

# Chou's Cambodia Message

## His Talks With U.S. Delegation

### Peking

Premier Chou En-lai told touring U.S. congressmen yesterday that the Chinese government remains in solid support of the Cambodian rebel regime of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and said it is futile for the U.S. to continue the bombing.

Sihanouk heads a government in exile in Peking. It is made up of a coalition of Cambodian groups opposed to the Lon Nol government in Phnom Penh.

Chou met with the eight-member U.S. congressional group led by Senator Warren G. Magnuson (Dem-Wash.) and Representative Thomas E. Morgan (Dem-Pa.) in the Great Hall of the People. Later the premier was host at a banquet in honor of the Cambodian prince who has been living in Peking since his ouster as chief of state in March 1970.

### REMARKS

Chou's remarks to the congressmen were reported after the meeting by Magnuson who said the chief topic was the U.S. bombing in Cambodia.

The Chinese government leader indicated that the bombing campaign in support of Lon Nol troops would not influence Sihanouk to enter into negotiations with the government in Phnom Penh or with U.S. envoys.

"The more you bomb, the less he cares," Chou was quoted as saying in reference to his view that the bombing was futile.

Magnuson said he suggested to Chou that he be patient

because the bombing is due to come to a halt on August 15 — a deadline President Nixon agreed to under congressional pressure. "Just one more moon," Magnuson said he told Chou.

The senator quoted the premier as replying: "How can Sihanouk be patient for even ten days when bombs are falling on his country."

### FORCED

Chou described Sihanouk as a "peace-loving Buddhist" forced by the U.S. "to put himself into the battle."

The premier made no mention of any Chinese mili-

tary aid to the Cambodian rebels, but he said China's "patience is not unlimited — there is a degree at which the situation has to be resolved."

Representative John J. McFall (Dem-Calif.) asked Chou if he believed the North Vietnamese would be allowed to use Cambodia as a staging area for attacks on South Vietnam if Sihanouk's forces gained power.

### FIGHT

"If Cambodia is able to solve its own problems, it will never let any other country interfere with its in-

ternal affairs," Chou replied.

Chou added that Sihanouk has declared his supporters are prepared to fight "ten, 15, 20 years if necessary."

At the banquet, Sihanouk appealed for arms aid from friendly nations and charged that the South Vietnamese are ready to bomb Cambodia after the U.S. August 15 cutoff. He also claimed that Thai mercenaries who had been fighting in Laos had moved into Cambodia to support Lon Nol now that hostilities have been halted in Laos.

Associated Press



UPI Telephoto

SENATOR WARREN MAGNUSON AND CHOU EN-LAI  
China's premier had a good laugh during a light moment in the talks