

# Sihanouk Calls Negotiations 'Useless'

By Murrey Marder

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Prince Norodom Sihanouk, whose government-in-exile now holds new bargaining power over Cambodia's future, said in Peking yesterday that "it's too late" for him to negotiate with U.S. national security affairs adviser Henry A. Kissinger.

Sihanouk was ousted in 1970 by the Lon Nol regime, which was dependent on American aid. Lon Nol was overthrown in Cambodia. The cutoff of American bombing by Aug.

15, voted last week by Congress, has focused world attention on possible negotiations between Kissinger and Sihanouk when President Nixon's envoy visits Peking in late July or early August.

As Sihanouk returned to Peking yesterday from a two-month tour of Eastern Europe and Africa to boost his claim as Cambodia's legal chief of state, reporters asked if he plans to meet with Kissinger.

Sihanouk proudly replied in French, turning the tables on the United States.

"I proposed to Kissinger that he should see us. I made the proposal two or three times. Now it's too late."

"Anyway, it is useless," Sihanouk continued, "because I know very well what he [Kissinger] has got to say—the same thing as always, a compromise or a division of Cambodia, which is absolutely unacceptable."

"We can never compromise," Sihanouk said. "We can never accept a Pan American. We are ready to fight on—until 1978, or 1980, or 1984—

as long as it takes, but we will never give up the land."

"There is no room for talks," he added.

To many diplomats, Sihanouk, in an exultant mood, was staking out, unsurprisingly, a tough bargaining stand, rather than literally rejecting all negotiations.

The pro-Communist Khmer Rouge forces, backed by North Vietnam and China, claim they hold 90 per cent of Cambodia's territory. The Lon Nol regime and U.S. officials dis-

See CAMBODIA, A1

## CAMBODIA, From A1

pute that claim. But U.S. officials privately concede that with the territory the Khmer Rouge hold, and with the Aug. 15 deadline on the Nixon administration, Sihanouk and his supporters are bound to demand not mere participation in a new Cambodian government, but domination of it.

North Vietnamese sources in Hanoi have unofficially projected a "national union government" that would include "neutralist elements" but exclude the present Lon Nol "clique."

From Peking, John Burns of

the Toronto Globe and Mail reported that some diplomats think Sihanouk, however, may decide to sit tight and wait out the Aug. 15 bombing cutoff.

Nixon administration officials, nevertheless, that believe that North Vietnam and China and the Khmer Rouge, even more than Sihanouk himself, will have controlling voices in determining what will be negotiated.

Chinese Premier Chou En-lai, who headed the airport welcomers, stood within earshot as the prince spoke with newsmen. Correspondent Burns reported that Chou was impassive until Sihanouk delivered his parting shot—"No talks with Kissinger"—but that Chou then smiled and turned away with Sihanouk toward a limousine. Agence France Presse reported, however, that Chou was applauding while Sihanouk spoke and when he finished, Chou was heard to say, in French, "bien, bien" (good, good).

As evidence of Sihanouk's enhanced bargaining power in the Cambodian mix, newsmen present reported, for the first time his airport welcomers included the charge d'affaires of

the Soviet embassy, Alexei Brezhnev, whose government still recognizes the Lon Nol government in Phnom Penh, plus several Soviet allies in similar diplomatic posture.

In an interview published yesterday in the Paris daily, Figaro, Sihanouk said, "Neither Peking nor Moscow nor Paris have the right to settle our fate secretly."

Sihanouk said, "I understand that a 'poisoned dish' (is) being readied for us." He said certain big powers, which he did not name, intend to "eliminate Lon Nol and Sihanouk" and to "try to reconcile the Red Khmers and the Phnom Penh people to form a coalition government—a multiheaded government in which the Front [Sihanouk's group] would be the left, the pro-Americans the right and the third force composed of France's or the Soviet's clients would be the center."

Sihanouk said he is confident Peking will never agree to such plans, and "anyhow she [China] cannot force our hand" because "China has no control over the Cambodian resistance."