

Cambodian Premier Says U.S. Isn't Consulting Him

NYTimes By SYDNEY H. SCHANBERG JUL 10 1973

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, July 9 — Cambodia's Premier, In Tam, has declared that the Phnom Penh Government is not involved in negotiations with anyone to end the three-year-old war in this country.

In an interview, he also expressed deep pessimism about the chance of any meaningful talks taking place at this time. Asked if Cambodia was party

to the "delicate negotiations" that the United States has said it is conducting for a Cambodian cease-fire, Mr. In Tam indicated that the big powers were doing whatever negotiating was going on.

"We have not begun negotiations, delicate or otherwise," he said. "We are just waiting and listening to see what they do."

Big Power Role Required

The Premier said that the Americans had neither consulted him nor kept him informed about any negotiations they might be conducting, and he added in a tone of annoyance: "This is a problem for Khmers to discuss with Khmers."

The American Embassy here has refused to comment on the negotiations, but one source said today: "It's not enough to just say the Khmers have to work this out themselves. They

have to work it out in a frame-

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

Most Specific Offer

Two days ago, the Cambodian Government announced that it was prepared to hold talks with a "delegation of Khmers from the other side" and would accept an immediate cease-fire. The position was not new, but its wording made it the most specific and formal offer to date to talk with the insurgents.

But the statement was deliberately vague about who "the other side" was—an apparent attempt to keep all possibilities

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

work established by the great powers and others. You've got to have both."

Discussing the role of the great powers, Mr. In Tam said: "If the three great powers resolve the Khmer problem in the interests of the Khmer people, we will be happy. But if it turns out to be the opposite, we must resolve the problem ourselves."

Deeply Annoyed and Unhappy

His tone and manner throughout the interview yesterday was one of deep annoyance and unhappiness, not only over the American negotiating role, but also over the projected end of American air support for his forces on Aug. 15.

Asked what he thought would happen if the heavy bombing attacks on the Communist-led Cambodian insurgents were halted, he said: "The bombing in Cambodia is up to the United States Government. I don't know what I think. I don't know. America is the great power." And then, clearly distressed by the subject, he turned away and began to pace the floor in anger.

Most diplomats here believe that without the bombing, it would be a matter of weeks—perhaps days—before the Cambodian Government would fall to the rebels.

Product of U.S. Pressure

The interview took place on the patio of the Premier's modest house on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. He spoke in Cambodian and French through an interpreter.

Mr. In Tam was named Premier by President Lon Nol in May in response to persistent American pressure on the President to broaden the base of his increasingly unpopular Government. Mr. In Tam is also a member of the new ruling council, whose other members are Sisowath Sirik Matak, Cheng Heng and Marshal Lon Nol, the council's president and still the most powerful man in the Government.

In the interview, Mr. In Tam was deeply pessimistic about the chance of any meaningful peace talks now. "The other side won't stop killing people," he said. "How can we negotiate with them?"

The bulk of the front-line troops presently opposing the Cambodian Army are Cambodian insurgents, who are believed to be assisted by some North Vietnamese and Vietcong regulars. The Vietcong reportedly help with supplies and also man heavy weapons and serve as advisers.



The New York Times
Premier In Tam

it is we who are continuing the war."

He continued that the insurgents were composed of three factions—"and I don't know who speaks for all of them."

Mr. In Tam said that he would negotiate only when all factions of the opposition put forward one representative.

"If one faction is controlled by Sihanouk," he said, "and it wants to negotiate, I will not negotiate with him because the other two factions will still be fighting, and that is not peace."

He noted Prince Sihanouk's recent statements that he would never negotiate with the present Cambodian Government. It was for these reasons, Mr. In Tam said, that "I am pessimistic" about peace talks.

U.S. Backs Cease-Fire Call

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 9—The Nixon Administration gave strong endorsement today to a call on Friday by the Cambodian Government for a cease-fire and negotiations with "the other side."

Paul J. Hare, a State Department spokesman, said that the proposals made by Foreign Minister Long Boret constituted

open. Cambodia's Foreign Minister, Long Boret, in presenting the position at a news conference, carefully avoided saying whether the Government would negotiate with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who was deposed as head of state three years ago by Marshal Lon Nol and the others who now serve on the ruling council.

Prince Sihanouk, who was sentenced to death in absentia by a Cambodian military court, retains the diplomatic support of China and North Vietnam, and asserts that he is the leader of all the insurgents—although most analysts here doubt this.

Offer of 'Good Faith'

Premier In Tam said that the Government's restatement of its offer to negotiate was simply "an attempt to show our good faith." It was necessary, he said, "because there are some people who don't understand our position. They think

"a significant declaration which sets forth a major initiative for peace in Cambodia."

"We believe this initiative represents a constructive step in opening a serious dialogue which could lead to a peaceful, independent and neutral Cambodia," Mr. Hare continued.

Calling on the Cambodian Government's "adversaries" to show goodwill, Mr. Hare said that the Administration hoped the proposals "will receive serious and favorable consideration by interested members of the international community."

Discussed With China

In answer to questions, Mr. Hare said that Cambodia had been discussed by President Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger on Friday with Huang Chen, the chief of China's liaison office in the United States.

Asked what other countries should be "interested" in negotiations, Mr. Hare mentioned the countries that attended the international conference on Vietnam following the January cease-fire agreement. These include the Soviet Union, Britain, France, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Vietcong.

He said the United States believed that "the restoration

of peace in Cambodia is a question to be resolved through negotiations among the Khmer parties themselves."

"This Government, as you know, strongly supports an early cease-fire in Cambodia," he said.

Mr. Hare declined to say what specifically the United States was doing to start peace talks, but said that other countries "may very well have an influence in getting a cease-fire agreed to in Cambodia and in getting negotiations started."