

The Downfall of Sihanouk: Don't Blame It on CIA

By DONALD KIRK
Star Staff Writer

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — The American Central Intelligence Agency could not claim the credit for overthrowing Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodian chief of state even if it wanted for some reason to publicize its role here.

All the ingredients exist in this pleasant, intrigue-filled capital, only 80 miles from the South Vietnamese border, for high-level international spy drama, but no one here has found a shred of evidence to indicate the CIA was even remotely involved in Sihanouk's downfall.

The truth of the CIA's non-role in Cambodian politics strains credibility, particularly in view of Sihanouk's hostility to America's role in Vietnam and the desire of American military leaders and diplomats for Cambodian cooperation in fighting the Vietnamese Communists based in "sanctuaries" along the frontier.

Yet the American presence in Cambodia, when Sihanouk was overthrown on March 18, was limited officially to only two diplomats and a small embassy staff. No American businessmen lived here.

American newsmen visited the country only rarely, and then usually on tourist visas, and no American military advisers, AID officials or information officers had been here since Sihanouk expelled them all in 1963 and 1964.

The CIA may well hire operatives from among the sizable French community or among Cambodians, but the agency's activities in all other countries in Southeast Asia seem to depend basically on the existence of large American embassies and aid missions.

The CIA "station chief" in most countries holds the title of "special assistant to the ambassador," and members of his staff serve as embassy "political officers," American AID officials and the like.

In neighboring Thailand, for instance, the CIA assigns agents under the auspices of the AID mission's public safety program, ostensibly an effort aimed solely at building up the Thai national police force. In South Vietnam, CIA agents in the field often advise the Phoenix program, the South Vietnamese government's American-inspired intelligence gathering operation.

The almost complete lack of an

American presence here before Sihanouk's downfall does not of course exclude the possibility that CIA-hired operatives could somehow have engineered the movement against him.

The anti-Sihanouk drive among intellectuals politicians and cabinet ministers was so overwhelming, however, as to contradict any impression it might have been the result of a plot among a limited circle of American-paid operatives.

The pressure against Sihanouk, mounting almost unnoticed for the past two or three years, already had become apparent to analysts here when the prince appointed his conservative military commander, Gen. Lon Nol, as prime minister in August.

The reason for discontent, besides Sihanouk's reluctance to attempt to drive the Vietnamese Communists from frontier base areas, was his failure to cope with mounting economic problems.

The national assembly in December approved a bill undoing his Socialist economic policies.

Sihanouk clashed openly with Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, the first deputy prime minister, whom

he accused of attempting to "undermine" Lon Nol.

Sihanouk's accusation against Sirik Matak, a member of a rival branch of the royal family, epitomized the manner in which he was accustomed to playing his ministers against each other in order to maintain his own position.

And yet Lon Nol, although he did not directly oppose the prince, was already known to have allied with Sirik Matak, the prime mover behind the opposition to Sihanouk's economic outlook.

Sihanouk was also confronted by increasingly vocal, though subtle, hostility among a handful of deputies who persisted in posing embarrassing questions about the influence of his wife, Princess Monique, and his in-laws and personal friends.

He attempted to cut down the influence of some of these deputies by police investigations of their activities, but he was always afraid of the reaction he might provoke by arresting them or attempting to expel them from the assembly.

He did not mind telling little people, said Lon Nol Rasy, one of the rebellious deputies, "but with ministers and assemblymen he used

threats and intimidation. He was strong enough to keep anyone from urging him to resign."

One of the strangest ironies of the drama of Sihanouk's decline and fall was that his opponents in the assembly criticized him for his militant campaign against indigenous Cambodian Communists, who were supported by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops.

"I said he must have the proof," said Rasy, "but he said he had the right to suspend the constitution if he wished and jail these people without trial."

The reason Sihanouk's anti-communist critics objected to the manner in which he fought the Cambodian Communists was their fear he might employ the same tactics against them.

Sihanouk's opponents were afraid he might finally suspend the constitution entirely and turn the country into a complete dictatorship.

In their campaign against the prince, however, none of Sihanouk's opponents seemed particularly aware of the consequences in terms of the United States, much less the Central Intelligence Agency. Most of them, including Lon Nol, do not

speak English, do not seek out the company of Americans and do not seem attuned to "American influence" in general.

The main Western influence on Cambodia is France, which ruled the country until Sihanouk himself led a bloodless campaign for independence after World War II. Sihanouk, after obtaining complete independence in 1953, developed close ties with France and permitted French business interests to remain here.

The French also maintain a military advisory mission as well as advisers in all the ministries. Frenchmen helped Sihanouk write his speeches and edited some of his magazines.

One difference between Sihanouk and his opponents was that most of them did not share his antipathy to the U. S. Military officers, although they gladly accepted Chinese and Russian arms and equipment, did not think he should have expelled the American Military Assistance and Advisory Group in 1963.

Cambodian officers in particular received in the U.S. This phase of the American effort, in the opinion of

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Cambodia Rally Promotes a Republic

By a Star Staff Writer

PHNOM PENH—The Cambodian government appears on the verge of proclaiming a republic after 2,000 years of monarchical rule.

Prime Minister Lon Nol yesterday revealed the government's basic plans before some 60,000 persons massed in the Sports Palace for a vast pageant entitled "The Will of the People to Abolish the Monarchy."

"In the name of the chief of state, of the two chambers and of the Government of Salvation and of the Committee of National Salvation," said Gen. Nol, "We envision by all legal means the establishment of the republican regime."

Lon Nol's words indicated that the government, before proclaiming a republic, would revise the constitution and then present it for approval by the assembly, which voted unanimously on March 18 to depose Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chief of state.

'Demand for Change

The general's remarks climaxed a week of government-inspired editorials and "popular demands" for changing from a monarchy to a republic.

The pageant yesterday dramatized the reasons for the change by portraying recent Cambodian monarchs as traitors who sold their lands to the Vietnamese.

"Vive la Republique," shouted the audience, mostly students, at the end of the presentation. The students carried banners calling for formation of a republic and demanding the expulsion of Viet Cong troops from the country.

Behind the shouting and the sloganeering, the spectacle revealed the government's two basic concerns as it moves swiftly to complete the anti-monarchical campaign triggered by Sihanouk's downfall.

The first concern, according to government sources here, focuses on the legality of the change. Officials are highly sensitive to criticism that they do not have the right under the constitution to alter the basic form of rule.

For this reason, Lon Nol has resisted demands that he pro-

claim a republic without first presenting the idea for approval by all branches of government.

Lon Nol has carefully prepared for change, however, ordering the dissolution of the symbols of monarchy ranging from the Council of the Throne to the use of the word "royal" in the names of government corporations.

His concern with legality relates to the government's second main concern — the popular effect of reversing tradition that pervaded all phases of national life until less than a month ago.

'Comments' Published

Lon Nol has attempted to involve the entire Cambodian public in the government's anti-monarchical campaign by inviting "comments" and "expressions of opinion" and then publicizing them via the government news agency, radio and television.

The turnout of students at the sports stadium indicated the influence of the government in the capital, but it was still far from clear how the rural population would respond.

Sihanouk was famed for his popularity among the peasants, who often distrusted lesser officials and politicians.

Student actors yesterday followed a pattern set by Sihanouk himself in attempting to popularize government policies through political dramas attuned to basic national themes.

The only difference was that Sihanouk's presentations had pictured the "American imperialists" and the South Vietnamese government as the villains while yesterday's spectacle blamed Sihanouk and the North Vietnamese for the country's problems.

"These Vietnamese utilize Communist ideology or humanitarian activities to camouflage their expansionist aims," said an announcer while girls in Vietnamese dress were portrayed as seducing a Cambodian king.

"Always conscious of their superiority in numbers and armament the Vietnamese attack the Cambodians in order to reduce their territory and their wealth," the announcer went on.

The pageant emphasized the weakening and dismemberment of the ancient Cambodian empire under later kings and princes including Sihanouk.

Sihanouk's role was also de-

nounced in pamphlets cascaded from low-flying airplanes as the students marched into the stadium before the pageant began.

Cartoons on the pamphlets showed Sihanouk inviting North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops into Cambodian territory.

The pageant dramatized Cambodia's shifting foreign policy by ridiculing Sihanouk's distrust of the United States, whose aid programs he rejected in 1963 and 1964.

"The Cambodian right-wing is sold to the Americans and CIA," said an overfed student cast in the role of Sihanouk.

"Drive the invaders out of Cambodia," replied a row of students playing the "Cambodian people."

The "people" then turned on "Viet Cong soliders" wearing conical Vietnamese straw hats camouflaged by leaves.

The entire pageant reflected the country's traditional antipathy toward the Vietnamese, whose armies have frequently overrun Cambodian territory. The pageant did not, however, criticize the Saigon government with which Sihanouk broke off relations in 1963.

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'Safety First,' Captain Says

Columbia Eagle Mystery Explained

By IAN BRODIE

London Express Staff Reporter

KOMPONG SOM (formerly Si-hanoukville), Cambodia, April 9 —The captain of the hijacked American mapalm ship explained the mystery Tuesday: How did two gunmen keep a hold over a crew of 12 for four

days without someone making a bid to overpower them?

Capt. Donald Swann, at last back on his ship after three weeks in detention and getting ready to sail, said: "Most of the men came to me individually and told me they were with me 100 per cent and any plan I

could devise to recapture the vessel they were with me 100 per cent no matter what it entailed.

"But I figured that Cambodia being a neutral government, it was better to try to get in there and to keep everything intact, the ship, the cargo—and the crew naturally came first."

Chief Mate Herrick Morgan had a go at overpowering the hijackers. At night he crept up with a wrench on hijacker Clyde McKay who was guarding the starboard wing of the bridge. But Alvin Glatowski, who was guarding the port, spotted him when he was less than a yard

away and raised the alarm. Morgan, a thickset fellow from California, also impressed me when Tass man Artur Blinov entered one of the holds to inspect the napalm bombs. The new regime in Cambodia had invited Western and Communist journalists aboard the ship, the Columbia Eagle, to spike once and for all the rumor that the cargo was small arms supplied by the CIA.

Blinov looked scornfully at the bombs and said: "they're all empty."

"No, no," Morgan said. "They're full of happy little Czechoslovaks."

In fact the bombs had been en-

route for Thailand to be dropped over Vietnam. But the United States Government has agreed not to send the vessel to Thailand or Vietnam "to protect Cambodian neutrality."

So for the time being the anti-war hijackers have got what they wanted—political asylum and the bombs taken out of circulation.

Capt. Swann, 50, from Portland, Ore., tall and heavily built, talked frankly about the nightmare that began when McKay marched into his cabin beside the bridge and stuck a gun in his belt.

Swann was held at a Cambodian navy base during the three weeks of negotiations it took to get the ship released. He finally got up steam after a formal handover Wednesday and took the 23-year-old Columbia Eagle to the open sea.

9 APR 1970

Sihanouk Might Have Won if He'd Returned

BY JACK FOISIE
Times Staff Writer

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Even Cambodians who distrusted and feared Prince Norodom Sihanouk believe he might still be the nation's leader had he made a dramatic return home from France when opponents moved openly to oust him.

Now, three weeks after the 47-year-old royal statesman's sudden dismissal, the events and plays which led to his downfall have been sorted out. In summary, they indicate that Sihanouk—who had dominated his country's affairs since the end of World War II—lost his political "touch" in the months before he made his European trip.

He seemed oblivious to the maneuverings against him, continued to flaunt his power and made no effort to placate the men who became his challengers — Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak and Lt. Gen. Lon Nol.

Sihanouk was complacent, it is now reasoned, because of faith that his popularity with the peasants would see him through political brushes with rivals.

Relied on Populace

Important members of the government found their chief-of-state unpredictable, if not unstable, and blamed him for the nation's floundering economy and precarious foreign policy. But the people—"my millions of little Buddhas," Sihanouk called them—liked his showy nature and they applauded his "positive neutrality." In this he played off East and West

big powers in an effort to keep Cambodia from becoming engulfed in the Vietnam and Laotian wars.

So when anti-Communist riots began in Phnom Penh—a protest against the presence of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops on Cambodian soil and indirectly a slap at Sihanouk—it was expected that Sihanouk would fly home and dramatically take the issue to the people.

City authorities were so certain of his return they began putting up the flags and other trappings customarily displayed for every fly-in of the volatile prince.

But Sihanouk chose to dally. And during his inaction there came the "constitutional coup d'etat." The Lon Nol-Matak tandem had the national assembly dismiss Sihanouk and appoint its own assembly president, Cheng Heng, as acting chief-of-state.

Position Accepted

Lon Nol remained as the nation's prime minister but assumed real power. Prince Matak is his deputy. They asserted to the world that the government had, in fact, not changed at all. This legalistic opinion has been accepted by most nations, both Communist and Free World, and allowed them all, including the United States, to retain diplomatic relations with Cambodia.

Many observers consider that Sihanouk's intemperate rebuke to the anti-Communist demonstrators and to the government for allowing riots while he was away, helped to get the Lon Nol-Matak faction the needed support for a takeover. And his failure to come home to quell the revolt was the crowning mistake in misreading the political situation.

Some persons believe Sihanouk himself approved of the anti-Vietnamese demonstrations as to strengthen his bargaining positions with Russian

and Chinese leaders he was scheduled to see during a leisurely return home. Then, so goes the theory, the Lon Nol-Matak faction doublecrossed him.

But this is a minority opinion. Most observers believed that the mob attacks on the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong embassies were engineered by Lon Nol. It was Sihanouk's ineptness which made the takeover easier than expected.

Solidifies Opposition

Sihanouk's high-handedness and egocentrism had been solidifying his opponents. He hurled stinging insults at legislators not ready to serve as his rubber stamp. He blocked measures intended to remedy economic problems. When the measures were passed, anyway, he sabotaged their operation.

His meddling in government affairs at all levels was stifling progress, his opponents claimed.

But it was Sihanouk's "neutrality," allowing 50,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops to occupy border sanctuaries inside Cambodia, which most concerned Lon Nol and Prince Matak.

They began to whip up public feeling against the presence of foreign troops on Cambodian soil. There was a "crisis" over counterfeit Cambodian currency entering the country, assertedly (maybe true) printed in Hanoi to pay for North Vietnamese troop purchases in Cambodia.

The "Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Vietnam"—the latest name for the political arm of the Viet Cong—was allegedly (and may have been) flying in contraband goods from European sympathizers, using diplomatic privileges to pass them through Cambodian customs.

Some of the moves against Sihanouk were an open testing of strength. When he departed for his "overdue" medical check-up in France, Sihanouk wanted to appoint a trust-

worthy royal kin to act for him. But the Lon Nol-Matak group forced him to accept Cheng Heng as a ceremonial replacement—and then, after the coup, made him the formal replacement.

When the effort to topple Sihanouk became apparent to his political allies here, there was a move to head off the incipient coup. Col. Oum Mammourin, half-brother of Sihanouk's wife, Monique, and head of the national police, together with Sosthen Fernandez, head of the secret police, tried to enlist army support for Sihanouk and against Lon Nol.

It did not succeed and both men are now reported under house arrest.

Sihanouk went ahead with his Moscow and Peking visits. But his mission no longer was to ask his hosts to pressure the North Vietnamese to keep their Cambodian presence modest, now he wanted the Communist world to reestablish him in Cambodia.

Blames CIA

He was quick to assert that he had been ousted by opponents aided by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency—his favorite whipping boy in past years. With the reestablishment of American-Cambodian diplomatic relations last year, there may be a CIA operation in Phnom Penh. But no evidence has been obtained to support Sihanouk's charge.

While leaders in Moscow and Peking were reportedly sympathetic and Peking has given Sihanouk temporary residence, neither Communist nation seemed eager to threaten the new Cambodian regime until it has been assessed.

It is reliably reported that the problem of how to get Sihanouk back into power has been delegated to the Hanoi government. The stirring up of pro-Sihanouk peasants, particularly in the eastern provinces, by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong agents seems to be the

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U.S. Advisers' Role Reported In Cambodia

By CARL ROBINSON
Associated Press Staff Writer

ROUTE 1, CAMBODIAN-SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER — South Vietnamese troops have moved into Cambodia, apparently with their American advisors, to reinforce the Cambodian frontier garrison on Route 1 against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

Visual evidence today indicated that American advisers were taking part in the first known instance of South Vietnamese military forces establishing themselves on Cambodian soil since the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk on March 18 created a more favorable climate in Phnom Penh for such operations.

Two uniformed Americans were seen at this key crossing point on the highway between Saigon and Phnom Penh. One was an Army officer on the Cambodian side of the border.

South Vietnamese forces are in Cambodia at the request of Cambodian officials, Vietnamese border police told newsmen.

Barricades Cleared

The barbed wire barricades and claymore mines at the border that long blocked Route 1 to vehicles have been removed. South Vietnamese army trucks and jeeps moved freely back and forth with troops and equipment.

(The U.S. Command in Saigon said yesterday that no U.S. helicopters had crossed the border into Cambodia. Field reports had said U.S. copters ferried paratroops into Cambodia.)

Vietnamese soldiers could be seen clearly, building defensive bunkers around the Cambodian border station compound 200 yards to the west. A Cambodian flag flew above their heads.

The U.S. Army officer climbed into a jeep at the Cambodian compound. As a Cambodian officer drove him across the border into Vietnam, the American suddenly realized newsmen's cameras were aimed at him, and he tried to hide behind the jeep seat.

The jeep spun around and went back into Cambodia. It returned a few minutes later, this time with the South Vietnamese commander of the local militia unit.

This officer, who had been friendly to an Associated Press reporter and his photographer on previous visits to the border, turned away handshakes and ordered the newsmen out of the Vietnamese border compound, adding an epithet for emphasis.

Wears No Insignia

The other American, wearing a khaki uniform without insignia, was inside the Vietnamese compound just east of the border. A jeep parked outside carried the "T" license plate used by American intelligence agents in Vietnam. He avoided the newsmen.

The border stations have not come under attack recently, but severe fighting has occurred on both sides of the frontier this week, four to five miles to the north in Vietnam and as close as six to ten miles in Cambodia. Viet Cong troops today were reported continuing a slow but steady advance along Route 1

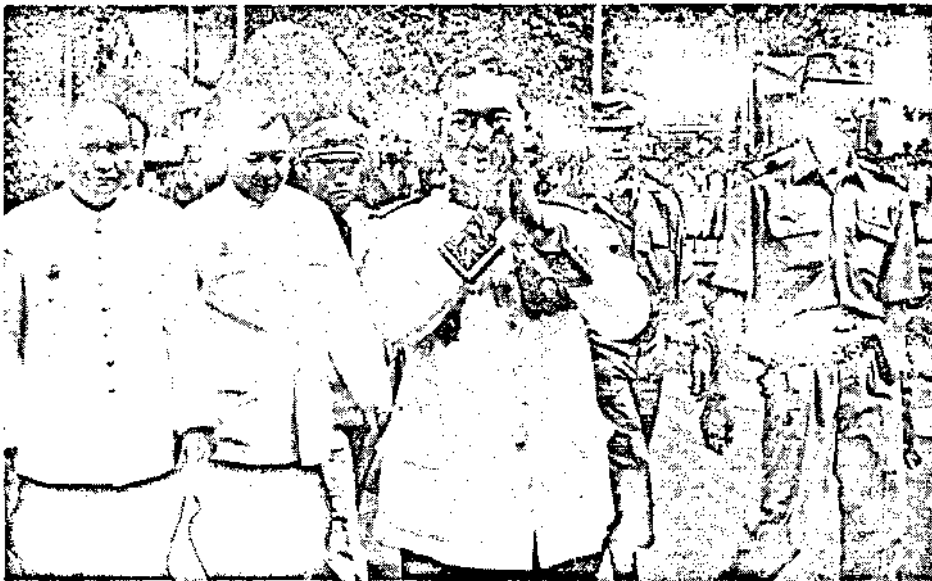
after occupying the town of Chiepou, 10 miles west of the border.

A Vietnamese police officer told the newsmen: "If you had been here yesterday, you would have seen air strikes two and three kilometers away, over there." He pointed down the road into Cambodia.

"If you had come here yesterday," he continued, "The border would have still been closed. You would not have seen all of this."

Gunships Take Toll

South Vietnamese helicopter gunships were reported yesterday to have killed an estimated 150 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese five miles inside Cambodia during a reconnaissance mission along Route 1. South Vietnamese Skyraiders also have been reported operating over Cambodia in support of Cambodian and South Vietnamese ground forces.

THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Asian tinderbox: Cambodian leaders parade as Red envoy arrives in Laos

**Indochina: The Calm Before the Storm?**

In a land where he was once slavishly adored, Prince Norodom Sihanouk's name was suddenly mud. The cabal that overthrew the Cambodian Chief of State two weeks ago diligently set about destroying his reputation in the hope of heading off any popular outcry for his return. Newspapers ran obscene cartoons of Sihanouk and his wife, Monique, and the same radio announcers who had sung his praises so extravagantly a short time ago now vied in berating him. Pictures of Sihanouk and his mother, Queen Sisowath Kossamak, were ripped from walls all over the country, and there was talk of abolishing the monarchy. As a special gesture in honor of the coup, Phnom Penh's Sihanouk Street was renamed "March 18, 1970, 1 p.m. Street."

