnamese withdraw" and to provide new opportunities for the Cambodian insurgents, "including a Communist party if they want, and new elections." He said that they could win a majority in the assembly, "although of course it would have to be in the framework of the Constitution."

But if the North Vietnamese, who have refused to acknowledge their presence in Cambodia, refuse to withdraw, he said, "it is not reasonable, it is not logical."

"If they refuse then our friends will have to put on more pressure," he said. "America should show a more firm determination."

Repeating the metaphor of father and child, and tweaking his own ear to show what he meant by way of reprimand for recalcitrance, he said: "The United States tried to cajole North Vietnam to reason, but you didn't try to make them understand—not with full determination."

The General and his family are staying in an apartment he keeps in the same block of flats in suburban Issy-les-Moulineaux where his other brother, Lon Keng, lives.

A stocky man of 43 years, he, the Khmers, who are unrelated to the other peoples of Indochina and who have a tendency to smile and giggle and speak in gentle tones.

He said he would return home in a few months and resume command of his army division "because I am a military man."



Barbara Gluck Treasler

Brig. Gen. Lon Non

narrow political base and inefficiency of the Government.

He said that his visits both in France and in the United States were private but that he expected to "call on President Nixon and pay my respects." He explained: "It is the least I could do as the marshal's brother since President Nixon has helped us so much."

General Lon Non maintained that the United States had tried logic and persuasion with Hanoi and that it had not worked. "If Hanoi doesn't want to understand, now you have to use force," he said.

The use of force in the last eight years "was not done in an adequate way," he said, adding: "It is like a father and a son. You give him a cake and tell him to behave, but if he doesn't then sometimes you have to spank him. You tweak his ear."

Asked about the effect of intensive United States bombing in Cambodia, General Lon Non said his people would "continue the struggle" if the



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A North Vietnamese officer, foreground, and American and South Vietnamese members of the Joint Military Team boarding a plane in Saigon yesterday for a flight to Hanoi to check on dead prisoners of war and men missing in action.