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Government soldiers lost a post west of Bek Chan (1). Road from Kompong Kantuot (2) to capital was jammed by refugees.

CAMBODIA REBELS PRESS ON CAPITAL

Move From Several Sides as
Heavy Fighting Goes On

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE
Special to The New York Times

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, June 14 — Communist forces were pressing toward Phnom Penh from several directions today as heavy fighting continued through the day.

The main action was again reported about 13 miles west of here along Route 4, the capital's link to the sea.

Fighting was heavy with many casualties reported near Bek Chan, where Government troops appeared to be maintaining a strong defensive perimeter. Last night, a Government garrison was forced out of the village of Thnal Totung, four miles farther to the west.

A visit to some of the roads near Phnom Penh today showed that a situation nearly as serious for Government forces had developed on Route 3, which leads toward the southwest, meeting Route 4 just outside the capital.

The road was so jammed with refugee cars, trucks, buses and motorcycles with trailers heading for Phnom Penh that traffic was nearly at a standstill. The refugees were mostly from Kompong Kantuot, a junction town of 30,000 people 15 miles from here.

The town was under intermittent Communist rocket attack, and Communist units several hundred yards off were steadily pushing the defenders back.

U. S. Raids Continue

The continued gravity of the military situation in the Phnom Penh area has been underlined in the last two days by nearly continuous American air raids on Communist positions nearby.

The many thousands of refugees moving along Route 3 will further tax Phnom Penh's resources, which were called upon during the last week to care of at least 35,000 others driven from their homes along Route 4.

Many towns and villages on Routes 3 and 4 have been destroyed in the last week, leaving nothing for refugees to return to even if the areas are recaptured.

The brunt of Phnom Penh's defense is apparently being borne as usual by heavy firepower and air power. Besides the incessant sounds of bombing and artillery a new sound has joined the noises keeping Cambodians awake at night. It is the stuttering roar of rapid firing aerial cannons and machine guns spraying nearby the countryside from American aircraft. American officials here do not disclose details about the conduct of the air war but it appears from observation of the Phnom Penh airport and nearby battlefields that many new American gunships are participating in the fighting.