To those who had feared that the Cambodian coup might trigger a wider war in Indochina, these activities seemed reassuringly parochial. "At this point," said a junior diplomat in Saigon, "the so-called 'Indochina war' is the greatest non-event in history." But later, events took a more ominous turn. In Cambodia, pro-Sihanouk rioters forced the government to call up reserves, and there were unconfirmed reports that Viet Cong troops were moving toward Phnom Penh. In Laos, the Communists appeared to be massing for another attack. And in South Vietnam, the government took advantage of the Cambodian coup by attacking enemy forces across the border. In short, it seemed much too early to write off the possibility that Indochina might explode.

In an attack on the key government outpost at Long Cheng did not materialize, and it

looked as though the North Vietnamese and their local allies, the Pathet Lao, had stalled after taking nearby Sam Thong. But the Laotians were not yet out of the woods. "The North Vietnamese apparently tried to take both Sam Thong and Long Cheng in a rush," said an official foreign observer. "It only worked half-way, and now they are regrouping for a massive, more conventional assault on Long Cheng." No one had much faith that the force of Meo tribesmen defending Long Cheng could hold out for long, and there were fresh reports last week that transport planes laid on by the CIA (box) had carried several hundred Thai soldiers in as reinforcements. (Thailand denied that it had any regulars in Laos, but officials conceded that "volunteers" might have joined the fray.) This transfusion, however, was no sure-fire cure. "Sending the Thais up there is not like having a Panzer division defend the place," said one U.S. military man. "The Thais spook as badly as the Laotians."

Unavailing Efforts: Diplomacy failed to ease the crisis. President Nixon sent a strong note to Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin asking Moscow to reconvene the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos, of which it is co-chairman, in order to stop the fighting. But most observers gave that effort little chance for success. Another letter was sent by messenger from the Pathet Lao's titular leader, Prince Souphanouvong, to his half-brother, Laotian Premier Souvanna Phouma. The "peace offer," however, turned out to be nothing

If the outlook was disturbing in Laos, it was even more disheartening in Cam-

bodia. One of the principal aims of the new regime is to expel North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from their sanctuaries along the border with South Vietnam. But the triumvirs in Phnom Penh—the Prime Minister, Lt. Gen. Lon Nol, Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak and Chief of State Chen Ileng—wisely decided that their best chance for survival was to follow the neutralist path that Sihanouk trod so nimbly for many years. Accordingly, they asked the Soviet Union and Britain, the co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, to do the job for them by restoring the International Control Commission that had been set up by the conference partly to police Cambodian neutrality (Sihanouk sent the commission packing in 1969 as an economy measure). The new leaders also tried to maintain working relations with Communist diplomats in the hope that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops could be negotiated off Cambodian soil. And Lon Nol's government even held onto the Columbia Eagle, the hijacked American munitions ship, for fear that by releasing the vessel it might appear to favor the U.S.

But Lon Nol seemed to be having trouble balancing on the tightrope. It was unlikely that the Communists could be persuaded to lend a hand, for Hanoi, Moscow and Peking were all convinced that the new regime in Phnom Penh was leaning toward the West. For one thing, the government began to clamp down on Communist military supplies through the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville—continuing a process be-

gun by Sihanouk himself six months ago—and there were even reports that Communist ships had been completely prohibited from docking there. From the Communist point of view, the Cambodians were also getting uncomfortably chummy with South Vietnam, whose Vice President, Nguyen Cao Ky, impetuously cabled his congratulations to the new team in Phnom Penh. South Vietnam's planes and artillery supported Cambodian troops operating against the Communists—and infantry and armor even mounted an attack across the border. And although the U.S. tried to play it cool, American jets last week struck against enemy gunners who had fired on Saigon troops from positions inside Cambodia.

Against this backdrop, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong abruptly recalled all their diplomats from Phnom Penh. Although this action fell short of a complete diplomatic break, it pretty well blighted the chances of negotiating a Communist troop withdrawal. Peking and Hanoi also lent their support to Sihanouk's call for an "army of national liberation" to depose the Lon Nol government. And by late in the week that policy seemed to be paying dividends. For there were reports that pro-Sihanouk demonstrators had raised havoc in the provincial town of Kampong Cham.

Menace: Unquestionably Sihanouk still had many admirers in his native land. But even so, it was generally believed that he would find it difficult to spark a successful uprising from China or Russia, where he plans to maintain his homes in exile. The reported 40,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in Cambodia, however, will pose a considerably more serious threat to Phnom Penh if Hanoi decides that it cannot tolerate the existence of an unfriendly government there. Although Cambodia has some 35,000 regulars and nearly 100,000 militiamen, they are lightly armed and almost completely untested. And while outright war with Cambodia would pose severe problems for the Communists, whose supply lines are already seriously strained, it would pose an even graver crisis for the U.S.—which, with much more advance warning, has had little success in trying to stem the tide in Laos.

Thus, after years of artful cop-outs under Sihanouk, Cambodia had suddenly emerged as the linchpin of the "Indochina problem." If Sihanoukville is lost to the Communists, North Vietnam will have to rely even more heavily on the Ho Chi Minh Trail winding down through Laos, both to supply its forces in South Vietnam and, if worse comes to worst, to mount an attack on Cambodia as well. The U.S., for its part, will have an even greater stake in interdicting the trail in order to protect the friendly regime in Phnom Penh. This new factor in the Indochinese equation could sharply diminish whatever slim prospects remain for a negotiated settlement in Laos—and even in South Vietnam.

CONSPIRACY?

The history of the U.S. intervention in Vietnam is filled with unanswered questions, the biggest one being how we got into it in the first place.

Arthur Goldberg, Ambassador to the United Nations in the Johnson Administration, says that it was all a mistake, from the beginning on through. Not a conspiracy, he says, merely a mistake, a tragic one.

Maybe. Why, though, would he mention "conspiracy" in his remarks on a recent television "Meet The Press" show. Could it be that the events underway in Laos and Cambodia, raising as they do more mysterious questions, prompt thoughts coming under the heading of "conspiracy?"

There is a clear line extending back from at least 1950 — probably before — of U.S. intervention in the post-world-war-two situation in southeast Asia, in the area which used to be called French Indochina. (That former colonial territory now consists of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.)

In 1950, with the French embarked upon an effort to maintain a form of control over their pre-war possession, U. S. advisors arrived from Korea and the Philippines to teach guerrilla warfare to French officers. At about the same time there began a substantial program of U.S. military aid to the French.

Four years later the French had had it in Vietnam. But not so the U.S. Between 1954 and 1956 the United States military presence in Vietnam replaced the previous French presence. Little by little — the complete story remains to be told — the role of this presence changed from training mission to combat support to combat replacement, in the number of a half million troops.

The Nixon policy, as far as can be determined, is to attempt to reverse this process. To change the U.S. military role, that is, back to what it was nine or ten years ago. To

Let us assume that there are those who believe this will work no better now than it did before — and that what is required is not the Nixon reversal, instead, of what he seems to be doing. How better to countermand the troop withdrawal order of the Nixon Administration than by creating what can be described as the necessity not for less U.S. forces but for more?

The present picture in Laos and Cambodia surely suggests a buildup toward this kind of emergency. Who is constructing the buildup? In charge in Laos, we know from recent news reports obtained with great difficulty, is the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, a super secret service accountable for its funds and operations to no one but itself, as Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and possibly Johnson found out. The chances are strong that the hand of the CIA will be found to have been decisive in Cambodia in the right-wing military coup which deposed the Cambodian leader, Prince Sihanouk.

CIA's troops in Laos loot recaptured base

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Daily World Foreign Department

When "Royal Lao" forces and U.S. CIA mercenaries recaptured the northern Laos base of Sam Thong earlier this week, they looted it to such an extent that U.S. newsmen described it yesterday as "a shambles." U.S. officials said that "local employees" attempting to stop the looting were forced away at gun-point by the troops.

Sam Thong, 75 miles north of the Lao capital of Vientiane, is a major CIA base for the clandestine army of General Vang Pao, a 15,000-man force made up of Meo tribesmen and led by U.S. and Thai "advisors."

U.S. planes had bombed Sam Thong day and night and the CIA had airlifted battalions of Thai mercenaries to retake the base.

Edgar M. "Pop" Buell, the U.S. agent who allegedly runs "refugee operations" at Sam Thong, was described yesterday by U.S. newsmen as "so mad he couldn't talk. There were almost tears in his eyes." The mercenaries removed cots, furniture and mattresses from the U.S. hospital and "walked off with anything portable," according to UPI correspondent, Kaylor.

The mercenaries, who receive \$6 a month as Thai soldiers, were reportedly offered \$250 apiece by the CIA to defend the "free world" at Sam Thong.

Rene Andrie, editor-in-chief of "L'Humanite," the French Communist Party newspaper, wrote yesterday that the pro-U.S. military coup in Cambodia on March 18 "forms one link in a chain of CIA activities."

In the West German weekly magazine, "Stern," the political analyst, Sebastian Haffner wrote today: "The coup in Cambodia was staged by the U.S. CIA. The slogans and methods by means of which the government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown in Cambodia coincide in every detail with the notorious CIA style."

In Cambodia, the new military regime proclaimed today that "calm has now been restored." It said that tourists and foreign visitors are again welcome.

There was no immediate response from Saigon, whose troops had made a heavy armored visit in Cambodia last week.

At least 119 Cambodians were known to have been slain by Cambodian army troops and police during pro-Sihanouk demonstrations in the last two weeks. The new regime of General Lon Nol has issued a demand that all the country's provinces pledge allegiance to the new government but fewer than half have done so.

4 APR 1970

Thieu Plus Two

by The Editors

Partly in consequence of CIA skulduggery, the war in Southeast Asia has expanded. It is no longer a Vietnamese conflict with American intervention, and side effects in adjoining areas. As in 1953, Laos and Cambodia again are directly involved, and China may be. In a sense, both Indo-China and Mr. Nixon have come full circle in 17 years. In 1953, the French were becoming hopelessly trapped in a costly, unwinnable colonial war. The way out that was suggested, by no less than the French prime minister, Joseph Laniel, was settlement through international negotiation, with China as one of the negotiators. Vice President Richard Nixon was sternly opposed, and on November 4, 1953 he brashly lectured the French (who were the ones fighting and dying in Indo-China): "It is impossible to lay down arms until victory is completely won." The finger of duty and destiny pointed to the expulsion of Communists from Southeast Asia. The French, however, were fast losing interest in any such enterprise, with or without American assistance. Vice President Nixon nevertheless kept repeating that the United States could settle for nothing less than "victory," could not afford "another retreat" in Asia. In his view, the US had "lost" China to the Communists four years earlier and now was threatened with the "loss" of Indo-China as well. The tide must be stemmed. If the French could not carry on alone, American troops ought to get into the fight. Or so it seemed to Nixon in 1953, at a time when we had just begun to extricate ourselves from a war in Korea that had cost 33,629 American battle deaths.

In the upshot, there was an international conference about Indo-China, and China did participate in the Geneva agreement. But that the US did not, at that stage, become directly engaged militarily in Southeast Asia is not something Mr. Nixon can claim credit for. On the contrary, he did his utmost to push events the other way. He was overruled by President Eisenhower, advised by the Army Chief of Staff, General Matthew B. Ridgway. Ridgway investigated what American intervention would mean, concluded it would entail far greater American losses than had been incurred in Korea and said so to the National Security Council. That encouraged Eisenhower to trust his hunch against going to war in Indo-China, a hunch that became conviction when the French stronghold at Dienbienphu fell on May 7, 1954. Last week the government of France appealed for a

ADVANCE

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APR 4 1970

Sihanouk's overthrow a truly nationalist act

By JOHN P. ROCHE

For some reason or other, dictatorships always seem stable until they are overthrown. This came to mind in connection with the adventures of Norodom Sihanouk, formerly of Cambodia, now shuttling between Moscow and Peking. At the outset of the Cambodian caper, there were many who suspected that Sihanouk himself had written the entire script. He has played games like this before. But even if the prince did write the first act, it is now clear that the second act got out of control and the militant anti-Vietnamese forces, centered in the army, took over the performance.

What is interesting is how little support Sihanouk had in the crunch. I suppose the American anti-war movement will find some way to describe events in Cambodia as a "civil war." However, the battle line is obviously between Khmers and North Vietnamese, that is, between the Cambodians and 50-60,000 armed visitors from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The new government in Phnom Penh has, of course, been designated "right wing," with the implication that it is awaiting a chance to turn the country over to the CIA and the Chaco Manhattan Bank. But it is, in fact, classically nationalist.

Hanoi immediately weighed in by alleging that the CIA was already in charge. Since this is the first break we have had in Southeast Asia since the Indonesian turn-around in 1965, one that presents Hanoi with real trouble, the Communists obviously need a scapegoat. Since it is well known throughout the "progressive world" that the Vietnamese Communists are the opposite of nationalist, anti-imperialist spirit, a Khmer revolt against their aggression simply can't happen.

It has to be a counter-revolutionary plot sponsored by United States intelligence and directed by "running dogs of American imperialism."

I have gone into this in some detail because I predict that within the month two or three



John P.
Roche

articles will appear in American journals attempting to protect Hanoi's revolutionary virginity. Precisely the same thing happened in 1965-66 with respect to Indonesia.

For several years journalists and scholars had gone into virtual ecstasies about the brilliance of the Communist party of Indonesia (the P.K.I.). The gist of the message was that PKI alone had "won the hearts and minds of the peasants." Then came October, 1965, and the bloody failure of "GESTA-PU," as the Indonesians termed the attempted Communist coup. The peasantry, dominated

by nationalists, went berserk and killed hundreds of thousands of Communists.

Since, according to left-wing scriptures, Communism in Asia is the vehicle for nationalism, not its enemy, the eccentric behavior of the peasants had to be explained away. Needless to say, this was accomplished. The PKI became the victims of a right-wing military plot, with the CIA, of course, hovering in the background. The late Bertrand Russell was wheeled into the fray to announce "the responsibility of the United States for this counter-revolutionary bloodbath." Later, unfortunately for those concerned, disputes between the PKI refugees, split between the allegiance to Moscow and Peking, blew this thesis out of the water.

Now the Khmers have engaged in the same kind of "counter-revolutionary" behavior. In the process, of course, they have undermined the whole basis of the anti-war argument that the United States has been fighting against progressive nationalism in Indochina. It is clear that our enemy is Communist imperialism, that is, Ho Chi Minh's ambition to create a totalitarian successor-state in the whole of former French Indochina.

4 APR 1970



William S. White

Nixon Ready to Battle Doves On Bombing Ho Chi Minh Trail

THE EXTREME Senate doves on Vietnam are exploiting the present totally confused situation in Cambodia to make generalized accusations that the administration is "escalating" the war in general. President Nixon, for his part, is stolidly preparing to take them on as to their real and central objective, which is to force him to halt American bombing of the North Vietnamese Communist enemy's troop and supply trail running down through neighboring Laos.

To hear Mr. Nixon talk in private of these matters is to find a remarkably relaxed President, in all the circumstances. If he is not indeed a happy warrior—which would be foreign both to his temperament and his method of operation—he is at least a warrior with a certain gleam in the eye who does not shrink from the political form of unarmed combat that lies ahead.

The impression is clear that if the far-out peacenik people push him into it, he is prepared to go direct to the country to defend these bombing actions without a chemical trace of apology. He is ready, that is, to say that to hit and interrupt the Ho Chi Minh supply line is demonstrably to save the lives of American troops in rough ratio to how many North Vietnamese soldiers and how much enemy armament our pilots can knock down and thus keep out of the action in South Vietnam.

HIS POSITION is that anybody who supposes that an American president has not got a manifest duty to protect the lives of this nation's own troops to the limit of his ability, in a way carefully and precisely calculated to do no harm to anybody or anything except the armed enemy intruders into Laos, can believe pretty well anything.

In a word, he is resolved that so long as a man named

of the United States, this presidential duty is going to be fulfilled, no matter how much clamor may arise and no matter from what sources.

So much, then, for Laos: It will be, for us, aerial business as usual so long as the Communists keep coming down the line through Laos. As to Cambodia, this columnist can report the following matters of fact:

The United States government had nothing whatever to do with the ouster in Cambodia of the more or less neutralist Prince Norodom Sihanouk in favor of the anti-Communist successor regime now in power. Sihanouk has, of course, now been taken up by the Communists as their new martyr to "American imperialism" and all that.

THE TRUTH IS that this government, which is already moving everything it possibly can in honor to get out of the only war now in being in Southeast Asia, wants to see Cambodia kept neutral. Most certainly—and most demonstrably, if one thinks about it for a moment—Washington does not want to see any situation to arise in which Washington might be asked to take any kind of military hand in this affair.

There are at this moment in all of Cambodia precisely 11 Americans. Not one of them is armed. Not one of them is any sort of agent, direct or indirect, of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Nothing that has so far happened in all this ball of wax in Southeast Asia, and nothing that is seen as likely to happen, has altered President Nixon's fixed policy for a gradual withdrawal of American ground forces from Vietnam. The steady "Vietnamization" of the war—meaning the increasing combat effectiveness of the South Vietnamese—is entirely satisfactory to the administration.

The President will continue to bring out ground troops when and as—and only when and as—he thinks it to be prudent. He is not going to speculate in public about dates or numbers or maybes.

Indeed, one observer's strong—and possibly wrong—impression is that the President is not even likely to speculate too much about this business to his own Cabinet. For he knows where the buck must and does stop in this sort of decision. On this one, the educated guess is that he will really caucus only in his own hat.

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PLAIN DEALER

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Blames Public Gullibility for Expansion of Vietnam War

Now our federal government, pushed by the CIA and Pentagon, is expanding the Southeast Asian war into Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, the American people should be reminded of the following:

When Richard Nixon was vice president, on April 17, 1954, he addressed newspaper editors at Washington in what was supposed to be an "off the record" talk. He tried to torpedo the Geneva Peace conference, then about to begin, by saying: "If, to avoid further Communist expansion in Asia and Indochina we must take the risk now by putting our boys in, I think the executive has to take the politically unpopular step to do it."

Word leaked out the following day of what Nixon had said. The story was published. Americans should note that this is the same man who, since entering the White House, has been assuring the people "all we are interested in is to see the Vietnamese get the right of self-determination."

That right was thwarted when the late John Foster Dulles led the drive that prevented the free elections in Vietnam specified at Geneva. The CIA and Pentagon applauded. Since then, a succession of federal administrations has convinced our people we had to go there and invade Asia or the Vietnamese, with no bombers or Navy, would come over and attack us. Some 50,000 of our men have died in combat or of tropical diseases because of our gullibility. Is this really what the "silent majority" wanted?

JACK CLOUSER

1516 Bidwell Avenue,
Rocky River

MONTANA KALMIN
3 April 1970

Pfeiffer charges CIA conspiracy responsible for Cambodian revolt

By RICHARD BANGS
Montana Kalmin Staff Writer

The overthrow of Prince Sihanouk and the establishment of a military government in Cambodia was a calculated conspiracy of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, E. W. Pfeiffer, professor of zoology, said yesterday.

Mr. Pfeiffer recently returned from Cambodia, where he investigated defoliation damage caused by the U.S. Army.

He said the overthrow of the Cambodian government was the culmination of increased U.S. involvement in Cambodia.

Mr. Pfeiffer said the U.S. munitions ship, Columbia Eagle, which was mutinied in the Cambodian harbor, may have carried munitions which were used to put down Prince Sihanouk.

Prince Sihanouk tried to keep

Cambodia neutral, Mr. Pfeiffer said. The new government has cooperated with U.S. and South Vietnam governments in the Vietnam war, he said.

Mr. Pfeiffer said he won't be satisfied that the United States was not involved until a congressional committee has investigated U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia and gotten some concrete responses from Washington. He said the committee should also look at the documents of the International Control Council and see what its findings are.

The International Control Council is an investigating committee established by the United Nations to determine who, if anyone, was at fault in Cambodia.

Mr. Pfeiffer said the United States also has bombed and strafed Cambodian civilians and the Cambodian army and U.S. officials re-

ported the victims as Viet Cong. He said he could support his statement with findings of the International Control Council of Cambodia.

The council reported that it found only the bodies of Cambodians and no Viet Cong in the attack areas in Cambodia. According to U.S. sources, the attack areas, near the town of Mimot, were the strongholds of Viet Cong.

Stamford (Connecticut) "ADVOCATE"
3 April, 1970

Duffey Asks South Asian Role Of CIA

WEST HARTFORD
(AP) — Maintaining that "the American disaster in Vietnam has shown the dangers of secret governmental activity in unstable nations," Joseph Duffey called Thursday for a Senate investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency's role in Southeast Asia.

Duffey, national chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, is also a candidate for the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination.

Duffey said the investigation is needed "to confirm or dispel allegations that CIA operatives played a role in a recent coup resulting in the ouster of Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk."

"The future of all Americans is affected by CIA operations in this and other sensitive areas of the world. The American people no longer can permit these activities to proceed in total secrecy, free of restraint by public or Congressional opinion," Duffey said.

Duffey also asked that the investigation look into the "veiled activities, both past and present, of the CIA in Vietnam."

"The American people," he said, "need to be told the full story behind our tragically-misguided policy in Vietnam and its neighboring countries."

CARL T. ROWAN

... But Suppose the Worst Occurs in Cambodia

Two cardinal principles, one of substance and the other merely a public relations gambit, have marked the conduct of foreign policy by the Nixon administration.

The second holds that an atmosphere of crisis must be avoided if possible, and that even the semblance of panic must be avoided at all cost.

