

Lon Nol Government's Cease-Fire Proposal

Phnom Penh

The Lon Nol government yesterday proposed an immediate cease-fire and negotiations to bring an end to hostilities in Cambodia — the only remaining open warfare in Indochina.

The proposal, put forth at a news conference by Foreign Minister Long Boret, brought no immediate response from leaders of the three major anti-government factions.

Diplomats here expressed the belief the insurgent leadership would reject the proposal unless the U.S. can persuade the Communist Chinese and North Vietnamese to put pressure on the rebels to end the three-year-old hostilities.

Henry A. Kissinger is expected to fly to Peking late this month or early next for conferences on Cambodia with Chinese leaders. The U.S. special envoy was reported hopeful of meeting there with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chief of the Cambodian insurgent government in exile, but Sihanouk ruled out any meeting in a talk with Peking newsmen Thursday.

Sihanouk has said his government would never enter negotiations with the Lon Nol government.

Boret told the news conference that Lon Nol's government is not demanding the withdrawal of about 40,000 North Vietnamese troops as a prior condition for the cease-fire. He added that the

GI Who Shot An Officer Gets Stockade Term

Ererth, Germany

A general court-martial yesterday sentenced an American soldier who shot and wounded his commanding officer to 2½ years' hard labor and a dishonorable discharge.

The court declared Private Thomas W. Newkirk, 19, of Fullerton, Calif., guilty of assault with a deadly weapon.

Newkirk shot Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Hull, his battalion commander, with an M-16 rifle at a barracks in Erlangen on January 23. Witnesses said Newkirk fired from a barracks window at Hull, who was walking across the quadrangle.

United Press

North Vietnamese could withdraw during negotiations.

This was an indication that the Lon Nol regime does not consider the prince, who was ousted as Cambodia's chief of state in March 1970, as the valid leader of the insurgent forces.

The rebels in Cambodia are made up of three factions:

- The Khmer Rouge, or Red Cambodians, are the original insurgent force. They have been in rebellion since

the early 1970s when Sihanouk was in power.

- The Khmer Rum Doh, meaning Cambodian Liberation, was formed by military officers loyal to Sihanouk after his overthrow.

- The Khmer Vietminh, who are directly linked to the North Vietnamese. The core of this group was in North Vietnam until removal from office but now are part of the insurgent fighting force.

In all the rebels number about 50,000 troops.

Boret appealed for help in securing Cambodia's sovereignty and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the nations that signed the Vietnam cease-fire agreement in Paris on January 27 and from U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

Official cease-fires have been declared in Vietnam and in Laos, the other Indochina countries. While fighting continued on a heavy scale after the cease-fire declaration in Vietnam, it has now diminished sharply.

The cease-fire in Laos went into effect on February 22 and there has been little in the way of hostilities there as Prince Souvanna Phouma's government in Vientiane negotiates peace terms with the pro-Communist Pathet Lao.

U.S. Ambassador Emory Swank and other members of the diplomatic corps attended the news conference in the ornate government palace in downtown Phnom Penh. As the foreign minister spoke windows rattled from the percussion of U.S. bombing raids just ten miles away.

U.S. F-111 fighter-bombers were attacking about 2000 insurgents entrenched around the base, a hill, ten miles northwest of the capital.

A field dispatch said the government troops used new, U.S. supplied 155-mm howitzers for the first time in combat during that operation.

American B-52s, F-111, F-4, Phantoms and a group of seven Corsairs also carried out day long raids against other targets near the capital.

Associated Press