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IN TAM ANNOUNCES HE IS NEW PREMIER

Cambodian Says 4-Member
Council Reached Accord
NYTimes

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, May 11 (Reuters)—In Tam, one of President Lon Nol's leading non-Communist opponents, announced today that he had been appointed Premier of Cambodia's new Government.

Mr. In Tam said that he had been accepted as Premier by the four-man ruling council, of which he is a member. The others are Cheng Heng, a former Head of State; Sisowath Sirik Matak, and President Lon Nol.

Mr. In Tam will now begin selecting Cabinet members. It was Mr. In Tam's refusal to delegate some of the new council's powers to a cabinet that split the council earlier this week and almost upset plans for a united non-Communist front among Phnom Penh's factions.

There was no official confirmation of Mr. In Tam's announcement, but followers of other council members said that it was correct.

The announcement followed 12 days of deadlocked negotiations between the President, the other council members and representatives of Cambodia's main political parties. The old Cabinet resigned at the President's request last week.

Would Broaden Regime

The creation of the ruling council two weeks ago and the efforts to form a coalition Cabinet since were part of President Lon Nol's attempt to broaden his Government.

He had been urged to do so by Vice President Agnew during a visit here and by other American officials who apparently hoped that a more popular Government would improve the conduct of the war and enhance the chances of successful peace talks with the Communists.

Meanwhile, on the battlefield, Communist forces again attacked during the night in an attempt to halt a Government clearing operation on Route 5, the main road northwest from Phnom Penh. The military command said that seven Government soldiers were killed in the engagement.

Government troops at the southern end of a Communist-occupied stretch of the road have advanced about a mile and a quarter since the operation began four days ago. They were unable to push on because of fire from Communist entrenchments away from the road, according to military sources.

Government troops at the northern end of this stretch of road nine miles away have made little progress because of constant shelling and ground attacks during the night.

In the south, fighting continued at outposts around Kam-pot, a coastal provincial capital 85 miles from here, that came under attack yesterday for the first time during the current offensive.

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