The President and his key foreign policy advisers have clung to that one pretty well. Now, even as warfare spreads over Laos, Cambodia faces greater peril and Thailand becomes more deeply involved in the fighting, the Nixon people act as though those little beads on their upper lips are icicles rather than sweat.

How long they can cling to their second principle is another thing. They started out with the notion that an administration can sit down in a coldly analytical way and set some

foreign policy goals. Then it can resolve to do nothing in a crisis situation that moves the United States further away from that goal.

The "Nixon doctrine" sets some goals for the United States in Southeast Asia, and there is every reason to believe that we are about to see whether a grim challenge across all of old Indochina will force the United States to take actions that constitute a veering away from those goals.

Despite suspicions here and there, I am convinced the United States did not engineer the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia. In fact, the moment news of the coup broke, Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms was on the phone to the White House declaring: "It's not ours!"

But the United States was among the first to recognize the new anti-Communist re-

gime, largely out of a high-level conviction that the new group was "better for us than Sihanouk."

But suppose the worst occurs and Cambodians loyal to Sihanouk join up with North Vietnamese forces and move with such devastating force that the militarily weak Cambodian regime asks for outside help? How will Nixon respond?

So far the "Nixon doctrine" is that "the United States will participate in the defense and development of allies and friends, but that America cannot—and will not—conceive all the plans, design all the programs, execute all the decisions and undertake all the defense of the free nations of the world. We will help where it makes a real difference and is considered in our interest."

When applied to Cambodia and Laos, that statement seems a lot more ambiguous than it did when it was just

part of the President's "state of the world" address.

Nixon has not told us whether he thinks Laos and Cambodia "make a real difference" or whether it is "in our interest" to defend them.

The Communists seem to have concluded that Nixon's heart says yes, but that his pragmatic mind says no.

The President's basic inclinations surely are to let loose a real military assault on the Communists. He must be plagued mentally and emotionally by reports telling him that a gigantic erosion of freedom is under way in Southeast Asia, and that only Uncle Sam can halt it.

But Nixon looks at the history of the last decade and has to conclude that a "real military assault" may not teach the Communists as big a lesson as he would hope. He has to assume that the cost of all-out defense of Cambodia and/or Laos would be great. He has to doubt that the American public, which he calmed down with such skill, would continue in frustrated silence if he committed American soldiers to Laos or Cambodia.

Nixon has said the United States "will provide a shield" for allies and countries "vital to our security" if those countries are threatened by a nuclear power.

"In cases involving other types of aggression we shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested and as appropriate. But we shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defense," the President said on Nov. 3.

Does that rule out U.S. warfare in Cambodia and Laos? Nixon only said the threatened country must assume primary responsibility for manpower, not total responsibility.

Assuming that his goal is to get U.S. fighting men out of Southeast Asia, the Nixon credo would decree that he do nothing in Laos or Cambodia that takes him further from that goal.

It looks as though the Communists are about to subject that credo to a difficult and dangerous test. And the closer the congressional elections come, the more difficult will be the test.

STATINT

CANONSBURG, PA.
NOTES

E - 5,417

APR 2 1970

Cambodia's Importance

The recent revolution in Cambodia and the fighting in Laos are of great importance to the war in Vietnam. Cambodia's new government might possibly close down the port of Sihanoukville to the communists, through which about one-third of the supplies to enemy in Vietnam are thought to pass. (It is Cambodia's only deep water harbor.)

Washington is waiting hopefully for that closure and this is probably why the U.S. Navy was refused permission to board the ammunition ship Columbia Eagle, with its load of U.S. bombs, recently, after the Navy had already issued the orders and the cruiser Oklahoma City was about to enter Sihanoukville harbor.

The fighting in Laos is of grave importance because if the communists take the entire country Thailand will be directly threatened. The United States is committed to Thailand's defense: that is why U.S. planes have been ferrying Thai troops to Laos and the C.I.A. has been doing all it can working with Laotian tribesmen.

What is really happening in this part of the world is a change of scene. The war in South Vietnam is declining in violence and the climax in Laos and Cambodia is approaching. The showdown had to come, for South Vietnam's security is affected by events in both countries. (All three formerly comprised French Indochina.)

Nixon Administration, though hogtied as far as the use of U.S. troops is concerned, perhaps rightly so, by Congress and public opinion, is doing its best to wage an effective war against the communists in Laos (and to some extent in Cambodia) with only the Air Force and the C.I.A. Undercover work in Cambodia seems to have paid off recently and Thai troops are fighting in Laos, with U.S. logistical and intelligence support.

Most experts agree the situation in South Vietnam is vastly improved. If Cambodia is made secure and at least the western half of Laos (bordering Thailand) is safeguarded or secured, without the use of U.S. troops, much will have been accomplished by the Nixon Administration.

of Education program officers, special consultants, and State educational agencies. A press release on the candidates for Bilingual Education grants will be issued within the next few days.

Sincerely yours,

B. ALDEN LILLYWHITE,
 Acting Associate Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education.

CALIFORNIA

Auburn.—Area III County Superintendent Review and Control Board, OE 7-00380.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Kenneth L. Loneragan, Chairman, County Superintendents Policy-Making and Control Board, 1230 High Street, Auburn, California, 95603.

Cucamonga.—Cucamonga School District, OE 7-00449.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: George O. Scott, District Superintendent, 8806 Archibald Avenue, Cucamonga, California, 91730.

EL MONTE.—Mountain View School District OE 7-00419.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Charles Kranz, District Superintendent, 2850 No. Mountain View Road, El Monte, California, 91732.

Escondido.—Escondido Union School District OE 7-00383.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: James Slezak, Superintendent of Schools, 5th and Maple Streets, Escondido, California, 92025.

Fountain Valley.—Fountain Valley School District OE 7-00431.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Robert A. Sanchis, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Fountain Valley School District, Number One Lighthouse Lane, Fountain Valley, California, 92708.

Gilroy.—Gilroy Unified School District, OE 7-00451.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Robert Infelise, District Superintendent, 7663 Church Street, Gilroy, California 95020.

King City.—King City Joint Union High School, OE 7-00455.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: E. O. Fischer, Superintendent of Schools, 720 Broadway, King City, California 93930.

Los Angeles.—Los Angeles Unified School District, OE 7-00222.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Robert E. Kelly, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District, 450 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Montebello.—Montebello Unified School District, OE 7-00441.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: A. Roland Walker, Superintendent of Schools, 123 South Montebello Boulevard, Montebello, California 90640.

Orange.—Orange Unified School District, OE 7-00504.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Harold V. Kibby, Superintendent of Schools, 370 North Glassell Street, Orange, California 92666.

Pico Rivera.—El Rancho Unified School District, OE 7-00347.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: John P. Jones, Superintendent of Schools, 9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, California 90680.

Riverside.—Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, OE 7-00358.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Leonard Grindstaff, Superintendent of Schools, 4015 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92502.

Riverside.—Office of the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, OE 7-00359.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Leonard Grindstaff, Superintendent of Schools, 4015 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92502.

Rowland Heights.—Rowland School District, OE 7-00420.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Forrest F. Dunbar, Coordinator of Government Projects, 1830 Nogales Street, Rowland Heights, California 91745.

San Bernardino.—San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office OE 7-00448.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Roy C. Hill, County Superintendent of Schools, 172 West Third Street, San Bernardino, California 92403.

San Francisco.—San Francisco Unified School District, OE 7-00380.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Robert E. Jenkins, Superintendent of Schools, 135 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

San Jose.—Alum Rock Union Elementary School District OE 7-00466.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: William J. Jeffords, Superintendent of Schools, 2830 Gay Avenue, San Jose, California 95127.

Visalia.—Allensworth School District, OEE 7-00462.
 Language: Spanish.

Further information: Max Cochran, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools, 202 County Civic Center, Visalia, California 93277.

NIXON VIETNAMIZATION POLICY JEOPARDIZES AMERICAN TROOPS

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. President, in addition to previously mentioned deficiencies, there is, I fear, another danger in Mr. Nixon's Vietnamization policy—that is the very real danger it poses to American troops. We needlessly jeopardize our troops when we give them the political mission of propping up the Thieu-Ky regime and pacifying the Vietnamese countryside while they are also asked to hold widely dispersed military positions across Vietnam. At the same time, the President is withdrawing American maneuver battalions which are the real muscle of our forces in Vietnam.

I regard the administrations effort to continue extensive military operations while cutting combat troops as exceedingly risky. Do we not by such a policy make our troops vulnerable to concentrated attacks by the enemy? I fear it, and I see no reason to subject American forces to this needless danger.

The press carries news reports that General Westmoreland, the Army Chief of Staff, and other Army leaders fear that we cannot continue both the pacification and the present troop withdrawal schedule. They call for a 6-month delay in further troop reductions. They may be right. In any event, I am one longtime critic of our Vietnam involvement who does not want to jeopardize American troops needlessly. It is my concern over the senseless slaughter of young Americans, as well as young Vietnamese, that has motivated much of my opposition to our Vietnam policy from the beginning. There is a better alternative to both the Nixon plan and the Army effort to delay the Nixon plan. Let me plead again for the kind of disengagement I have recommended previously.

Let us stop our far-flung military operations in South Vietnam and consoli-

date our forces temporarily, in preparation for disengagement. In well-defended areas near the sea. Let us cease our tight embrace of General Thieu and urge the various political groupings in South Vietnam to begin talks leading to a broader, provisional government and a settlement of the war to be followed by elections. We and other friendly countries can offer asylum to any Vietnamese who might feel threatened by such a settlement. Let us call for an exchange of prisoners and then begin the rapid withdrawal of all American forces from their consolidated positions along the coast.

Such a policy of disengagement is spelled out in the resolution I introduced a year ago. It is the essential proposal I have made for years. It is, I believe, a policy which reduces the military danger to our forces while confronting the political realities of Southeast Asia.

I strongly urge the President to consider it as an alternative to the risky and costly policy he is now pursuing. A concomitant action might be to reconvene the Geneva Conference or reopen the negotiations in Paris. As I suggested on March 18, 1970, the Pathet Lao five-point settlement plan combined with the earlier settlement offers of the NLF and Hanoi can provide the beginning basis for discussions leading to a Geneva-type settlement of the entire Southeast Asian conflict.

I have previously warned President Nixon's Vietnamization policy is not a proper formula for ending the war since it commits us to support the continuance of the Thieu-Ky regime in Saigon—a regime so little supported by its own citizens that it requires American arms in order to stand. Our original intervention into the affairs of the people of Southeast Asia was such an obvious blunder that we ought to end it quickly rather than by a long, drawn-out extrication designed to postpone the day of reckoning and reality. Yet, the Nixon policy gives both Saigon and Hanoi a veto on American foreign policy by telling Saigon that our rate of withdrawal depends on their ability to take over, and by telling Hanoi we will determine our military strategy depending on what they do.

The continuing costs of the war in the form of blood, inflation, and wasted resources are beyond any counterinterest in Vietnam. Far from ending these costs, the Nixon Vietnamization policy invites military pressure on Laos and Cambodia. It does so because so long as we are supplying our ally in South Vietnam by our control of the air and sea routes, Hanoi will continue to supply its ally in South Vietnam by the land routes and staging areas in Laos and Cambodia. As we seek to close off those routes and Hanoi struggles to keep them open, we set up the unstable military and political conditions which explain the recent troubles in Laos and the tumbling of President Sihanouk in Cambodia.

As columnist Joseph Kraft puts it:

Vietnamization only creates conditions that work to widen the war. Wisdom lies not in holding tight to that policy, but in shifting to another before everybody comes to understand the Vietnamization line won't work.

Peking, Hanoi Still Cautious On Cambodia

By Stanley Karnow

Washington Post Foreign Service

HONG KONG, March 31—Peking and Hanoi appear to be taking a complicated and cautious diplomatic approach to the new Cambodian regime despite their expressions of support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the ousted chief of state.

This suggests to Western analysts here that the Chinese and Vietnamese Communists, while opposed to the new Cambodian government, are anxious to avoid an irreparable break with the prince's successors.

These analysts believe that Hanoi and the Vietcong may still entertain hopes of reaching an arrangement with the Phnom Penh regime that will permit them to retain their sanctuaries in areas of Cambodia adjacent to South Vietnam.

At the same time, the Chinese are evidently anxious to preserve their embassy in the Cambodian capital, which serves as an important observation post in Southeast Asia.

Lines Retained

One indication that Peking and Hanoi are playing a careful diplomatic game with Cambodia has been reflected in their efforts to maintain their links with the new regime.

Analysts consider it significant, for example, that the Chinese and Vietnamese Communists responded prudently to a specific appeal by Sihanouk to the "friendly powers" to cut their ties with the Cambodian leaders who deposed him.

In a statement issued on March 24 from Peking, where he has taken asylum, Sihanouk asserted that states continuing to recognize the new regime "not only . . . stand on the side of imperialism but also on the side of barbarity."

The prince thereupon called on "governments and peoples friendly" to the Cambodian people to "give their support and diplomatic recognition" to the government-in-exile whose formal day before Cambodia last year.

Though they affirmed their "total support" for his proclamation, North Vietnam and the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front pointedly refrained from extending actual recognition to Sihanouk's government-in-exile.

On the contrary, when the North Vietnamese and Vietcong diplomatic representatives were withdrawn from Phnom Penh last week, Hanoi emphasized that diplomatic ties with the Cambodian regime were being "temporarily suspended" rather than broken.

In subsequent commentaries, such as a complaint issued yesterday against the alleged persecution of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, Hanoi has referred to the new Phnom Penh regime as the "Cambodian authorities."

In a message to a conference of nonaligned countries in Dar es Salaam next Sunday, Sihanouk said, "I admit with pride" to having supported the Vietnamese Communists "because we are an anti-imperialist people, because we are the people of Indochina and because we have the right to be recognized by Socialist Vietnam."

He also called upon countries to do all in their power to "cease or avoid to cooperate" with the new regime in Phnom Penh.

Meanwhile, the Chinese have been even more reticent in directly voicing support for Sihanouk.

Nothing Authoritative

In spite of the fact that his various declarations are transmitted by the official New China News Agency, for instance, the Chinese have not yet put out an authoritative statement of their own recognizing either his government-in-exile or his "National Liberation Army."

A further sign of Chinese restraint has been their decision to keep their ambassador, Kang Mao-chao, in Phnom Penh. A veteran diplomat who served in India, Lebanon and

Moreover, the Cambodian ambassador to China, Nay Valentin, has remained in Peking even though he has switched allegiance from Sihanouk to the new regime.

In a dispatch transmitted here yesterday, the New China News Agency went to considerable lengths to deny that the Chinese Foreign Ministry had expressed embarrassment at having Sihanouk in Peking.

Excessive Denial

The strangely excessive tone of the denial has prompted conjecture among analysts here that the prince's activities in Peking may indeed be causing the Chinese discomfort.

According to the dispatch, a member of the Cambodian National Assembly informed an American correspondent in

Phnom Penh that Valentin reported to his government that the Chinese Foreign Ministry had advised him that China was "embarrassed" by Sihanouk's presence in Peking.

Yesterday afternoon, the dispatch said, Chinese reporters visited Valentin and were told by him that the tale was an "unfounded" rumor.

The Peking dispatch commented that the rumor was "obviously aimed at driving a wedge" between China and Sihanouk to undermine "the profound friendship between the Chinese people and the Cambodian people."

But, like previous Peking statements, the dispatch offered only mild backing for Sihanouk, saying that the "solemn stand taken by the Chinese people" in his support is "well-known."

Flexible Diplomacy

In part, Western analysts here point out, Peking's reluctance to burn its bridges to Phnom Penh is consistent with Chinese diplomatic style, which has remained unusually flexible over the years.

Relations with Indonesia, for example, were "suspended" rather than broken following the anti-Communist drive undertaken by the Djakarta government in late 1965.

Similarly, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi continued to function during the Sino-Indian border war in 1962, and the mission in Rangoon has remained open though China's ties with Burma are frayed.

Among other things, the Chinese may believe that closing their legation in Phnom Penh would provide the Soviet Union with the opportunity to strengthen its influence in Cambodia.

Russia Cautious

Beyond publishing predictable commentaries blaming the ouster of Sihanouk on the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the Russians have displayed no hint of moving to rupture their relations with Cambodia.

What may underlie North Vietnamese restraint, some analysts submit, is Hanoi's belief that the new Cambodian leaders may be persuaded to tolerate the Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. The Cambodian army has sold weapons, rice and other supplies to the Communists for years.

In addition, it is thought, Hanoi may be convinced that the anti-Communist posture adopted by the Phnom Penh regime was essentially a pretext calculated to generate popular support for Sihanouk's dismissal.

The current Communist threat to the Phnom Penh regime could be a form of pressure designed to compel the Cambodian leaders to come to terms with Hanoi and the Vietcong.

If this pressure fails to work, however, both the Vietnamese and Chinese Communists may switch to a tougher line. Their present prudence suggests, then, that they still believe an all-out war in Cambodia can be averted.

BUFFALO, N.Y.
NEWS

E - 281,982

MAR 31 1970

Cambodia: Another Vietnam?

The fast-moving developments in Cambodia could prove of great significance — for either good or ill — in U. S. efforts to wind down the Vietnam war. Military experts see obvious advantages in having Cambodia move from neutrality to involvement on the allied side, and no doubt the change will aid us in the short run.

The new regime immediately called for the withdrawal of Communist troops from the border areas near Vietnam and co-operated in the South Vietnamese border raid on Communist forces in Cambodia last week. If Communist military sanctuaries in Cambodia were wiped out, a large part of the Communist guerrilla movement would wither and die.

But in the long run, there are frightening hazards in these new developments. Any concerted joint attack on the Communist sanctuaries by Cambodian and South Vietnamese troops could be expected to bring strong counter-measures, such as two moves that are already developing: aggressive

action by Communist troops in Cambodia and a Red-backed counter-revolutionary campaign by Prince Sihanouk.

This would draw Cambodia directly into the Vietnam war, creating one more regime in which we had a vested interest we didn't have before. One could easily imagine more ~~CIA~~ organized armies, U. S. advisers, another Vietnam. ✓

At all costs, the U. S. must avoid Americanizing any civil strife that develops in Cambodia. In spite of the U. S. air support given the South Vietnamese in raiding Cambodia last week, the administration has affirmed the U. S. policy of employing U. S. forces in Cambodian border areas only when necessary for self-defense. Fortunately, as the U. S. troop withdrawals continue, there will be fewer and fewer U. S. forces in the area, and the U. S. involvement can hopefully be lessened.

Whatever the short-run advantages of exploiting the new situation in Cambodia, we must inevitably remember that one Vietnam is more than enough.

areas. Insofar as I know, we have not given full consideration to using these assets to influence population distribution. But it seems to me an extremely worthwhile suggestion, and I am passing it on to the appropriate people in the Administration.

Certainly, the enormous leverage of federal procurement contracts could be put to use in seeking a more evenly distributed population and full compliance with environmental protection programs. You will be glad to know that an inter-agency task force has been at work on just this problem since before the first of the year, and that we expect to have some initial proposals ready within a month's time.

I hope that this information is useful, and that you will be in touch should you have any further questions or suggestions.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. TIMMONS,
 Assistant to the President.

PRESIDENT NIXON COMMENDED FOR DESEGREGATION STATEMENT

Mr. GRIFFIN, Mr. President, the Wall Street Journal recently commented on President Nixon's statement on school desegregation. The tone of the editorial is set by the first paragraph which describes the President's statement as "so sensible that it makes some of the criticisms sound rather ludicrous."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article, appropriately entitled "Rule of Reason," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULE OF REASON

The striking thing about the President's statement on desegregation is its tone—a profound concern for the problem coupled with a wholly realistic approach. So sensible is it, in fact, that it makes some of the criticisms sound rather ludicrous.

The chief objection of the critics is that Mr. Nixon did not demand instant school integration. But are they listening to what he said? He is not backing away from the goal of integration; indeed, he is providing considerable sums to assist court-ordered desegregation and improve education in racially impacted areas, North and South.

What Mr. Nixon does perceive is that in distinguishing between de jure and de facto segregation, the complexities involved in the latter are awesome and almost certainly not susceptible to a purely Governmental solution.

There is a Constitutional mandate, he notes, that dual school systems and other forms of de jure segregation be eliminated totally—and that is Administration policy as well. Within that requirement, however, is a degree of flexibility, a "rule of reason" permitting school boards to formulate desegregation plans that best suit the needs of their localities.

De facto segregation, stemming from housing patterns, is another matter altogether. The President holds it to be undesirable but observes that it is not generally considered to violate the Constitution. Even so, he seems to encourage local school officials to take reasonable steps, if they choose, to diminish racial separation.

Mr. Nixon is especially realistic in discussing the difficulties of doing away with de facto segregation: "Racial balance" has been discovered to be neither a static nor a finite condition; in many cases it has turned out to be only a way station on the road to re-segregation."

That is, whites leave the public schools, and the public schools founder for lack of support. Moreover, when whites flee the public schools in search of predominantly white schools in the suburbs, the central city itself becomes racially isolated.

"These are not theoretical problems, but actual problems. They exist not just in the realm of law, but in the realm of human attitudes and human behavior. They are part of the real world, and we have to take account of them."

One of the practical problems in trying to abolish de facto segregation is that it entails a wasteful diversion of resources. Thus a state court recently ordered all but uniform racial balance in the Los Angeles schools, and it is expected that it will cost \$40 million the first year to lease buses, hire drivers and pay operating expenses. How much better if the money were to be spent to improve education.

