

Mystery Hiring of U.S. Mercenaries

SAIGON — (AP) — Two mysterious Americans — one known as “Frank” and the other as “Mr. Viet” — are offering to hire unemployed American civilians as mercenaries in Cambodia.

The two Americans are telling prospects that they are working for the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh.

The U.S. Embassy here, however, said yesterday that the United States has nothing to do with it.

“I’m 1000 percent sure that the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia is not foolish enough to be sending somebody over here to recruit mercenaries,” an Embassy spokesman said. “We are completely out of it.”

For the past few weeks, an American civilian known only as “Frank” has been reported collecting resumes at a hotel here from Americans seeking work in Cambodia.

Alan Rockoff, 24, a former soldier from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., now unemployed, said several hundred American civilians were told by “Frank” at a meeting recently that a U.S. Embassy official from Phnom Penh would recruit men for 300 jobs within a few days.

Another man, identified only as “Mr. Viet,” reportedly has been circulating information around Saigon about jobs as helicopter pilots, door gunners and maintenance workers for the Cambodian government.

The Cambodian Embassy in Saigon said the reported “Mr. Viet” is not affiliated with the Cambodian government “and has no right to say anything about Cambodia.”