

Sihanouk Won't See Kissinger

Peking

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chief of the Cambodian government in exile, said here yesterday he has no intention of meeting with Henry A. Kissinger when the latter comes to Peking seeking a settlement of the war in Cambodia.

"Absolutely not!" the prince told newsmen on his return from a trip abroad. "We will continue our armed struggle — there is no time for talk."

Kissinger is expected to visit Peking later this month or early in August for talks with Premier Chou En-lai of China.

Sources at the Western White House in San Clemente said Wednesday that Kissinger also was expected to confer with Sihanouk, who was ousted as Cambodia's chief of state in March 1970 in a move that eventually brought the Cambodians into the Indochina war.

GOVERNMENT

Sihanouk has since lived in Peking and has formed a government in exile known as the Royal Government of National Unity.

U.S. officials view Sihanouk as likely to play a role in any negotiations between the present Cambodian government of Lon Nol and the guerrillas fighting it.

President Nixon will meet today with the top Chinese diplomat in the U.S., Huang



AP Wirephoto

HUANG CHEN Cambodia to be a topic

Chen, and Cambodia is expected to be a chief topic.

Sihanouk made his comments about the Kissinger visit to newsmen at Peking's airport on his return from an 11-nation tour of Africa and Eastern Europe.

'USELESS'

"Now it is too late," he said. "It is useless to talk with Kissinger. I know what he is going to say — compromise and divide. We'll fight on until 1976 . . . 1980 . . . even 1984." These are U.S. presidential election years.

The French newspaper Figaro of Paris published yesterday an interview with Sihanouk in which the prince said any negotiations with the Lon Nol regime in Phnom Penh would lead to the partition of Cambodia.

"Everyone knows that whenever the great powers partition a country it stays that way," Sihanouk said.

Associated Press

Cambodian Army Racket Charged

Washington

Cambodian army commanders drew an estimated \$750,000 to \$1.1 million during January, 1973, to pay non-existent troops, the General Accounting Office reported yesterday.

It was the first estimate by a U.S. government agency of the extent of military payroll padding in the Cambodian war with funds that are supplied largely under American aid programs.

Corrupt payroll practices in the Cambodian military have been acknowledged previously by U.S. and Cambodian authorities, but the extent of the abuses has never before been disclosed in dollar amounts.

Even now, the report indicated, "neither the U.S. government nor the GKR (Cambodian government) knows the extent of the phantom-troop problem and, despite repeated U.S. urgings and GKR corrective efforts, the problem still remains."

Money to pay the salaries of Cambodian army units fighting the insurgent forces in Cambodia comes from the U.S. Food for Peace and commodity import programs as well as assorted grants.

Rep. Michael Harrington (Dem-Mass.), who requested the GAO study, said "This report reveals what we have long known about our involvement in Cambodia: The United States is bombing a foreign nation to support a corrupt government and corrupt practices.

"The bombing itself is abhorrent, but it is made even worse by the expenditure of millions of dollars to pad the pockets of corrupt Cambodian field commanders."

The GAO report said: "A significant factor contributing to the corrupt payroll practices was the rapid expansion of the Cambodian armed forces from a largely ceremonial force of 28,000 to 35,000 to over 200,000 in less than two years."

Washington Post