In a deeper sense, insistence on total integration derives from a misconception of the source of much of the trouble in the education of Negroes. As the Presidential statement remarks, it is not primarily a matter of race at all; rather, it is a question of economic class and environment. Quite simply, a child from a very poor home, where there are no books or magazines or newspapers or parental encouragement to learn—that child is all too likely to have difficulty in school whether he is black or white.

Finally, to demand total integration (as distinguished from ending de jure segregation) is to overburden the schools. In Mr. Nixon's words, the schools "have been expected not only to educate but also to accomplish a social transformation. Children in many instances have not been served, but used—in what all too often has proved a tragically futile effort to achieve in the schools the kind of multiracial society which the adult community has failed to achieve for itself."

We agree with the President that the call for equal educational opportunity is in the American tradition and that the opportunity unquestionably can be extended at the same time that the quality of the education is being upgraded. But the process preeminently requires wisdom, the kind of basic common sense the President's statement reflects.

WE ARE NOW WAGING SECOND INDO-CHINESE WAR

Mr. YOUNG of Ohio, Mr. President, this comes as no surprise to me. It is what one would expect from the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the leaders of the all powerful military-industrial complex. It is evident that they seek to move our Nation into a militarist state. Unfortunately, it appears that President Nixon is yielding subservience to the militarists in the same degree as did President Johnson.

Now headlined in the Washington Post we read that General Westmoreland and other army leaders favor a 6-month delay in U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam.

Pentagon officials, of course, claim that further withdrawal of ground forces from Vietnam at this time should be stopped so that our pacification program, so-called, and Vietnamization program may continue.

From 1961 to the present time, American military forces have been occupying Vietnam. There has been no Vietnamization, so-called, of South Vietnam. The militarists led by General Thieu and Air Marshal Ky in control of the Saigon

Government represent but a small fraction of the Vietnamese. They have excluded Buddhists and neutralists, so-called, from their militarist government of Saigon. There is a corrupt regime. South Vietnamese forces have no will to fight. Its leaders are continuing the suppression policies of the French colonialists. Eighty percent of the men and women of South Vietnam know that no land reform, not even a semblance of liberty has been offered them by the Thieu-Ky administration and its predecessors.

The Vietcong representing the National Liberation Front have an ideal. They are fighting for land reform and for national liberation. While in Vietnam in 1965 and 1968 I learned that 80 percent of the people living in the Mekong Delta, south of Saigon, supported the National Liberation Front. General Westmoreland and others of our Joint Chiefs of Staff by their actions prove that the Saigon regime is in power only by reason of the presence of the ground and air forces of the United States.

Mr. Nixon, as a candidate for the Presidency, stated repeatedly he had a secret plan to end our involvement in Vietnam. That is still his secret. The facts are this war is now expanding and the United States has now become involved in what should be termed the second Indo-Chinese war. The conflict has spread beyond South Vietnam now. Americans are fighting and dying in Laos and we have invaded Cambodia. Some Americans have been killed there and this conflict is even threatening to extend into Thailand.

The first Indo-Chinese war was waged by the French with the aid of John Foster Dulles and President Eisenhower. When the Japanese suddenly left Southeast Asia in the closing weeks of World War II, the French immediately landed hundreds of thousands of troops and sought to reestablish their cruel but lush Indo-Chinese empire. President Eisenhower instead of enforcing neutrality or coming to the aid of the Vietnamese people seeking national liberation aided the French with billions of dollars in war supplies. He was restrained by action of leading Senators in 1954 from committing our air power to relieve Dienbienphu. Those orders secured on advice of John Foster Dulles and his brother, then head of the CIA, were cancelled at almost the last moment. Dienbienphu was overrun on May 7, 1954. More than 12,000 French Foreign Legionnaires were captured.

Following the surrender, the Geneva Agreement fixed a temporary demarcation line at the 17th parallel providing this was not a national boundary but merely a temporary demarcation line. An election was promised for 1956. President Eisenhower, in his memoirs, stated that Ho Chi Minh would have received 80 percent of the vote for President in both sections of Vietnam. Our puppet President Diem cancelled the election. Then the civil war in Vietnam was renewed.

Now we Americans are continuing the aggression of the French. In fact, the

MAR 31 1970
M - 39,286
S - 45,728

Mansfield Emphasizes Opposition to Involvement in Cambodia

By WILLIAM D. JAMES
Tribune Executive Editor

The lines on Mike Mansfield's forehead deepen and a look of great concern dominates his face as he discusses the dangers to the United States of an enlarged war in Indochina.

"We can't afford to get involved in a wider war there," the Senate Majority Leader said.

Sen. Mansfield, who left Great Falls Monday to return to Washington, D.C., emphasized that he opposes any U.S. involvement in the chaotic Cambodian situation that has resulted from the recent overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

"Prince Sihanouk, regardless of one's feelings for him, was the Cambodian chief of state who kept that nation together and neutral," Mansfield explained. "It's quite possible that Cambodian neutrality and solidarity will be endangered now." Mansfield pointed out that the Viet Cong troops of South Vietnam and North Vietnamese forces already are engaging Cambodian troops.

"Since the Cambodian army is ill-trained and ill-equipped, I would anticipate that the new government will turn to the U.S. for help if it gets in trouble.

Mansfield said he does not think we should become involved in Cambodia and certainly should not send any military aid to the new government there any more than

we helped Prince Sihanouk. The U.S. didn't send equipment to Sihanouk, he said.

"In other words, we can further our own interests by staying clear of the Cambodian problems," Mansfield added.

If the U.S. gets involved in fighting in Cambodia and Laos, we face an enlargement of fighting in Indochina rather than the planned withdrawal of our military forces from Vietnam, Mansfield warned.

The U.S. has too serious domestic problems it must face to continue pouring our manpower and resources in Southeast Asian wars, he added.

The calm, scholarly voice of the 67-year-old senator became more intense as he discussed the cost of the Vietnam war.

"It already has cost this nation more than \$100 billion," he said. "And, it has cost us 318,000 casualties of which 42,000 were Americans killed in combat and 7,000 who lost their lives in non-combat action."

"That's far too high a price to pay for fighting in an area in which we have no vital interest."

Mansfield makes no bones about the fact that he thinks the Vietnam war was a mistake for the U.S. from the beginning.

The Senate majority leader, who is on the record as having advised Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon about the dangers of being lured into Indochina wars, said the war has been a continuing tragedy for this nation.

The war, he said, has forced the nation to neglect critical domestic problems.

Look at the domestic problems that have been aggravated by the war, he commented.

"Too much crime. Too much drug addiction. Too much pollution. Too much unemployment. Too much inflation."

Mansfield said the money and resources poured into the hopeless war could have been spent to much better advantage on domestic problems.

Mansfield said he was certain that the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) did not play any part in Prince Sihanouk's overthrow.

He lauded President Nixon for his Southeast Asian policies and particularly for his planned

withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam and for not letting the nation get involved in the fighting in Laos and Cambodia.

The Senate majority leader, acknowledged as the top Congressional authority on the Far East and Southeast Asia, is a frequent visitor to the White House to confer with President Nixon just as he was during the administrations of Presidents Johnson and Kennedy.

Mansfield was asked by President Nixon to visit Southeast Asia last August. He had made similar trips at the request of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson.

Mansfield has warned the nation consistently and regularly

for almost 20 years that the U.S. should not allow itself to be lured into Southeast Asian conflicts.

The senator, a history professor at the University of Montana before going to Congress in 1943, knows many of the top Southeast Asian leaders personally, having met them on his Presidential trips or at numerous conferences he attended. His interest in Asia goes back to the days he was stationed in Asia as a member of our armed forces. He served as an enlisted man in the Navy, Army and Marines after running away from his Great Falls home when he was an eighth grade student. He was 14 then and wanted to participate in World War I.

STATINTL

PITTSFIELD, MASS.
BERKSHIRE EAGLE

E - 30.051
MAR 31 1970

Editorials

The Deepening Quagmire

It would be ironic (though not too surprising) if there were any truth to the rumors that the coup which ousted Prince Sihanouk from power in Cambodia was engineered with the aid of the CIA. Ironic because it looks more and more as though the change of command in that mixed-up country is bad news for the United States.

Superficially, to be sure; this might not seem to be the case. The leaders of the Cambodian coup profess to be considerably more anti-Communist than the deposed prince and much more inclined toward cooperation with Saigon and Washington. Indeed they are already soliciting more military aid from the United States.

But this is precisely what the Nixon administration shouldn't want at this juncture if it is really serious about trying to disengage in Vietnam and reduce its commitments elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Prince Sihanouk, a determined neutralist, was serving our purposes relatively well by trying to curb through diplomatic rather than military means the incursions on his territory by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. He wasn't enjoying enormous success in this undertaking, but he was at least managing to keep the situation from boiling over.

His successors aren't able to do even that. They are no better equipped than the prince was to drive out the Communist forces by military means, and they obviously aren't able or inclined to try to do so by diplomatic

means. Moreover, in the process of chasing out the prince, they have added greatly to their internal insecurity, because Sihanouk was a popular monarch whose efforts to return to power seem likely to trigger a full-scale civil war in which his own supporters will be allies of the Communist intruders.

To complicate matters further, there is abundant evidence that this situation is not at all displeasing to the Thieu-Ky regime in Saigon, which has no real interest whatever in seeing the United States reduce its military commitments in Southeast Asia. Already the South Vietnamese are taking advantage of the changed picture by conducting raids across the border against Viet Cong forces which are holed up in Cambodia—a practice which Prince Sihanouk, in accordance with his neutrality policy, did not permit. If this tends to enmesh the United States more deeply in the Southeast Asia quagmire, one can be sure that it bothers the Saigon generals not one whit.

The big question is whether President Nixon can resist the pressure to get sucked in. It will be an acid test of his professed "low-profile" policy—and an acid test of his common sense. For if there is one thing which the current mess in Cambodia reaffirms beyond contradiction, it is the absolute folly of supposing that American military power can effectively shape for our own purposes the course of events in that chaotic corner of the earth.

UTICA, N.Y.
PRESS

M - 28,782

MAR 31 1970

If Our Friends Ignore Southeast Asia, We Can't Be Expected to Enlarge War

The Communists seem to be making considerable headway in their new moves in Southeast Asia. In Laos, despite our token efforts, the North Vietnamese and Laotian Reds are advancing without much difficulty. In Cambodia, the neutralization that was started with the ouster of Prince Sihanouk is not going as well as the new government had expected, and the prince is operating from Peking with Red Chinese support.

PRESIDENT NIXON has indicated through his top aides that this country will not expand its participation in Laos, where the CIA has been conducting its own civilian war, and into Cambodia, where it is not known how much, if at all, the CIA has been operating.

It seems obvious now that the North Vietnamese have felt stalemated in South Vietnam, or they might even have felt they were losing ground. To change the focus, they decided to activate their somewhat dormant Laos invasion. Then the Cambodian ouster sprang into being, with the new government there ordering the removal of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, which had found Cambodia a convenient refuge just over the South Vietnamese border.

OF COURSE, we would like to see the Communists stopped in all three of those countries. But do we want to give further support to the weak Laotian and Cambodian forces, which is apparently part of the Communist strategy to re-ignite the internal strife in this country?

The answer is certainly no, we will not allow our involvement to spread unilaterally to bolster regimes that seem unable to muster enough domestic support to hold back the Communist advances. What we can do is call on other leading powers to join in the effort with us. Such a move, considering the recent history of Southeast Asia, is likely to bring a polite rejection.

That would leave us with a clear conscience in refusing to extend ourselves. The move also would worsen the North Vietnamese position, because, after being badly weakened in the South Vietnam struggle, they would have new debilitating fronts on which to fight.

NO ONE WANTS to see Cambodia or Laos fall to the Communists, but the Reds' move toward that end, whether or not successful, could improve our chances of withdrawal from South Vietnam, which is still the principal aim of our people.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

TIMES

MAR 30 1970

M - 59,391

S - 69,238

Patsy for a Plot

If the CIA had been or was inclined to side with those Cambodians who deposed Prince Sihanouk, we imagine it would have been rather more discreet than to choose a cargo of heavy aerial bombs as its contribution to the insurrectionists.

But as it happened the hijacked Columbia Eagle was letting down anchor in the sanctuary of Cambodian waters while the ouster of Sihanouk was taking place. The opportunity was not missed by Communist propagandists. Immediately there were claims that the hijacking of the Columbia Eagle was an elaborate plot by the CIA to divert a bomb-laden American merchantman to the new government in Phnom Penh.

The two young revolutionaries who commandeered the vessel at gunpoint were furious when a British journalist suggested this theory to them. They were anti-Vietnam war, anti-U.S., anti-CIA and pro-SDS, they protested, arguing that their deed should speak for itself. Of course it should. And it has been more successful than the naive hijackers realize.

The 500- and 750-pound bombs (which the hijackers mistook for napalm) have been denied U.S. war planes operating out of Thailand and the hijacking itself has made much, if clumsy, propaganda against the foes of Sihanouk. And Phnom Penh hasn't helped matters by refusing to release the ship.

CHEYENNE, WYO.
 TRIBUNE
 E - 10,487
 TRIBUNE-EAGLE
 S - CIRC. N-A
 MAR 30 1970

Now Is the Time

The U.S. and its allies in Southeast Asia today have the opportunity of smashing the communists operating from their base country, North Vietnam, if they will but face up to the realities of the situation. This is particularly true of the United States.

The North Vietnamese are in precarious position; they are over-extended and over-committed and facing a host of actual enemies: South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand as well as the United States.

Nonetheless, by aggressive strategy and employing a relative minimum of forces, they have the capability of winning startling new victories in Laos, Cambodia and possibly Thailand unless something is done to defeat this design.

They are pushing to new conquests in Laos and Cambodia while, today's reports indicate, seeking to bluff South Vietnam and the U. S. by feints in the long-standing main theater of war, South Vietnam.

But counterstrikes coordinated by the U. S. with South Vietnam and the other allied countries can thwart the communist's plans if they will be used. These include attacks from the southeast, in the southern portion of South Vietnam, west into Cambodia against the North Vietnamese forces there;

from the northern part of South Vietnam in the vicinity of the DMZ, also west into Laos to cut off the Ho Chi Minh trail, plus immediate resumption of concentrated bombing of North Vietnam including Hanoi and Haiphong.

This country, since it has committed 40,000 American lives to the principle of containing communism in Southeast Asia, now cannot afford to stand around idly and merely defend its own situation in South Vietnam; for the North Vietnamese have seized upon the reluctance of Washington to intrude militarily into Laos and Cambodia, and has embarked on an ambitious plan to outflank our position in South Vietnam and take these countries by force, now that the "neutralist" Cambodian premier, Prince Sihanouk, has shown his true colors (which were visible all along).

The Joint Chiefs of Staff — and not the CIA — should at once proceed to implement a coordinated strategic plan for employing all the military forces of these little nations seeking to preserve their independence as well as the military power of the United States.

If America will but act now, the long Vietnam war may soon be over; if it does not, we may see more years of it ahead of us.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
30 MAR 1970

STATINTL

The London Times reported that Cambodia had changed its mind and decided to release the American munitions ship Columbia Eagle, hijacked into Cambodian waters two weeks ago. The paper reported from Phnom Penh that Communist diplomats there charged that the arrival of the ship was part of a Central Intelligence Agency plot to give the new Cambodian government small arms and ammunition.

MIAMI, FLA.
NEWS

E - 93,538

MAR 30 1970

We're getting deeper in southeast Asia

Events in Cambodia and Laos tend to confirm the fear that the Vietnam war is spreading across the entire Southeast Asian peninsula.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia was considered something of a liability to the American side because he tolerated the use of his country as a sanctuary by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. His overthrow by a band of generals might have been considered a development in our favor.

It might have been, except that the prince apparently has a wide following among the Cambodian public, which is rallying to support him and getting all the help it needs, of course, from the Communists.

Many knowledgeable Washington commentators believe the State Department was generally surprised when the generals took over and that the CIA was not involved in the coup. But the American public, and Congress as well, have been deceived for so long about our involvement in

Laos, Cambodia and Thailand that an objective judgment is difficult.

In Laos, the Communist Pathet Laos had seemed content to hang on to the Plain of Jars until U.S. forces helped the loyalists drive them out. Now North Vietnamese troops are poised at the border and the Laos government fears an invasion on top of its internal difficulties.

As in Vietnam, the disorders in Cambodia and Laos cannot be ascribed entirely to outside influences. In each country there is a strong element of internal discontent and civil warfare.

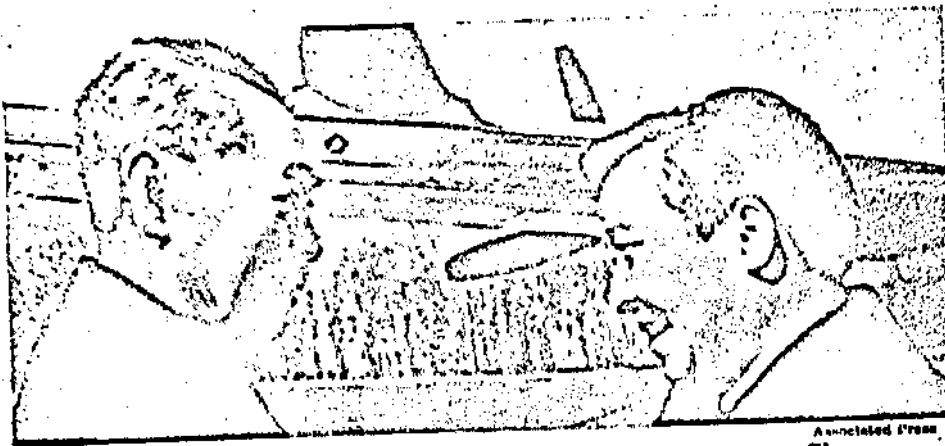
U.S. prospects for imposing a Western style government in any of those countries are slim indeed and would prove costly in the extreme.

The question is whether the Nixon administration, obsessed with protecting our position in Vietnam, will stumble into two more quagmires as sticky as the first. We earnestly hope President Nixon has learned something from the experiences of his immediate predecessors.

Approved For Release 2000/08/16 : CIA-RDP80-01601R000400220001

THE WAR IN VIETNAM

STATINTL



Running out of cards: Amid riots at home, Sihanouk meets Chou



FROM VIETNAM TO INDOCHINA

The War Spills Over as Sihanouk Falls and the Communists Advance in Laos

Alone among the nations of Indochina, Cambodia had escaped engulfment by war, surviving from one crisis to the next in a precarious state of neutrality nursed along by the nimble diplomacy of a royal ruler. "I'll keep maneuvering as long as I have cards in my hand," Prince Norodom Sihanouk once said. "First a little to the left, then a little to the right. And when I have no more cards to play, I'll stop." Last week, Sihanouk's cards were called by his own hand-picked Parliament, which unanimously ousted the Prince from his job as Cambodia's Chief of State. And, in the wake of this stunning development, diplomats were wondering whether a new game might not be shaping up for Cambodia's warring neighbors as well.

Sihanouk's downfall came amidst a bewildering rush of events that posed a still-imponderable threat to the Nixon Administration's carefully nurtured plans for a gradual withdrawal from South Vietnam. For the first time in recent memory,

major military engagements were taking place across the length and breadth of the Indochinese peninsula. With the aid of South Vietnamese artillery called in by U.S. spotter planes, several Cambodian battalions launched an offensive against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units holed up along the border with South Vietnam. In Laos, Communist forces smashed across the Plain of Jars and were battering at the two key U.S.-supported strongholds of Sam Thong and Long Cheng (map, page 32). And by the weekend, Thailand had leapt into the fray by dispatching, aboard U.S. aircraft, hundreds of regular troops to shore up the beleaguered Laotian base at Long Cheng. Suddenly, as in the days of the French, the war in Vietnam had spilled over all boundary lines and had become a naked struggle to achieve predominance over all of Indochina (page 34).

But if the dominoes were teetering, no one could predict which way they might fall. Despite the discouraging news

from Laos, it looked, for once, as though the Royal Laotian Army had chosen to put up a real fight. And even if the Communists should eventually take over the country, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird vowed to continue U.S. bombings. Nor was the shift to the right in Cambodia necessarily a plus for Washington. Just before the peripatetic Sihanouk left Moscow for Peking last week, Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin warned that the bloodless coup in Phnom Penh "could spark a war between Cambodia and North Vietnam." Once in China, where he was greeted effusively by Premier Chou En-lai, Sihanouk charged that his ouster had been engineered by the C.I.A. and hinted that he might try to stage a counter-coup. But whether the Communists would like to see Sihanouk back in power was open to question. For with the Prince out, the way might now be open for the North Vietnamese Army to impose its will on Cambodia.

For the moment, in short, nothing



Approved For Release 2000/08/16 : CIA-RDP80-01601R000400220001
Communist Pathet Lao troops and a Royal Laotian Army outpost. After eight years, only a thin line of peace

continued

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

M - 55,934

30 Mar 1970

No Escalation

The citizen is pretty much in the dark so far as war in Cambodia is concerned because few persons know what is going on behind the scenes. That has been true of the war in Vietnam and the war in Laos.

The citizen knows what the White House is saying and knows what the various competing politicians and generals are saying in Cambodia. In short, the public knows what's on the surface. But what is not known is what is going on in secrecy — what is being done, for example, by the CIA. Are we getting into deeper trouble without realizing it? No one knows but the few who are directly involved. The President himself could be deceived.

The one thing that is certain is that our people will not be happy about any escalation of war in Cambodia. If our citizens were enthusiastic about the war in Vietnam it could easily be argued that we should be waging an all-out war in Cambodia (as well as Laos) because, for example, 40,000 to 60,000 North Vietnamese troops have been using the border jungles of Cambodia for years as sanctuaries from which to strike against American forces in South Vietnam.

The situation is, in a sense, similar to that during the Korean war when the UN forces were fighting with one hand tied behind their back because they refrained from sending bombers across the line into China, where the Chinese were enjoying sanctuary. (One difference is that had we gone into China we would have taken on one of the biggest and perhaps the most stubborn nation in the world.)

The only people who want us to escalate war in Cambodia and Laos are those who believe that no matter how we go about it we must, at all costs, decisively defeat Communists wherever they rear their heads in Southeast Asia. If what is imperative is American military victory in Southeast Asia then we should be waging fullscale war in Cambodia, Laos and every other country in which there are Communist factions that might constitute a threat.

But very few American citizens want to pull out of war in Vietnam only to get deeper and deeper into war in Cambodia or Laos. It is hoped that President Nixon is making that point clear to any and all persons in military and diplomatic departments that have anything to do with Cambodia and Laos.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NATIONAL OBSERVER

WEEKLY - 553,605

MAR 30 1970

Cambodia Slips Toward Edge Of Civil War

By Wesley Pruden, Jr.
FROM PHNOM PENH

You would never guess it from the slothful pace of this sleepy little capital. But, last week, the risk of a Communist-abetted, Laos-style civil war in Cambodia was growing—and growing fast.

What happens here depends in large measure on the decisions being made by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, ousted in a bloodless coup, by his shaky successors, and by the Communist leaders of Hanoi.

Developments inside and outside Cambodia last week seemed to be pushing this Buddhist kingdom into the same kind of internal warfare that has long plagued neighboring Laos and South Vietnam.

Along the Cambodian border with South Vietnam, Communist Viet Cong troops reportedly attacked Cambodian units, and as close as 35 miles from the Cambodian capital Viet Cong agents organized an antigovernment demonstration in a provincial capital. South Vietnamese and Cambodian forces in the border areas were collaborating in assaults upon Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops using Cambodia as a sanctuary from the Vietnam fighting.

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong withdrew their diplomats from Phnom Penh, scotching hopes of the new Cambodian rulers that they could negotiate with the Communists for the removal of the 40,000 to 60,000 Communist troops encamped in the nation's eastern borderlands.

And in Peking, Prince Sihanouk announced that he was forming a "national liberation army" in Cambodia. He urged the Cambodian people to initiate "guerrilla warfare" against the new Cambodian government. Though Russia and Red China refrained from openly endorsing the prince's war cry, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong pledged "full support" to the prince.

Despite all the shouting and shooting, this city seemed unperturbed. An anecdote illustrates this city's attitudes.

One morning last week, a guest at Le Royal Hotel leaned across the reception desk, winked at the dark and slender girl behind it, and pointed toward a portrait of Prince Sihanouk lying forlornly on a nearby table. The clerk had just taken the portrait down from a place of honor and appropriate prominence behind the cashier's cage.

"I'll give you five dollars for that," the American said. "It will make

a fine souvenir of your country. It will look great in my bathroom."

The girl nodded at the portrait, and turned to gaze through a chill morning rain falling on the streets. She was thinking about it. Finally she shook her head.

"Your offer is kind and generous," she said. "But I think not. We might need the portrait again."

Although the clerk, like all good Cambodians last week, went through the motions of switching loyalty and vowing eternal fealty to a new government, she, like all prudent Cambodians, kept her fingers crossed. And her options open.

In fact, no one in all of the volatile Indochinese peninsula was willing to count the erratic and flamboyant prince down and out for good. Neither the Thais nor the Vietnamese, Cambodia's closest and most natural rivals and those who would seem to have the most to gain from a rightist government here, were quite ready to celebrate, or even to crow.

'Didn't Say By Whom'

Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, an old hand at the business of crafting coups, professed no surprise that Sihanouk had fallen. Soberly he added the obvious: "It could lead to civil war, and if that happens the Cambodians are vulnerable to being taken over." He didn't say by whom.

The next day Ky sent formal greetings to the new chief of the Cambodian state, Cheng Heng, and such care was taken to say the right thing that his cablegram was released, then called back for more editing. The message that finally got to Phnom Penh (which is pronounced as if it were spelled Norm Pen) was warm, but without so much as a hint of glee.

"Recent events in Cambodia show the determination of the Khmer people in safeguarding independence and national sovereignty," Ky said, adding that "This is also the will of the Vietnamese people in the struggle against Communists in the past few years. Therefore I hope this common sense is basic in uniting friendship and co-operation between the two countries."

Bangkok's Position

A few hours later Bangkok (which like Saigon does not maintain diplomatic relations with Cambodia) all but ruled out any sort of military help to the new regime. A spokesman for the Thai government agreed that Sihanouk's threat to return to organize a guerrilla war might jeopardize the new government, but even so Phnom Penh should seek help from a "third country" (the United States) or through the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

The betting here is that the new regime has a fair chance to survive if the Cambodians—or Khmers, as they prefer to call themselves—fail to heed Sihanouk's pleas.

But the coup in Cambodia stirred far more concern elsewhere than

29 MAR 1970

NEW TRIAL ASKED FOR GREEN BERET

Defense Says Vital Witness Was Ordered Away

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 28—Lawyers for Capt. John J. McCarthy, convicted of murder in Vietnam in 1968, have appealed for a new trial, charging that the Army deliberately ordered a vital defense witness away from the original trial because his testimony might reveal the extent of secret American operations in Cambodia.

Papers filed with the Army Court of Military Review stated that the witness, Lieut. Col. Sully H. Fontaine, then a major, was well acquainted with Captain McCarthy, his Green Beret operations and his dealings with a Cambodian sect dedicated to the overthrow of the legitimate government of Cambodia, the Khmer Serai.

The paper also said that Colonel Fontaine, "possessed unique evidence about the alleged victim and knowledge of how to obtain certain evidence" and testimony from the Khmer Serai.

Captain McCarthy's lawyers asserted that when Colonel Fontaine told his superior that he had this evidence and could testify for the defense, he "was advised by a superior officer, Lieut. Col. Solley, not to make his presence known to the appellant and was thus rendered unavailable to the defense at trial."

Suppression Charged

The appeal for a new trial also charged that a report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been kept hidden from the defense and that a prosecution expert witness had changed parts of his testimony crucial to the prosecution's case.

An Army spokesman refused to comment on the charges. He said that the law forbade the Army to comment on a case under judicial review. A formal reply in court is expected in early April.

Although Colonel Fontaine's detailed sworn statement is classified, information from Pentagon sources and an earlier unclassified statement disclosed some details surrounding the case.

Colonel Fontaine apparently arrived at his Longbinh post in South Vietnam shortly after Christmas and attempted to reach Captain McCarthy, whom he had known since 1960 when the captain served under him in the 10th Special Forces in Germany.

He was questioned by military authorities about the nature of the testimony he would give but was denied permission to get in touch with Captain McCarthy. Although he was attached to the 18th Brigade of the military police Corps in Saigon, Colonel Fontaine was carrying out a classified mission of his own, and "it was decided that due to the nature of my own mission, the time frame and the emergency situation created by the Tet offensive, I should pursue my own mission and because of that would not be available for the trial."

Not Aware of Offer

The trial of Captain McCarthy was held in late January although defense counsel was not aware of Colonel Fontaine's offer to help or his existence as a possible witness.

During the trial, counsel attempted to subpoena two Cambodians who had worked for the Green Berets along with the alleged victim.

The Army denied that it had the power to force these men to testify since they were not United States citizens. However, it was not denied that the two Cambodians were then working for a secret American agency.

Defense Department sources indicated that it was possible that Colonel Fontaine was more deeply involved than Captain McCarthy in the intelligence work in which the Green Berets and the Central Intelligence Agency used Cambodians for missions in their own country.

These sources believe that the Army would have preferred to drop the charges against Captain McCarthy rather than let Colonel Fontaine, who has a long and colorful history with the Special Forces, testify about American involvement in Cam-

Not Well Publicized

They also question whether the Army would have prosecuted Captain McCarthy if his case had become as well publicized as one involving the commander of the 5th Special Forces. In that case, the Army dismissed the charges on Sept. 29 for lack of available C.I.A. witnesses.

The court found Captain McCarthy guilty and sentenced him to hard labor for life. But, in a move that Pentagon and Army officials agree was rare, he was not discharged or stripped of his rank.

After he returned to the United States to begin serving his sentence, he received an award and a medal from the Khmer Serai, apparently for some service they felt he had done for them.

Since the trial, a succession of reviews has reduced the captain's sentence to 20 years. He has been released from the Leavenworth Disciplinary barracks under a process similar to personal bail, and he is now serving at an Army post near his home in Arizona.

28 MAR 1970

Eyewitness insight into Cambodia

STATINTL

The Land In Between: The Cambodian Dilemma, by Maslyn Williams (William Morrow, N.Y., 1970, 241 pp. \$795)

By TOM FOLEY

Maslyn Williams' book on Cambodia, "The Land In Between," will probably have its success assured by the recent pro-U.S. military coup in that small Southeast Asian kingdom, which ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the legal chief of state.

Williams, an Australian writer on Asian politics, is no Wilfred Burchett. But he did spend part of 1969 in Cambodia, and his book contains many insights into the situation which has erupted into the headlines.

Cambodia has for long been the envy of its neighbors, who would like to seize and annex parts or all of it. The country is one of Asia's "rice-bowl" areas, and is probably unique in that it produces enough food to feed its own seven million people, 80 percent of them small independent peasants (there is no feudal landlord class in Cambodia).

As Williams points out, Cambodia is thinly populated for an Asian country. At least half its area is forest, and a good part of the remainder is grazing land.

Not only Thailand and the Saigon regime would like to take over this rich land, but Williams notes that U.S. and Australian interests are eager to "develop" the country's timber and grazing land. The greater part of this "undeveloped" land lies along the Thai border to the west and in the north-east, where Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam come together.

Williams visited the latter region, where the U.S. and Saigon claim that a so-called "Sihanouk trail" runs, where thousands of "Vietcong" are supposed to be hiding, and where the "North Vietnamese" are alleged to have an airfield to fly a supply airlift into South Vietnam. Since

Williams shows an open pro-U.S. bias throughout the book, his remarks are worth noting here:

"On the question of the airstrip . . . at the time of my visit it was overgrown with head-high grass. As for the road that 'takes five-ton trucks,' I talked to three men who drove along it in a Landrover and had to walk the last two miles to the border with their heads bent to avoid overhanging jungle growth.

"I walked a short way into the forest, on some of the smaller tracks and found them overgrown to an extent that prevented the passage of a car, and noted (with some disquiet) that they were marked with elephant and other animal tracks that had not been overprinted by any wheeled vehicle, other than a bicycle, for several weeks at least."

This is the "Sihanouk trail" of legend and story, through which hundreds of trucks are supposed to roar daily down from Hanoi into South Vietnam bearing tons of supplies—according to the U.S.-Saigon Psychological Warfare Operations Center in downtown Saigon!

There is a minor rebellion of sorts going on in this corner of Cambodia, inhabited by simple tribal people. Reports from U.S.-Saigon sources claim it is a "Communist" led revolt headed by Vietnamese Communists and is a bent on overthrowing Sihanouk. Williams' comment on this I think, is devastating: "But how is it that so many of the rebels are armed with American weapons supplied by the CIA?"

Williams' chapter on Sihanoukville, Cambodia's new port city on the Gulf of Thailand, is particularly interesting in view of the U.S.-Saigon charge that the "Vietcong" receive 85 percent of their supplies through it, tons and tons every day.

First of all, Sihanoukville has no cranes and all supplies must be laboriously unloaded by hand.

Williams found it a sleepy little port with one Japanese freighter unloading its cargo in one of the six docks. More important, however, for understanding the economic basis of some of the recent political events is the fact that the Cambodians were just finishing the last 60 miles of railroad to tie in Sihanoukville with the capital of Phnom Penh.

Nearly all of Cambodia's export trade has to go along the Mekong River. Williams writes: "At present it is the Americans who, dominating the politics of Saigon, hold the strings that could strangle Cambodia's trade." The new port of Sihanoukville and the railroad, when completed, would have ended that U.S. threat forever and would have given Cambodia an economic independence it had never known previously. As in Ghana in 1966, the U.S. struck before this "take off point" was reached.

There is much more in this book worth reading, particularly about the Cambodian past and the ancient civilization of Angkor. Neither Sihanouk nor the Cambodian people can be understood without reference to the terrible history which saw the Cambodian empire destroyed, its people sold into slavery, and its temples and palaces (like Angkor) left to revert back to jungle.

Many people, including their fellow Asians, find the Cambodians a difficult people to get to know—enigmatic, like the smile carved on the faces of the statues found at Angkor after centuries of being hidden. This book should help to clear up some of the mystery of Cambodia.

Intrigue Follows Intrigue as Cambodia Tries to Co-Exist

By Stanley Karnow
Washington Post Foreign Service
HONG KONG, March 27

The Chinese Communists are striving to implicate the United States in the ouster of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodia's chief of state in an apparent effort to discredit the new Phnom Penh regime's proclaimed allegiance to neutrality.

Referring to alleged covert American operations in Cambodia in the past, an official New China News Agency commentary transmitted here today accused the United States of having "always" regarded Sihanouk's neutrality "as a stumbling block" to its policy of "aggression and war in Asia."

Consequently, the agency commentary said, successive Washington administrations "resorted to many sinister tactics" aimed at subverting the prince's authority.

Among these tactics, the Chinese statement claimed, were U.S. plots to overthrow Sihanouk and American-supported military intrusions into Cambodia by South Vietnamese and Thai troops.

When the prince was in Paris earlier this month, the Peking commentary said, "U.S. imperialism even took the opportunity to instigate the rightist group of Cambodia to stage the coup d'etat" that deposed him on March 18.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) who has been one of Sihanouk's leading American admirers, affirmed following the coup that the United States was not involved in the Prince's removal. "I'll give you my

word for it," Mansfield said.

Judging from other evidence available here, there is reason to believe that Sihanouk's ouster was engineered by his domestic adversaries in a move that was apparently improvised at the last minute rather than planned long in advance.

Over the years, however, Cambodia has been a cockpit of conspiracies by a wide variety of Chinese, Vietnamese, dissident Cambodian and American agents.

And Sihanouk, who tried to maintain his equilibrium by balancing the assorted pressures working on him, often used the intrigue to his own advantage.

As far back as 1967, while vehemently denying in public that there were North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops in Cambodia, Sihanouk relied on U.S. intelligence reports from Saigon for information on Communist deployments in his country.

The intelligence reports, many of which consisted of aerial photographs of Communist bases taken by U.S. reconnaissance aircraft, were relayed to the Prince through the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh and accepted by him as reliable.

But in earlier years, as the Chinese Communists currently claim with some measure of validity, Sihanouk was indeed the target of plots organized by his Cambodian opponents in cooperation with the South Vietnamese, Thais and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency or Special Forces.

The main Cambodian dissident movement employed against Sihanouk in those days was the Khmer Serei (Free Khmers), led by Son Ngoc Thanh. The word "Khmer" is the ancient name for Cambodian.

Born in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta of part-Cambodian parentage, Son Ngoc Thanh was a veteran nationalist who originally advocated a coalition with the Communists against the French and paradoxically regarded Sihanouk as too moderate.

His ambitions frustrated, Son later sought refuge in Thailand, where he was joined by Sam Sary, a high-ranking Cambodian official who had broken with Sihanouk. They called their resistance movement the "Khmer Serei."

In July 1958, disappointed by a U.S. refusal to help him in a border dispute with South Vietnam's President Ngo Dinh Diem, Sihanouk abruptly recognized Red China.

Considering this virtually an act of hostility, the Thai and Saigon regimes con-

spired with a Cambodian provincial governor named Dap Chhuon to rebel against Sihanouk. The aim of the rebellion was to turn the governor's province of Siem Reap into a Khmer Serei base.

Sihanouk claimed afterwards that the CIA was behind the abortive coup, since an American communications specialist, Victor Matsui, was discovered in the rebel headquarters.

South Vietnamese undercover agents who had directed the uprising subsequently explained that Matsui's presence on the scene was only "accidental." They disclosed, however, that the CIA had financed the operation.

In the years following that failure, Son Ngoc Thanh lived in Saigon, complaining to rare visitors able to locate his clandestine lair that he was being neglected.

But in 1967, according to information revealed in Washington in January, members of Son's movement were recruited by the U.S. Special Forces as guides and interpreters in forays against Vietnamese Communist bases inside Cambodia.

That Cambodian dissidents were used by the Special Forces came out at the trial of Capt. John J. McCarthy Jr., a Green Beret officer convicted of killing a Khmer Serei interpreter suspected of Communist affiliations.

In its catalogue of allegations today, Peking also charged the United States with having shipped "high explosives" from Saigon to Phnom Penh in May 1963 in order to murder Sihanouk.

Actually, the "plot" uncovered by Sihanouk at that time was an alleged conspiracy to assassinate Liu Shao-chi, the Chinese former chief of state, who was then on a state visit to Cambodia.

Today's New China News Agency dispatch apparently omitted that detail, since Liu Shao-chi has been purged by Chinese Communist leader Mao Tse-tung during the Cultural Revolution.

Informed sources have since indicated that the purported plot against Liu was really invented by Sihanouk as a pretext to crack down on Chinese Nationalist elements in Phnom Penh that he had been seeking to eliminate.

In January 1968, following a period of friction with Peking, the Prince uncovered a "bomb plot" directed against Yugoslav President Tito, who was then scheduled to visit Cambodia. But that time, according to Sihanouk, the plot had been laid by Chinese Communists.

CUMBERLAND, MD.
NEWS

M - 13,326

MAR 27 1970

These Days

By John Chamberlain

Domino Can Fall Two Ways

Whatever may come of it in the end, the ouster of Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia has proved, for one shining moment, that a domino can fall the other way.

Since the Cambodians have a reputation for being an unusually docile people, and since the supporters of the coup in the capital city of Phnompenh were part of Sihanouk's own establishment in the past, it could be surmised romantically that the provocation that caused the domino to topple in an anti-North Vietnam direction must have been too much to take for anyone who calls himself a man. One is fleetingly reminded of an old title, "The Mouse that Roared."

Realistically, however, it must be admitted that the provocation has been there all along. Sihanouk talked a neutralist line, but he had tolerated the presence of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in the jungles of northeastern Cambodia for years. The Cambodians occasionally grumbled, but they went along with their ruling Prince in his decision not to annoy the Communists of Hanoi, Moscow, and Peking.

So it can't be that the mouse became a roaring lion just because the Communists were using northeastern Cambodia as a sanctuary and a military springboard. The overall situation must have changed sufficiently to make it seem that the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong were not going to be sure-fire winners after all in a war for the whole Indochinese peninsula.

It could be that the new Cambodian chief of state, Cheng Heng, and the new premier, Lieutenant General Lon Nol, had become convinced that the "Vietnamization" of the war in South Vietnam was going to succeed. How else is one to explain the sudden decision that the presence of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces on Cambodian soil was sufficiently objectionable to merit a coup that would be interpreted, however falsely, as a CIA plot hatched in Washington, D. C.?

The coup seems all the more astounding when one considers the recent North Vietnamese successes in overrunning the Plain of Jars in Laos and reaching out beyond that for areas that grow useful crops of rice and opium. If the men who are ruling, at least for the moment, in Cambodia thought the 50,000 North Vietnamese soldiers in Laos were really so fearsome, wouldn't they have been worried lest Communist strategy should order a continuing march to the South?

It's really too bad that the United States, the impotent giant, is in absolutely no position to capitalize on the fact that dominoes can fall two ways. If we had not been so weakened by the Fulbrights and the Mansfields at home, we could be jumping in at this point to put the fear of the Lord into the hearts of Communists everywhere. We could have publicly proclaimed that we were considering not only the Vietnamization but also the "Asiaticizing" of the war in Southeast Asia.

General Albert Wedemeyer and former Ambassador William D. Pawley, neither of whom thinks we should fight a ground war with American conscripts on the Asian mainland, have both argued that it would be a winning strategy to replace American troops in South Vietnam with soldiers from willing Asian nations. Pawley's suggestion is that some portions of Chiang Kai-shek's army of 600,000 might be landed, not in South Vietnam itself, but in the "demilitarized," or DMZ, zone that is now being exploited illegally by the North Vietnamese. The mere dispatch of lend-lease landing craft from the U.S. to Taiwan would surely have a sobering effect on Peking and Moscow, to say nothing of Hanoi.

Alas! We can't utilize the symbols of power to bring hopes to anti-Communists in Cambodia or anywhere else. The New Mobe dissenters, the doves in the Senate, the Berkeley and Santa Barbara rioters, and the anti-historical teachers of history such as Professor Staughton Lynd, have made us even more feeble than Prince Sihanouk when it comes to taking frontal stands against the Communists. But the Nixon Administration, in its willingness to give the Thieu government in Saigon the time to get set for a victory against the Viet Cong on its own, may have saved the day. The fall of the Cambodian domino in an anti-Communist direction was totally unexpected. Even though it may not pay big dividends it argues that successful "Vietnamization" is still considered a possibility in Asia itself.

Distributed by King Features Syndicate

27 MAR 1970

'Vietnamizing' Cambodia

World opinion will hold the United States directly responsible for any future strife involving Cambodia, where a pro-U.S. rightist military group has seized power and proclaimed the ouster of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The Cambodian coup comes at a time when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is active all over the world: the attempt on the life of President Makarios of Cyprus, the abortive coup against the new People's Republic of the Congo-Brazzaville the intensification of the CIA "dirty war" in Laos, involving the use of U.S. and Thai ground troops and a U.S. terrorist air bombardment.

Cambodia, under Sihanouk, stood up to Washington's empire builders and defied them. This is why the U.S. for years tried to overthrow Sihanouk.

Sihanouk immediately recognized the new Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam last year as the real representative of the South Vietnamese people, developed close and friendly ties with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and worked to end the war in Laos on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreement.

This policy cost Cambodia heavily, in daily U.S.-Saigon air raids which killed and wounded hundreds of peaceful Cambodian villagers, in CIA-led armed rebellions inside Cambodia, in U.S. threats to invade Cambodia and to crush Sihanouk with force.

Both the DRV and PRG have branded the Cambodian coup a CIA operation, and there are few who will doubt it considering the background of the coup. Sihanouk, according to U.S. news reports, is still immensely popular in Cambodia and the new regime is nervous about any attempted return he might make.

The Nixon administration's pious humbug about "Vietnamization" in the light of developments in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand can now be pinned down for what it is—"Vietnamization" means spreading the Vietnam war all over Southeast Asia.

If a Cambodian revolt against the millionaire pro-U.S. General Lon Nol produces a second Vietnam in this hitherto neutral country, Nixon and the CIA will have to be given the full credit for that kind of "Vietnamization."

27 MAR 1970

STATINTL

U.S. Provided Spy Data to Sihanouk

Secret Accord to Inform Prince About Red Infiltration Disclosed

BY GEORGE McARTHUR

Times Staff Writer

SAIGON—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, now ironically exiled in Red China, was so fearful of growing Communist infiltration into Cambodia last year that he accepted a secret intelligence arrangement with the Americans to get more precise information about what was happening in his own country.

As far as can be determined, that secret arrangement, code-named Vesuvius, was still in operation at the time Sihanouk was ousted by a military coup March 18.

The operation, which channeled to the suspicious prince a wealth of precise information on the numbers and location of Communist forces in Cambodia, was regarded in the American diplomatic community as a major success.

Accepts Information as Accurate

Despite his many and vocal reservations about the United States, Sihanouk evidently accepted the information coming to him through Vesuvius as accurate, and he used it in his diplomatic efforts to curb Hanoi's intrusions.

Although U.S. authorities will not officially confirm such an arrangement with Cambodia, responsible members of the American establishment admit privately that Vesuvius did exist. The details of this account were obtained in confidence early this year but could not be written until now because of the conditions under which they were learned.

The existence of Operation Vesuvius was one of the very genuine reasons why Washington had mixed feelings about the downfall of Sihanouk, despite his diplomatic juggling act with Moscow, Peking and Hanoi. In his more recent

pronouncements, Sihanouk had bluntly expressed the hope that American withdrawal from Southeast Asia would not be too hasty.

The contacts leading to Operation Vesuvius were arranged through diplomatic channels of a friendly country and did not involve the Central Intelligence Agency, for which Sihanouk has a particular dislike. However, the CIA was kept informed.

The South Vietnamese government was also not a part of the operation although President Nguyen Van Thieu may have been indirectly informed of some aspects.

Began as One-Way Flow

The operation began with the hope of improving U.S. diplomatic leverage by secretly providing Sihanouk with detailed and absolutely accurate information concerning the movement of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops within his borders. It began as a one-way flow and may have remained so although there are indications that in due course the Cambodian authorities began to reciprocate with some information obtained from their own sources.

The information passed on to Phnom Penh from Saigon was mainly from the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam.

It was coordinated at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, presumably also in coordination with instructions from Washington. It is not known how the information was passed directly to Sihanouk but the flow was kept apart from normal diplomatic dispatches.

The information had been gathered from sources far beyond the resources of the Cambodians them-

ventional and infrared aerial photographs, radio monitoring, readings from electronic sensors along the border, agent reports, prisoner interrogations and other sources.

It is not known when Cambodia agreed to the secret arrangement. It was certainly flowing freely after Washington and Phnom Penh resumed diplomatic relations in July, 1969, and may have begun before then through private channels.

Sihanouk may have timed the beginning of Vesuvius to coincide with the renegotiations for a trade agreement he opened in July with the

Viet Cong. This agreement permitted the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Viet Cong to move supplies over Cambodian territory.

It was speculated at the time that Sihanouk renewed the agreement primarily to insure at least some information from the Viet Cong about an operation he had little power to control.

Although the knowledge of Vesuvius was obviously extremely restricted on both sides of the border, it must have been available to the top officers of the Cambodian army and to the premier, Lt. Gen. Lon Nol. It may well have been, although this is not known, that the premier, always regarded as friendlier to the Americans than Sihanouk, was an element in getting the operation started.

At any rate, it was Lon Nol and the army commander, Lt. Gen. Nhiek Tiulung, who were cited by Sihanouk as his sources when he began to use figures early last year in loudly objecting to the presence of some 40,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in Cambodia. That was in March, 1969, and Sihanouk seemed unusually sure of the accuracy of his figures and the map locations he cited at the same time.

STATINTL

NEW YORK, N.Y.

POST

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MAR 27 1970

Sihanouk Got U. S. Spy Aid

By GEORGE McARTHUR

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The existence of Vesuvius was one of the main reasons Washington had mixed feelings about the downfall of Sihanouk despite his diplomatic juggling act with Moscow, Peking and Hanoi. In more recent pronouncements, Sihanouk had hoped that American withdrawal from southeast Asia would not be hasty.

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The South Vietnamese government was not a part of the operation, although President Nguyen Van Thieu may have been indirectly informed of some aspects.

U. S. Hopes

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27 MAR 1970

Hanoi Ignores Saigon Offer to Free 343 P.O.W.'s

By HENRY GINIGER

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 26 — South Vietnam offered today to repatriate 343 sick and wounded North Vietnamese prisoners of war but Hanoi's delegation turned a deaf ear and instead accused the allied side of "camouflaging" its efforts to spread the war throughout Indochina. The Communist delegations formally accused the United States of being responsible for the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodian Chief of State last week in an effort to promote enmity between the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples and to set Asians against Asians.

The South Vietnamese offer made in the 60th plenary session of the Vietnam peace talks, was the same in nature as one made last November concerning 62 North Vietnamese prisoners. The Saigon delegation asked only that Hanoi make some arrangement to receive the prisoners, either directly or through intermediaries. But Hanoi's persistent refusal to acknowledge openly that it has troops in South Vietnam and to deal with the Saigon Government, which it regards as a "puppet" of the United States, was reflected in its rejection of what a spokesman called "a

maneuver." Each side accused the other of avoiding the basic issues.

Le Quang Hiep, the Hanoi press spokesman, spoke of "patriots" who had been arrested in South Vietnam and who, he said, should be released where they happened to be. The Saigon spokesman, Nguyen Trieu Dan, said his delegation was acting for humanitarian reasons in conformity with the Geneva convention of 1948 on war prisoners. He and Stephen Ledogar, the American spokesman, said they also hoped to "unblock" an issue in the hope that "maybe others will get unblocked."

But both North Vietnam and the delegation representing the Vietcong preferred to focus attention on what they charged were efforts by the Nixon Administration to prolong the war in Vietnam and to extend it to Laos and Cambodia.

They also made more direct their suggestions last week that it was the United States, through the Central Intelligence Agency, that had brought down the Sihanouk regime in Cambodia "with a view to bringing Cambodia into its orbit and oblige her to leave the path of independence and neutrality."

"Everyone knows we respect the sovereignty, integrity, independence and neutrality of

Cambodia," said Ly Van San, the Vietcong press officer. He and Mr. Hiep referred to Prince Sihanouk as still the Chief of State but refused comment when reporters pointed out that the Prince himself had referred to the presence of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops in his country.

COVPTON, CAL.

HERALD-AMERICAN

MAR 26 1970

SEMI-WEEKLY 263,670



from...

Cliff

Smith

This country seems to be producing more revolution minded citizens than ever thought possible.

Until lately it was thought the police, teachers, and mailmen were the backbone of our civilization — now they have put themselves in the class of undependables. Of course there are many in each class who are still dependable, but the actions of many of them have made nearly everyone doubtful regarding their dependability.

The postal workers may have a grievance, but to take it out upon all citizens is outrageous. Perhaps their pay has been low, but it has been sure and steady. During times of full employment they could have found other employment.

The federal government through the postmaster general promises to get action on a raise if the people keep on the job. I don't know what the hot heads hope to gain by walking off the job. If the President puts the Army into the post office, it may degenerate into a game of freeze out. It is doubtful if many of the post offices employees are in a position to do without pay checks very long. In the excitement of a general meeting it may seem to be the right thing to do to vote a walkout, but to get back in sometimes it is not so easy.

The laws forbid postal strikes. The courts have ordered the strikers back to work. If the orders of the courts are disregarded and the laws regarding postal

strikes pushed aside, anarchy is from coast to coast. Unless we have some of our much vaunted services we can depend on, this country is not going to endure very long. With every young man with a faint heart running around declaring the laws illegal and refusing induction into the Army, there is no need of a central representative government. Perhaps all these "anti" people would rather have a Communist government where they would be banished to Siberia or shot if they disobey lawful orders.

Already a number of thousands of young men have fled to Canada to escape the draft and renounced their citizenship. Some have tried to undo their acts, but cannot get back into this country to stay. The young deserters who fled to Sweden are trying to undo their acts — without success.

If the postal workers keep up their strike, the sympathy of the entire country will change from support for them to hatred. The disruption of our civilization is very bad and millions of innocent people are being penalized through no fault of their own.

When this is written nothing has been done to get the freighter back which has been interned in Cambodia. Seems to be a case of North Korea all over again. Not a very pretty picture for the balance of the world. Turn the matter over to the United Nations and they would probably have action

in a day or two. The new government of Cambodia states they will not return the ship to the U.S.A. as the act might be misunderstood. Again a very minor nation tweaks our nose and so far has gotten away with it.

26 MAR 1970

STATINTL

Cambodia dictator acts to bar Polish embassy

Daily World Foreign Department

The Cambodian government has advised Western diplomats that it is closing down the port of Sihanoukville to what it says are ships bearing arms to the "Vietcong" in South Vietnam. The move was announced yesterday to the diplomats in a special briefing by the Cambodian Foreign Office in the capital of Phnom Penh.

A Foreign Office spokesman also disclosed that the Embassy of the Polish People's Republic was being closed down, but denied knowing why or whether this meant a break in Polish-Cambodian relations. Poland, together with Canada and India, is a member of the International Control Commission (ICC) set up by the 1954 Geneva Agreement to watch over Cambodia's neutrality.

General Lon Nol, the armed forces commander and new anti-Communist premier of Cambodia was reported to be on the verge of renaming Sihanoukville and proclaiming a republic.

The reports, from official Cambodian sources, said that in a few weeks Cambodia's constitutional monarchy would be declared abolished. The monarch—Queen Kossamak—is under heavy guard in Phnom Penh. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian chief of state, remains in Peking, where he has announced he will form a liberation army to overthrow the Lon Nol government.

Lon Nol has already suspended all civil rights provisions of the Cambodian constitution, under the "full powers" granted him by the National Assembly last week. He has accused Sihanouk of being a "dictator" and of secretly signing an agreement with the "Vietcong" to transship arms from China across Cambodian territory into South Vietnam.

Warning by Pravda

Pravda, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper, yesterday praised Sihanouk's policy of neutralism and said any changes by the Lon Nol government would

encourage a U.S.-backed war over all of Indochina. It said the Lon Nol government was supported by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Neither the new Cambodian regime nor the U.S. has offered any evidence of their charges that Sihanoukville was being used for arms shipments to the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam.

Sihanoukville, on the Gulf of Thailand, was built in 1960 as a new port city for Cambodia. Previously, all traffic had to use the Mekong River (through South Vietnam) to reach Phnom Penh. The main port facilities at Sihanoukville today are a 900 foot wharf reached by a 600 foot causeway. Ships of up to 15,000 tons can discharge cargoes on both sides of the wharf, but this is a rather slow process since no cranes have been installed in the dock area as yet. Sihanoukville still remains to be linked to the interior by railroad.

Battles in northern Laos continued yesterday around the main CIA base of Long Cheng, 75 miles

northeast of the capital of Vientiane.

Lao Patriotic Front forces have captured a Thai mercenary flown into besieged Long Cheng by the CIA-operated airline "Air America." Angnet, admitted that he had served under the command of the U.S. military mission in Vientiane. He said in January, 1968, he was sent to the U.S. base at Long Cheng and then to another base at Muong Ta.

He said there were 600 Thai troops at Long Cheng under joint U.S.-Thai command, and that 40 Thai paratroop officers serve as Lao General Vang Pao's staff, while 30 more (officially listed as "interpreters") directly supervise combat operations. He also said at Long Cheng the CIA had set up a communications center for direct contact with Washington.

The interview with this Thai mercenary was published by Vietnamese News Agency of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

NEW YORK, N.Y.
POST

E - 708,180

MAR 26 1970

Ship Hijackers Tell Their Tale

By IAN BRODIE

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — The two young seamen who hijacked an American munitions ship say they did it to keep 10,000 tons of napalm bombs from being dropped on Vietnam.

One of them, Clyde McKay, 25, said cockily: "President Nixon says he wants to de-escalate the war, so we thought we'd help him a bit."

The other man is Alvin Glatkowski, 20. Both are from California.

Between them they kept Capt. Donald Swann at gun-

point and held control of the ship, the Columbia Eagle, for four days before they were granted political asylum in Cambodia.

A political storm has broken about the ship. Washington wants it back but the new leader in Cambodia, Gen. Lon Nol, says he has no plans to return it.

The Leader

From talking to the hijackers it was obvious that McKay was the leader and convinced Glatkowski to go along with it.

Both men have wispy beards. McKay is tall and powerful looking. Glatkowski is slight and very pallid.

McKay calmly told the story of the takeover yesterday:

"It was on Friday afternoon right after lunch about 1 o'clock when Glatkowski and I went to the chief mate's office. We took him to the captain's office and we told the captain what the situation was. We had guns pointing at both of them.

"I had the captain phone from his office to the bridge ordering an abandon ship.

"I told him who to leave on board and who had to go and I told him to tell the mate on the bridge there was a bomb aboard and this was the reason for the abandon ship.

"Twenty-five members of the crew were in life boats and then we informed every one on the ship—13—that the situation was and that

we intended to go to Cambodia.

"We told them they would cooperate or we would sink the ship right there."

McKay laughed as he recalled his moment of power: "Naturally they cooperated."

"We held the ship until Sunday. It took quite a while. We were further from the coast than we thought.

"I thought we had only 200 miles to go but we actually had 700. This ship makes at best only about 17 or 13 knots so we had to hold for a considerable amount of time."

Pills to Stay Awake

The two said they stayed awake by taking amphetamine pills they got from the ship's stores and from other seamen.

Both resented the suggestion made by other crew members that they were "pill-popping, marijuana-smoking hippies."

Glatkowski said: "No, this is absolutely false. We just took amphetamines to stay awake because we had only two of us and we had to cover each other's backs. We couldn't afford to make foolish mistakes."

McKay said: "We couldn't become intoxicated in any way because there were two of us with a pistol each.

"There were 12 or 13 others on the ship. People like the chief mate on the ship kept looking for an opportunity to grab one of our guns. So we had to keep on our toes all this time."

In Control

Asked if they had held a gun at the captain's head all the time, McKay said: "No, we controlled the bridge all the time. We told him, of course, that if there was any trouble or slowdown in the ship we would come and find him."

Both laughed at Communist assertions that the hijacking was a CIA plot to supply arms to the new government.

"More like an SDS plot," said Glatkowski. [Students for a Democratic Society is the militant student organization in the U. S. which has led many of the campus riots. Neither of the hijackers is a member but they are in sympathy with SDS aims.]

"We are sympathetic with the movement in Asia against the colonialists," McKay said.

"I felt myself in the position of a German sailor on a German ship during World War II and from the example of what the Nuremberg trials showed I felt myself guilty if I were just to comply and be a part of threatening the people of Asia.

"I thought it much better to threaten by force the few people who were around the ship and prevent myself from being part of a much larger-scale threat against the people of Asia by delivering these thousands of napalm bombs to Thailand."

London Express

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.
JOURNAL

E - 35,739
S - 41,003

MAR 26 1970

America Abroad

Others See Our Efficiency

LONDON (AP) — A number of newspapers around the world took a look during the past week at the quality of American life and came up with some not so complimentary observations.

"The much-trumpeted American efficiency is breaking down everywhere—transportation, telephone service, hotels, shops, offices, the home," wrote John Sampson, New York correspondent of the London Sun.

"Commuting in New York has become so hopeless that firms are losing millions of dollars because employees arrive late in the morning or have to stay in town overnight."

A correspondent for Tokyo's Yomiuri Shimbun visited the Electric Circus, the psychedelic rock establishment on New York's East Side: "Unless you are young, you can not earnestly stay there for more than five minutes," he reported.

The correspondent said he was told the young people there "were living the hippie way of

life to escape from inhuman and mechanized civilization. But it was ironical that the place where they came after their escape was precisely the place where modern machinery such as lighting and amplifying equipment was put to use in grotesque effect."

La Stampa of Turin, Italy,

said the United States is going through a financial slump. "Inflation is not over we can already see the shadow of a recession. Some call it a pause, others a slowdown. But no matter how you call it, it is a slump."

Communist China's New China News Agency said the postal strike was "dealing heavy blows to the U.S. monopoly capitalist class." The Chinese agency said the striking postmen had to overcome "all kinds of obstruction and sabotage by the reactionary authorities scab unions."

Madrid's Nuevo Diario said the next military base agreement between the United States and Spain should exclude the big Torrejon Air Force Base 16 miles from the Spanish capital. Such proximity, said the paper, carries with it a risk that cannot be compensated in any form.

The Guardian, a liberal British newspaper, called President Nixon's racial policy "cynical and disastrous."

"If there was one basic principle that motivated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others who took the race issue to the streets, it was that racialism can only be tackled when it is exposed," the guardian said. "Confront America with the issue and she may do something to exorcise it. Pretend it isn't there, or that general economic and social development will somehow eliminate discrimination, and you end up with merely the status quo. That is why Mr. Nixon's race policy is cynical and disastrous. It aims to let white America get away with things for another untold number of years."

The Times of London said it believed the Nixon administration had succeeded in finding "an approach to the balance between reform and public order

which is accepted by the vast majority." It said this "has the merit of disarming the potentially very violent extreme right."

London's Sunday Telegraph said the reasons behind the ouster of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chief of state in Cambodia "are veiled in Oriental mystery," but "it is possible that the American Central Intelligence Agency 'unofficially' inspired the coup in the hope that the right-wing military regime which has taken over from the prince will open Cambodia up to the anti-Communist crusades."

Breaking Down

25 MAR 1970

Purge in Cambodia reported continuing

Daily World Foreign Department

Cambodia's new rightist military regime reacted swiftly yesterday to a Radio Peking broadcast in which Prince Norodom Sihanouk called for formation of a "Cambodian national-liberation army" to carry on the "struggle against the American imperialists" and their puppets in Cambodia.

General Lon Nol, the Cambodian armed forces commander, who headed the coup which proclaimed Sihanouk's ouster, last Wednesday, pushed ahead with a purge of Sihanouk's supporters from the government, the army and the Sangkum party.

Sihanouk will be tried for high treason if he tries to return to Cambodia, the new regime has indicated. Lon Nol's government has tried to remove every possible trace of Sihanouk, but U.S. reporters found that the prince is still popular with ordinary Cambodian people.

The Hanoi newspaper, "Nhan Dan," organ of the Vietnamese Workers' Party, said on Tuesday: "U.S. intrigues in Cambodia show the extremely reactionary nature of the Nixon administration, which despite heavy defeats, is still looking for ways of expanding and protracting the war in Indochina." The newspaper called the Cambodian people "our comrades-in-arms in the struggle against our common enemy—American imperialism."

Giai Phong ("Liberation") News Agency, the official press service of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, said yesterday: "The danger of aggression against Cambodia, and against Vietnam and Laos as well, comes from the U.S. and its puppets. The way to eradicate this danger is to unite in the struggle against American aggressors."

CIA role stressed
On Monday, "Quan Doi Nhan Dan," a Hanoi newspaper, bluntly stated that "the coup in Cambodia was staged with the participation of the U.S. CIA."

The Paris daily, "Combat," wrote: "There is no doubt that the White House was informed in advance of the Cambodian coup and approved it."

In interview printed yesterday by the Times of London, the new Cambodian ruler, Gen. Lon Nol, denied working with the CIA.

"We, as the government of salvation," he said, "had to request full powers in order to protect all those demonstrators."

He was referring to the thousands of people who sacked the DRV and PRG embassies in Phnom Phnh two weeks ago.

New York Times reporter Henry Kamm wrote on March 14 that the mobs "were believed to have been instigated by the military."

The Lao Patriotic Front radio late Monday broadcast the peace proposals sent by LPF leader Prince Souphanouvong to "Royal Lao" Premier Souvanna Phouma. The broadcast said the LPF asked Souvanna to call an "immediate, complete and unconditional halt" to U.S. bombings in Laos, in order to demonstrate

the "Royal Lao" government's genuine interest in a peaceful settlement.

The LPF accused President Nixon directly of "escalating the war in Laos to an unprecedented degree," and warned Premier Souvanna Phouma that he "must bear full responsibility personally for the dangerous situation in the country."

The only basis for peace, the LPF said, is the five-point LPF peace plan calling for a ceasefire, an end to U.S. involvement, and a provisional coalition government prior to national elections, as foreseen by the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURTIER JOURNAL

M - 239,949
S - 350,303

MAR 25 1970

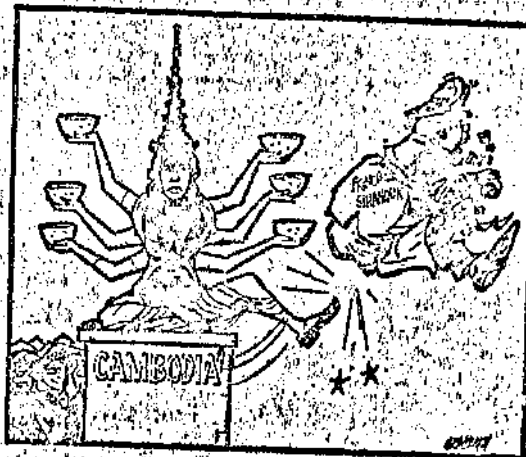
Sihanouk Mess Could Spark An Expanded Asian War

FROM ALL INDICATIONS, the coup that ousted Cambodia's Premier Norodom Sihanouk was entirely the result of a right-wing movement within the country, though rumors of CIA involvement are inevitably making the rounds. In any event, we trust that it will prove that the CIA did not have a hand in the affair, for it begins to appear that the results could be disastrous.

With all his maneuvering to maintain some semblance of neutrality in the Vietnam conflict, Sihanouk had avoided both opposition to or complicity with the United States in the jockeying for position along his nation's eastern border. The purpose of his trip to Moscow and Peking, during which he was deposed, was to get help in persuading the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong to quit using Cambodian territory as a refuge and staging area for operations in South Vietnam. And he made it plain many times that he objected to Hanoi troops in Cambodia not only because it violated his national sovereignty, but because it increased the likelihood that counter-measures by U.S. and Saigon forces would make his border lands a battle area and complicate his efforts to keep out of the fighting.

Neutralist Caution Discarded

No such neutralist caution is apparent in the right-wing trio who have seized power. In his first public statement, General Lon Nol referred to Hanoi and the Viet Cong as "our Vietnamese enemies," and he has since hinted that he would not object either to closer ties with Saigon or more U.S. pressure against enemy troops in Cambodia. This stance invites a tougher line by Hanoi, and it has several cards it can play. One of these is an expansion of the fighting in Laos, which



Gray Smith in The Los Angeles Times

would not only create new pressures on Cambodia's flank, but would pose grave problems of response for the U.S.

An even more serious possibility now arises with Sihanouk's threat to fight his way back to power, with the help of "anti-imperialist forces of brother countries" if necessary. Translated into the realities of the Cambodian power struggle, this means that Sihanouk is prepared to use North Vietnamese help to regain leadership of his country. Should this happen, the whole complexion of the war in Vietnam could be changed overnight. With Hanoi in control of Cambodia, or enjoying the advantage of official co-operation, its power to attack South Vietnam would be enormously strengthened, and the actual area of hostilities would be greatly enlarged. The temptation—if not the military necessity—to expand the war would be very great, at the very time when we are trying, or say we are trying, to scale it down.

24 MAR 1970

New Cambodian Leader Emphasizes Neutrality Through Troop Removal

Dispatch of The Times, London

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, March 23—Lieut. Gen. Lon Nol, the Cambodian Premier, said today that his Government was determined to recover the nation's "active neutrality" through the removal of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops.

Speaking in an interview, he disclosed that the delegation of the Vietcong's provisional revolutionary government of South Vietnam admitted in talks with his Government last week that Vietcong troops were in Cambodia, which has been used as a haven in the Vietnam war.

The talks with the Vietnamese Communists will be continued, he said, with the aim of settling the dispute peacefully. Since the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Chief of State last Wednesday, there have been scattered reports of clashes between the Vietcong and Cambodian forces.

General Lon Nol asserted that that his Government had decided not to return the American munitions ship diverted to Cambodian waters by two crewmen on March 15.

The United States, he said, had asked that its ships be allowed to recover the vessel, the Columbia Eagle. "But there

is a risk of misunderstanding," General Lon Nol said and he had decided not to permit the recovery. "We are just going to leave it there," he said, chuckling loudly.

The general was interviewed at his spacious but modestly furnished suburban villa, guarded by two armored cars and by soldiers, the house has been the Government's command post since the ouster.

General Lon Nol chatted jovially in somewhat slangy French for almost an hour and a half, continually smoking English cigarettes. A tall gray-haired man, the 57-year-old general appeared relaxed and intensely confident of popular approval for the actions against Prince Sihanouk. These had been taken, he insisted repeatedly, by the two houses of Parliament in accordance with the Constitution and the laws.

Other Leaders Present

The general was flanked by Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, the First Deputy Premier and Interior Minister, and by Yem Sambour, Second Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister.

Gen. Lon Nol said "we did not force the hand" of Parliament, adding later: "Remember, we have been surprised ourselves by these events."

Asked about charges that

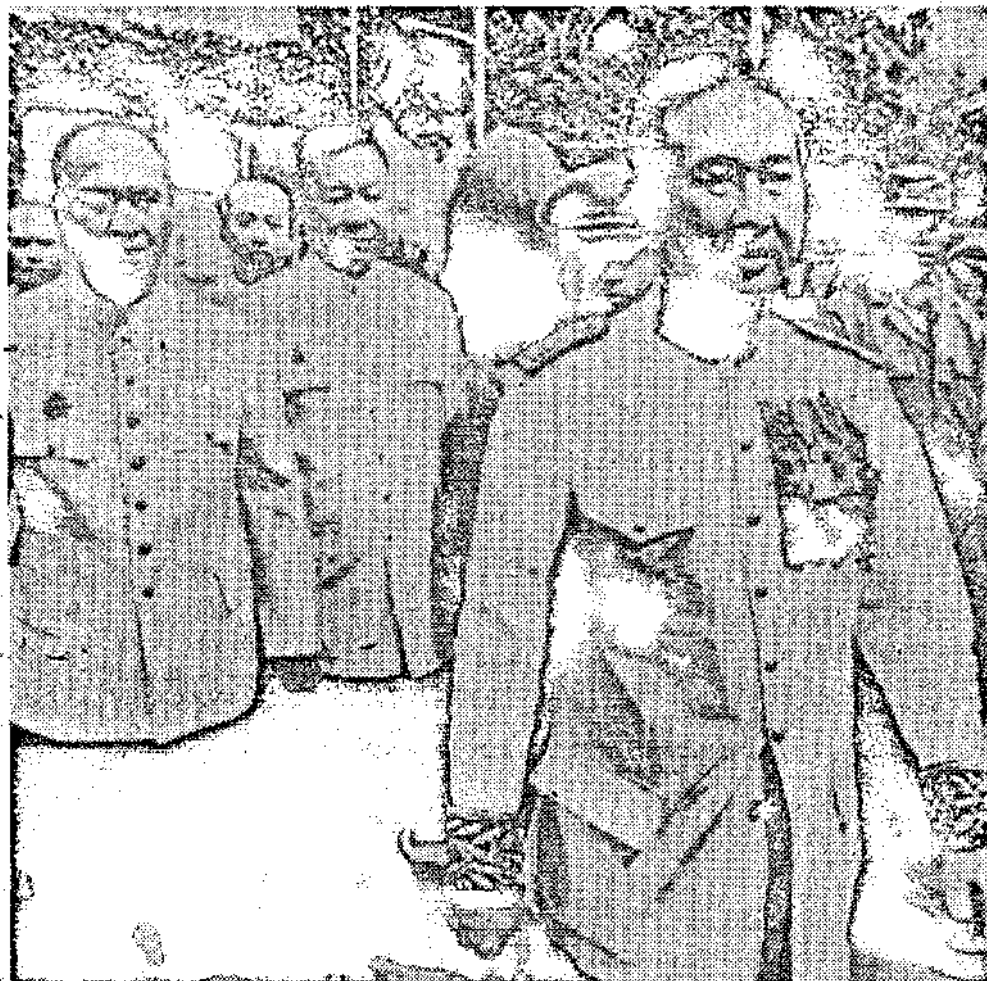
the Central Intelligence Agency had been behind Prince Sihanouk's ouster, the Premier shrugged and said:

"Our position is the Geneva agreement, and it specifies that we are simply neutral. At this crucial moment for our country we are again asking for the Geneva agreement. But if you want to be precise, I tell you we have never had any contacts with any foreigners, not only with the C.I.A. but with no other foreigners either."

Appeal to Two Countries

He said he appealed yesterday to Britain and the Soviet Union, the co-chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina, because the new Government wanted the International Control Commission back in Cambodia as soon as possible to help with the withdrawal talks and to see that the withdrawal was verified and controlled. Prince Sihanouk suspended the commission—Canada, Poland and India—last fall on the ground that Cambodia could no longer afford the cost.

General Lon Nol added that his Government had decided to inform United Nations members about the situation here and about Cambodia's desire to settle the issue of Vietnamese forces through negotiations.



Associated Press

CAMBODIAN LEADERS: Premier Lon Nol, right, walking to ceremonies Saturday at which Cheng Heng, left, was made Chief of State. Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak, second from left, is First Deputy Premier. The Premier said he was determined to recover neutrality.

24 MAR 1970

STATINTL


Cambodia Won't Free U.S. Ship

LONDON, March 24 (UPI)—Cambodian Premier Lon Nol said today he would not return the U.S. munitions ship that mutineers hijacked to Cambodia on March 14.

Fred Emery, The Times of London correspondent in Phnom Penh, quoted Lon Nol as saying that although the Americans had asked to be allowed to recover the ship, the Columbia Eagle, there was "a risk of misunderstanding."

"We are just going to leave it there," he said, chuckling.

It was the first interview with the general since Prince Norodom Sihanouk was deposed as head of state last week.

Lon Nol said the new regime had "lost sight" of the captain and American crew of the vessel, but added that "it seems they are somewhere hereabouts. We have been more concerned with other events."

He denied that the ouster of Sihanouk had been helped by the CIA.

"We have not had any contacts with the CIA or with any other foreigners. We are simply neutral under the Geneva agreement," he said.

As for the presence of Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, Lon Nol said that direct talks and appeals to international organizations would be made before any thoughts of settling matters by military means.

Hanoi, Peking Join Sihanouk Call for War

By Stanley Karnow
Washington Post Foreign Service

HONG KONG, March 23—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, evidently supported by North Vietnam and Communist China, has declared war on the conservative Cambodian military and civilian leaders who ousted him last week.

In a five-point statement issued today in Peking, Sihanouk announced the formation of a "National Lib-

eration Army" to restore his authority in Cambodia.

The struggle "for the liberation of the homeland," he said, would be waged with the assistance of the "anti-imperialist forces of the brother countries."

Sihanouk's declaration coincided with a statement from Hanoi that the Vietnamese Communists will back him in his effort to regain power.

An estimated 60,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops are deployed in arcas of eastern Cambodia adjacent to South Vietnam. The Cambodian army comprises about 35,000 men, most of them ill-equipped and poorly trained.

The timing of Sihanouk's declaration and the Hanoi statement appeared to indicate that the Prince has been assured by North Vietnam that its armed force would move in his behalf against his successors.

Such a move, observers here submit, would ignite a war in Cambodia, perhaps prompting its new leaders to appeal to the United States for help.

Other observers believe, however, that Sihanouk may have taken his extreme step in order to gain leverage for a political settlement of his dispute with those who deposed him.

The North Vietnamese statement, broadcast by Radio Hanoi and monitored here tonight, said that "we are determined to support the just struggle that the chief of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian people are waging against the new regime in Phnom Penh."

It added that "the overthrow of the reactionary right-wing henchmen of the U.S. imperialists" would be achieved in the very near future.

The fact that Sihanouk's statement was issued from Peking indicated he was acting with Chinese encouragement.

Affirming his right as Cambodia's "legal chief of state," Sihanouk also announced the establishment of a "Government of National Union" in exile.

In his capacity as chief of state, Sihanouk said, he "dissolves for the crime of high treason" the new Cambodian government headed by Lt. Gen. Lon Nol as well as the parliament.

The Prince said a "Consultative Assembly" composed of peasants, workers, youths, soldiers and other "anti-imperialist" elements loyal to him would be established "pending Cambodia's return to a normal situation."

The assembly, the liberation army and his government in exile, Sihanouk said, would join with the "masses of the people" to form "National United Front" for Cambodia.

The dual objective of the "united front," he went on, is the "liberation of the country and its reconstruction after victory over the imperialists and our enemies and their lackeys."

Referring to the new regime, Sihanouk singled out Premier Lon Nol, Deputy Premier Sirik Matak and the recently appointed chief of state, Cheng Heng, calling them "masters" of a "clique of traitorous and pro-imperialist reactionaries."

In their first direct acknowledgement of the change of government in Phnom Penh, the Chinese today published a colored account of events surrounding Sihanouk's ouster.

An official New China News Agency dispatch, mainly summing up Western press reports, said that U.S. warships were patrolling near Cambodian waters and that Sen. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) hinted that the CIA "might be involved."

The dispatch exuded a cautious tone, however, stating that "people are watching the developments and changes of the situation with growing interest."

The Hanoi statement in support of Sihanouk was issued in a Vietnamese-language commentary on the lengthy declaration put out in Peking this past weekend by the Prince.

Among other points, Sihanouk had asserted that his ouster by the Cambodian parliament on March 18 was "absolutely illegal."

He called for a referendum under the supervision of the tripartite International Control Commission — composed of India, Canada and Poland — but pledged that he would not retain power if voted back into office.

Linking the Cambodian situation to events elsewhere in the former French possession of Indochina, tonight's Hanoi broadcast said that "though the U.S. imperialists are very cunning and cruel, they will be defeated in Cambodia as they have been defeated in Vietnam and Laos."

The broadcast repeated Hanoi's charges that the coup that overthrew Sihanouk was "perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists" as part of their "plan of aggression" against Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the three states that made up Indochina.

Entitled "Horrible Faces of the U.S. Imperialists and the Group that Organized the Coup d'Etat in Cambodia," the broadcast alleged that Sihanouk's ouster was staged by the American Central Intelligence Agency.

While quoting lavishly from the Prince's weekend declaration, the Hanoi broadcast conspicuously omitted a passage in which Sihanouk referred to North Vietnamese and Vietcong infiltration into Cambodia.

The broadcast also failed to mention Sihanouk's proposal for a referendum under the control commission's supervision.

The commission, created by the 1954 Geneva conference that ended the Indochina war, was invited to leave Cambodia by Sihanouk last fall.

The new regime in Phnom Penh yesterday asked the commission, whose theoretical function has been to report violations of the peace in the states of Indochina, to return to Cambodia.

The Radio Hanoi commentary on Cambodia tonight was matched by another official North Vietnamese statement, which said that "the growing inter-

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WORLD HERALD

M - 125,376

S - 272,594

MAR 22 1970

Sihanouk Asks Aid Of People

From World-Herald Press Services.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, deposed Cambodian chief of state, called for a "sacred struggle" Sunday to topple the regime that replaced him but said he has no intention of attempting to regain power himself.

His statement in Peking was broadcast by Communist China's official news agency, NCNA, and monitored in Tokyo. Sihanouk has been in Peking since last Thursday, the day after the Cambodian legislature voted to oust him and turned over governing power to an army general, Lon Nol, who had served as Sihanouk's premier.

"My duty is to participate in the sacred struggle our people will wage inside and outside the country to obliterate this coup d'etat and restore legality and democracy," he said in the statement.

Sihanouk, saying the United States supported the move to oust him, said he would formally resign from his position but not while the current regime holds power in Cambodia.

Take Office

In an earlier statement, Sihanouk charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was behind the troubles in Cambodia that led to his ouster. He said the sacking of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong embassies March 11 had been organized by his opponents out of personal ambition and to meet the needs of the CIA.

Cambodia's new leaders formally took office Saturday, warning Sihanouk to keep hands off the nation and pledging to use all means in backing up demands for withdrawal of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from Cambodian soil.

In a speech reported by radio Phnom Penh, Gen. Nol demanded that other nations observe international law. This was an obvious reference to the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces who use Cambodian border provinces as sanctuaries for the war in Vietnam.

Two Fired

In saying that Cambodia would safeguard its independence, however, Gen. Nol also appeared to be talking to Sihanouk, the Associated Press said. For at another point he warned the ousted chief of state not to interfere with the new "salvation government."

"Any act or plot of the prince detrimental to Cambodia will be condemned as treason," he declared.

Meanwhile, Gen. Nol fired two pro-Sihanouk members of the Cabinet. At the same time, Nol promised to maintain Cambodia's neutralist policies.

About 225 American tourists, including playwright Arthur Miller, have been caught in Cambodia by the political crisis and are trying to get to Thailand, U.S. newspaper publisher Martin Wolman said Saturday in Bangkok.

The ousting of Prince Sihanouk had all the hallmarks of the C.I.A. at its best

AFTER several years of waiting in the shadows, America's Central Intelligence Agency may be fully operational again.

This week's incredible coup in Cambodia, which will have such far-reaching consequences through the entire Asian theatre, had the stamp of the C.I.A. at its most professional.

Of course, there will be no official detail on the C.I.A. role, but it would be naive in today's world to assume that Prince Norodom Sihanouk's overthrow was just a lucky accident for the United States.

Way back in 1966, the agency was accused by some watchdog American Senators of supporting Cambodian rebels who opposed the Prince — an accusation that was widely trumpeted about South-East Asia, where the C.I.A. is credited with having spies in every town and in every Government.

It probably does.

While the super-spy agency has made grotesque mistakes over the past 10 years, it has also scored some brilliant successes and, under the enthusiastic support of President Nixon, C.I.A. director Richard Helms and his world-wide network of spies are doubtless more powerful than ever.

Charges that they had meddled far too much in Asian politics caused the C.I.A. men to lie low for some time, but it was obvious even to a reporter on a brief visit to South-East Asia this month that the C.I.A. was "gung-ho" again.

Transport and passenger planes of Air America Inc., which is run as a C.I.A. subsidiary, are to be seen in Thailand, Laos and South Vietnam, and it is common knowledge that these aircraft are used to move agents and weapons for secret projects.



C.I.A. chief Richard Helms . . . more powerful than ever

STATINTL

THE SPOOKS ARE BACK IN BUSINESS IN ASIA

From PETER
MICHELMORE
in New York

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS

MAR 21 1970
E - 179,129
S - 219,330

STATINTL

The Big Lie In Asia

Sen. Fulbright, in his usual broad-minded approach to such questions, said right away that he was willing to assume "on general principles" that the American CIA had a hand in the Cambodian developments.

Others in the American peace bloc made it sound as if, because an anti-Communist government seems to have taken over, the cause of peace has suffered a setback, for which U. S. militants are to blame (or at least will applaud).

Similarly, in Laos, they view with alarm the U. S. involvement there and try to make it seem that we have launched an aggressive campaign to control the country—while they rarely acknowledge the long-standing presence of thousands of North Vietnamese soldiers in Laos in violation of the Geneva accords, and never point out that our involvement in Laos is directly in response to requests by the legitimate Laotian government, which is fighting for its life.

We are most reluctant to tag critics of U. S. policy as un-American—but some go beyond the bounds of honest criticism. It is impossible to conclude anything but that their activities are anti-U. S. national interest, and to assume that since they know better, their distortion of the facts underlying U. S. involvement and activities in Southeast Asia is deliberate.

Moreover, they accuse the U. S. of refusing to negotiate seriously at Paris, when the truth is . . . well, listen to this from this week's session of the peace talks. The North Vietnamese delegate is speaking:

"For a long time now the United

States has continually acted to intimidate and violate (Cambodia's) sovereignty and its territory in the hope of sapping its independence and neutrality."

The truth is that the Viet Cong and North Vietnam have literally occupied portions of Cambodia for years, using the areas as sanctuaries for their aggression in South Vietnam—this is the very issue. Cambodians rioted about last week, sacking the North Vietnamese and V. C. embassies and eventually bringing about the ouster of Sihanouk.

"The United States is thus aiming to make Cambodia into a second Laos or South Vietnam. It is perfectly clear that the Nixon administration, in order to save the defeat in Vietnam, is not only escalating in Laos, but is seeking moreover to expand the war to the entire Indochinese peninsula, thus gravely threatening peace in all Southeast Asia."

Get that. The U. S. is escalating the war in Laos. The fighting there is the result—the whole world knows this, and it is inconceivable that members of the United States Senate don't know it—of North Vietnamese armed invasion of Laos, which the legitimate government of Laos is resisting.

How can you talk, much less negotiate with people who brazenly, without batting an eyelash, turn the truth around 180 degrees and swear by it? The bitterest pill of all is that some influential people in our own country, wittingly or unwittingly, encourage them by leading people to believe that their bare-faced lies about the United States of America's alleged "imperialism" are true.

DAILY WORLD

Approved For Release 2000/08/16 : CIA-RDP80-01601R

21 MAR 1970

If you haven't subscribed . .

We're not a crystal bowl, but often you will get pre-views of history before anybody else gets a hunch or even an educated guess. That's because our analysts are men like Tom Foley who use the science of Marxism-Leninism to gauge history.

Take what's happening in Cambodia.

Foley's piece in the November 1, 1969 issue titled "U.S.-Saigon Aggression in Cambodia," said "The country remains a thorn in the side of the U.S. aggressors. Sihounek cancelled the U.S. aid program in 1963 and broke off diplomatic relations with the U.S. in 1965, charging that the CIA was trying to oust him."

So you get a pretty good idea who's in there behind the fog of State Department words.

For these reasons we urge you to become subscriber to this paper. Help us reach the goal of 2,000 new readers by April.

Cambodian Coup Is Laid To U.S.

By THOMAS T. FENTON
[Paris Bureau of The Sun]

Paris, March 19--Viet Cong negotiators charged today that the United States had engineered the coup d'etat that ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodia's chief of state.

Ly Van Sau, the Viet Cong's official spokesman, said that the United States intended to sabotage Cambodia's "independence and neutrality."

Mr. Sau, answering newsmen's questions after the 59th session of the Paris talks, described yesterday's coup d'etat as a "classic CIA maneuver."

Nguyen Minh Vy, North Vietnam's negotiator, charged during today's session that the Nixon administration's efforts to foment trouble in Cambodia "can only turn the kingdom of Cambodia into a second Laos or a second South Vietnam."

American officials said that the U.S. negotiator, Philip Habib, had rejected the Communist charges of American involvement in Cambodia.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
NEWS-FREE PRESS

E - 63,139

S - 44,036

MAR 20 1970

Sihanouk's 'Friends'

It's quite difficult for the average American citizen to evaluate the relative merits and demerits of Cambodian politicians on the far side of the world. But it ought not to be difficult to understand that deposed Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, who has been replaced by a regime now recognized by the United States, was certainly no friend of America or freedom.

If anyone needed a gauge of Sihanouk's friendship to us, an unfortunately negative one was available in the support and sympathy heaped on him by some leading American political figures. If they like him, it's a good sign he's bad for America. And this should prompt recognition that they are bad for American interests, too.

The removal of Moscow - visiting Sihanouk had just been announced when Democratic Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield rose up to praise Sihanouk as "the one man in all of his kingdom who can keep it together."

But even if Sen. Mansfield were right, and there is no assurance he is, take a look at what Sihanouk had been "keeping together." It was a land that was harboring 40,000 to 60,000 North Vietnamese Communist troops that used Cambodia as a privileged sanctuary from which to attack the southern portion of South Vietnam and kill Americans. This favor to the Reds has been absolutely necessary to their presence in the south, aid to the enemy without which the South Vietnamese

and American troops could clear the Communist menace from the southern portion of South Vietnam with relative ease and speed.

Sen. George S. McGovern, the Democratic "dove" from South Dakota, was also heard from, fearing that the CIA or some other U.S. agency had been involved against Sihanouk.

And then, if these indications were not enough, up popped that old reliable surrender-prone opponent of sound foreign policy, Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., to declare his concern about possible CIA involvement "on general principles."

While these men and others similar to them were apparently upset over the upset that Sihanouk had experienced, other Americans with clearer eyes, keener ears and better judgment could still hear ringing in the air the statement of Sihanouk from Moscow calling Americans aggressive imperialists and criticizing our defense of freedom in his apparent effort to ingratiate himself with the Russians, who furnish 80 per cent of the Red arms and supplies that have made and continue to make the Vietnam aggression possible.

It will take time to tell more about some of the new names in governmental positions in Cambodia. But Sihanouk already has exposed himself. And the concern of the likes of Mansfield, McGovern and Fulbright should give perspective, too, for they long ago have exposed their dangerous brand of surrender philosophy.

CHICAGO, ILL.
TRIBUNE

M - 805,924
S - 1,131,752

MAR 20 1970

REDS ACCUSE U. S. OF TRYING TO WIDEN WAR

BY EDWARD ROHRBACHIM
[Chief of Paris Bureau]
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

PARIS, March 19—The Communists at the Viet Nam peace talks charged today that "maneuvers and deeds" of the United States pulled off the coup in Cambodia that ousted Prince Sihanouk as head of state.

The North Vietnamese and the communist provisional revolutionary "government" of South Viet Nam linked the "serious situation" in Cambodia with the accusation that the United States is generally intensifying the war in South Viet Nam and Laos.

Blames C. I. A.

Reporters asked who was responsible for the expulsion of the neutralist Sihanouk. The "government delegation's" spokesman, Ly Van Sau, replied:

"You're not unaware of the classic maneuvers of the C. I. A. [Central Intelligence Agency] for sidetracking the governments of independent

neutral countries from their legitimate course."

Nguyen Minh Vy, North Viet Nam's negotiator at today's deadlocked session, charged that American policy in south-east Asia is aimed at turning Cambodia "into a second Viet Nam or a second Laos." He said the history of American involvement in Cambodia has been one of "intimidation, threats, and sabotage."

Vy claimed the "consistent policy" of the North Viet Nam government is "to respect the independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity of the kingdom of Cambodia within its present boundaries."

U. S. Ignores Issue

The United States did not bring up the Cambodian events in its statements. The South Viet Nam delegate made only a passing reference to it, noting that it was "an internal Cambodian affair."

American Ambassador Philip C. Habib continued to press the Communists on the war prisoner issue but said after the conference that he had received no response.

20 MAR 1970

Cambodia's military rulers shift troops

Daily World Foreign Department

Cambodian troops were reported yesterday to be pulling out of positions along the country's western frontier with Thailand and to be moving to the northeast part of the country where Laos, South Vietnam and Cambodia come together.

The Cambodian National Assembly yesterday voted what it called "full power"—which may mean dictatorial power—to armed forces commander General Lon Nol, and suspended the civil rights guarantees in the Cambodian constitution.

The Assembly, under rightist strong-man Lon Nol's direction, had earlier voted to oust Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chief of state and to replace him with pro-U.S. millionaire Cheng Heng, the Assembly president.

An official dispatch from the Cambodian news agency, Agence Khmer Presse, outlined the charges made against Sihanouk by those now in power in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. Sihanouk was charged with "helping the Vietcong" by providing them with weapons and refuges along the border with South Vietnam. He was accused of corruption, demagoguery, nepotism, and "ruining the people." The charges were similar to those made against Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah and Indonesia's leader Sukarno after they were ousted by pro-imperialist military leaders.

Senator J. William Fulbright

(D-Ark), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said yesterday he believed the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was involved in the events in Cambodia, although he added he had no definite information.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont), Senate majority leader called the change of power in Cambodia a "disaster" and said that Sihanouk was the only man who could hold the country together.

Saigon President Nguyen Van Thieu said he hoped his regime could re-establish diplomatic ties with Cambodia now.

The U.S. yesterday recognized the new government of Gen. Lon Nol and President Cheng Heng in Cambodia and said it had received a Cambodian note pledging "strict neutrality." The U.S. move became known in a State Department news conference in Washington in which press officer Carl Bartch said that "the question of 'recognition' does not arise" for the new regime. This means that the U.S. considers the Lon Nol government the legitimate successor to Sihanouk.

Sihanouk himself arrived yes-

terday in Peking from Moscow and was met by Chinese Premier Chou En-lai. Reports from both Moscow and Peking continued to refer to Sihanouk as "chief of state" of Cambodia. A dispatch from Peking by Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, said Sihanouk appeared "deeply anxious" and was moved to tears in a visit to the Cambodian Embassy.

At the Paris peace talks yesterday, the Vietnamese side accused the U.S. of being behind the events in Cambodia.

The charges were made by Democratic Republic of Vietnam representative, Nguyen Ming Vy. He said: "We are going to show today that the U.S. not only continues its war of aggression in Vietnam and extend the war to Laos, but that it also creates tension in Cambodia, thus raising a grave threat to peace in the whole of Southeast Asia."

"The U.S. must assume full responsibility for the consequence," he said.

U.S. representative Philip Habib had "nothing to say" about Cambodia, but in the session itself he charged that the DRV had brought about the whole situation by its "invasion."

HUNTINGTON, W.VA.
HERALD-DISPATCH

M - 52,293

MAR 20 1970

That Cambodian Coup

IT WOULD BE encouraging, but much too optimistic, to believe that the men in Cambodia who have ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk from power — presumably because he was too friendly with the Communists and permitted the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong to make a doormat of Cambodia — would now forcibly expel all Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces from Cambodian soil.

They probably will not do so for several reasons. One is that they don't have the military might to accomplish such an aim.

The Cambodian army is estimated at between 30,000 and 33,000 men and U.S. correspondents in the area say it would be no match for the elements of the North Vietnamese army and the Viet Cong irregulars already in Cambodia.

AS FAR AS THE coup itself is concerned, the U.S. Central Intelli-

gence Agency seems to be in the clear on this one — although that's just the first assessment of the situation. The Cambodian army, according to these same sources, is partial to the French (who once controlled all of French Indo-China) and accepts advice from a rather large contingent of French officers and military specialists.

The Cambodian army has been resentful of the North Vietnamese presence principally because it diluted the army's control over some parts of the country and led to clashes with the Communists. Still, Sihanouk's constant boast was that he kept his country neutral.

One theory therefore is that Sihanouk himself engineered the coup and will return to the frenzied cheers of the Cambodian people when they demand an end to the chaos which the new governors of the country are likely to generate.

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.
SUN

E & S - 15,507

MAR 20 1970

Where Was the CIA???

✓ The developments in Cambodia must, by necessity, raise that question. To wit: Did the Central Intelligence Agency, which has plenty of men in the field, FORESEE what might happen or did it PRODUCE the happenings?

Quite likely, it did the latter, hoping to give Mr. Nixon a hand in the struggle in Vietnam for which he promised a solution while campaign-

ing without ever fulfilling that promise.

✓ The idea may have been — on the part of the CIA — to get another nation involved in the battle against the Vietcong. The only trouble is that the scheme is more apt to misfire. In the manner in which the CIA-sponsored "invasion" of Cuba misfired. And so we will be fighting in Cambodia too.

What a catastrophe!

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
ADVERTISER

M - 61,769
S - 80,831
MAR 20 1970

A Deserved But Untimely Coup

CAMBODIA, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam are largely unnatural countries thrust on the world in the last two decades. They have been pushed far beyond their rightful positions of importance.

Vietnam has been a major headliner for almost 10 years. A scattering of news about Thailand reaches front pages only because of the strategic role it plays as a major U.S. base in the Vietnam war. Normally, it would be heard from only in travel articles about its unique hedges and royal aviaries. Laos is like a pot of gumbo, heated and cooled periodically to suit appetites.

Now it's Cambodia again. Cambodia used to make the news because its ruling prince for 20 years possessed an advanced talent for pomposity, incongruity and plain lying, which he faithfully exposed to the world with a perverse sense of timing.

Since Prince Sihanouk has apparently lost his job, it would be comforting to write him off, in much the same way that his sister-under-the-skin Madame Nhu was dispatched. But it isn't so easy.

From a rice paddy foundation, Sihanouk somehow managed to insinuate himself and Cambodia into larger affairs during the last decade. It is a sad commentary that this Indo-Chinese princeling, otherwise a laughable buffoon, has an effect on the East-West balance of power and world peace.

Here are some of the possibilities of the Cambodian coup:

Sihanouk was on a trip to Moscow and Peking when he was deposed. It was thought in Washington he was using the threat of a right-wing challenge to his rule to reinforce demands that Hanoi be persuaded to withdraw its troops from Cambodia, a sanctuary from American firepower in Vietnam. Such a removal, although doubtful, would have eased the pressures in Vietnam. That's supposedly shot now.

In the past, Sihanouk hop-scotched between the communist and non-communist camps. As an unequalled egotist, he would stoop to anything to regain power, including enlisting the aid of Hanoi. His challengers preside over an ill-trained and poorly equipped army of 35,000. Hanoi has at least 40,000 troops on Cambodian soil. It would be no contest if the communist guns were aimed at Cambodia rather than Vietnam.

The coup could provoke new encroachments in Cambodia by Hanoi. The danger is that the Vietnam war could be extended into Cambodia. It is already threatening in Laos.

There is the possibility of help from the new Cambodian leaders. They could exert pressure on North Vietnamese troops camped on their land, which Sihanouk persistently refused to do. But there is danger there, too. If the Cambodians wanted to peck at the North Vietnamese, they would need additional equipment and assistance.

The Central Intelligence Agency and other secret agencies would probably be delighted to get into the act in Cambodia, as they are in Laos. A North Vietnamese reaction would spread the war over almost the entire Southeast Asia peninsula, sucking the U.S. deeper into the mire. Actually, the CIA could already be active in Cambodia. It could be the force behind the Sihanouk coup.

If it were not for the dangers implicit in the Sihanouk toppling, it would be pure pleasure to see the clown prince get his due. But there is no comfort in a situation that could bring new conflict and disorder at a time when this nation is attempting to reduce its involvement in the region.

It is a part of the enigma of the area and its inflated importance that the fall of Sihanouk, whose corruption and capriciousness were travesties of leadership, should bear such forebodings for peace.

Mansfield Expects Sihanouk's Return

By PAUL W. WARD

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, March 18—Senator Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.), who for more than seven years had championed Prince Norodom Sihanouk's brand of Southeast Asian "neutrality," voiced doubts today that the Cambodian's ouster would prove permanent.

Nixon administration officials, on the other hand, would not venture any judgments about the future course of events in Cambodia. Besides, confessing that they had been surprised by the announcement of the coup,

they professed ignorance about what was happening in Phnom Penh.

Talking with newsmen about the Phnom Penh proclamation, Senator Mansfield said:

"I am concerned and disturbed, but I don't think we ought to swallow the story whole.

"Prince Sihanouk is one man in all of Asia I wouldn't sell short," the senator continued, adding, "Sihanouk and Cambodia are synonymous."

Referring to recent broadcasts from Moscow, Hanoi and Peking alleging that the U.S. has been promoting opposition within Cambodia to Prince Sihanouk's "neutralist" regime, newsmen asked about possible United States involvement in the Prince's ouster.

"I give you my word that we are not involved in Cambodia in any way, shape or form," he said.

Coup Laid To CIA

By THOMAS T. FENTON

[Paris Bureau of The Sun]

Paris, March 18—North Vietnamese sources in Paris charged tonight that the Cambodian government's ouster of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chief of state had been engineered by the United States.

The sources, who said that they were speaking unofficially, described the coup d'etat as "the work of the CIA."

They pointed to press reports of recent joint actions by the Cambodian Army and the South Vietnamese Army along the Cambodian-South Vietnamese border as evidence of collusion between the United States and the Cambodian generals who have apparently seized power.

The sources, who had no direct reports on the coup d'etat other than press accounts reaching here, said that they would not yet rule out the possibility that Prince Sihanouk might still return to power.

CHARLOTTE, N.C.
NEWS

E - 65,014

MAR 19 1970

Sihanouk Ouster CIA Plot—French

By MILT FREUDENHEIM
Chicago Daily News Service

✓ PARIS — The ouster of neutralist Cambodian leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk was arranged by the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), according to some French military officials.

They see it as a move to strengthen the position of Thailand in case Laos falls to Communist North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao forces.

✓ The takeover by Cambodian Premier Gen. Lon Nol and Sihanouk's rightist relative, Prince Sisowath Sidik Matak, is compared here with the 1965 ouster from power of Indonesian president Sukarno, which the French also credit to the CIA.

✓ However Sihanouk's long and spectacular history of resigning, and threatening to resign pro-

duces caution. Some experts think he may yet stage another dramatic comeback.

✓ According to French analysts, who are always quick to see a CIA role whether it exists or not, other American motives in Cambodia include:

—Hoping for permission to bomb the Ho Chi Minh trail in Cambodia for Viet Cong and Laos in order to cut North Vietnamese supply lines to their forces in South Vietnam.

—Denial of sanctuary in Cambodia for Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces raiding across the border into South Vietnam.

—Removal of an erratic and frequently pro-Peking neutralist leader, Sihanouk, blamed by the Pentagon for prolonging the Vietnam war by tolerating Hanoi penetration of Cambodia.

19 Mar 1970

War could end -- or spread

Cambodia coup:

STATINTL

break for us?

By James McCartney
Chicago Daily News Service

The right-wing military coup in Cambodia—if it is successful—has the potential of changing the ground rules of the Vietnam War.

It could be the biggest break that President Nixon has gotten in trying to end the war.

Or it could lead to a North Vietnamese attempt to take over Cambodia by force, and thus cause a new and different kind of crisis in Vietnam.

U.S. officials do not pretend to know what precisely is happening in Cambodia — or who may wind up in charge. It's too early for that.

But they are certain that the events of the last few days in Cambodia will affect all of Southeast Asia. And they are seeking to weigh alternatives.

Cambodia is important because it has sought, essentially, to remain neutral in struggle for Southeast Asia.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the chief of state who has been ousted, has walked a narrow path — often leaning one way, then the other.

DAILY NEWS Washington Bureau chief Peter Lisagor reports that suspicion that the coup deposing him might be another ruse faded quickly as Southeast Asian experts studied the scant reports monitored on Phnom Penh Radio.

THE JUDGMENT in Washington is that Gen. Lon Nol as premier and his accomplices have entrenched themselves in power, and that the neutralist Sihanouk has been permanently bounced.

This prospect raised apprehensions, described as a "fear of the unknown" by one source, that the rightist anti-Communist successors of Sihanouk might get in over their heads in their defiance of the North Vietnamese.

"If they did that and hol-
lered for help, we might have
a dilemma on our hands," said
one U.S. official.

SIHANOUK has permitted the North Vietnamese to use his country as a sanctuary in mounting attacks on southern South Vietnam. If that ground rule were to be removed, the Communists would be severely crippled.

That would aid President Nixon in de-escalating the war.

Approximately 40,000 main-
force North Vietnamese troops
are believed to be based in
Cambodia, poised to threaten
the capital city of Saigon and
the rich Mekong Delta to the
south.

DAILY NEWS correspondent
Milt Freudenheim reports that
Paris observers were quick to
stress the dangers of a shift to
the right in Cambodia. If the
weak Cambodian army fails to
control the Communist Viet-
namese forces, United States
forces could be sucked in, as
happened in Vietnam and
Laos, they warned.

Cambodia also has provided
the supply route for Commu-
nist forces in southern South
Vietnam.

U.S. and South Vietnamese
forces have not been able to
touch the supply routes — or
attack Communist bases —
without violating Cambodia's
ostensible neutrality.

U.S. MILITARY officials say
flatly that the United States
could win a "quick military
victory" in Vietnam if ground
troops were permitted to in-
vade the Communist sanc-
tuaries in Cambodia and Laos.

And officials have not been
reluctant to discuss the possi-
bility that South Vietnamese

troops might try to do the job.
No less an official than De-
fense Sec. Melvin R. Laird has
openly discussed this possi-
bility.

That's where the importance
of a successful right-wing coup
comes into the picture.

If right-wing generals were
to gain control in Cambodia
and invite the United States to
clean out North Vietnamese
forces, the temptation to take
them up on the offer would be
great.

This course of action, no
doubt, would cause a political
uproar in the United States.

BUT LESS drastic possi-
bilities also are being dis-
cussed in official circles here.
For example, a right-wing re-
gime in Cambodia might make
it possible to freeze supply
routes to the Communist forces
in Cambodia and South Viet-
nam.

Supplies for Communist ar-
mies in the Mekong Delta have
been permitted to flow freely
through Cambodian ports.

The United States also might
be invited to bomb Communist

sanctuaries in Cambodia.
Bombing has not been per-
mitted in Cambodia.

THE OTHER side of the coin
presents a different picture.

There is widespread specu-
lation in Saigon and Paris that
the United States — probably
through the Central Intelligence
Agency — has played a role in
the Cambodian coup.

Freudenheim reports that
French military officials see it
as a move to strengthen the
position of Thailand in case
Laos falls to North Vietnamese
and Pathet Lao forces.

The take-over in Cambodia
by Gen. Lon Nol and Sihan-
ouk's rightist relative, Prince
Sisowath Sirik Matak, is com-
pared in Paris with the ouster
of Indonesian President Su-
karno, which the French also
credit to the CIA.

The Communists have the
military power to respond.
They are already in a strong
position in Laos, north of Cam-
bodia. They probably could
take over all of Cambodia if
they wished in a counter at-
tack.

AT THE PARIS Vietnam
talks Thursday, Freudenheim
reports, North Vietnam ac-
cused the United States of try-
ing to spread the Vietnam War
into Cambodia and Laos. But
Hanoi carefully avoided recog-
nition that Sihanouk has been
ousted.

"It is perfectly clear that the
Nixon administration, in order
to save itself from defeat in
Vietnam, not only is escalating
the war in Laos but also is try-
ing to extend the war to the
whole IndoChinese Peninsula,
placing a grave threat to peace
in Southeast Asia," Hanoi dele-
gate Nguyen Minh Vy de-
clared.

"The United States must as-
sume full responsibility for the
consequences," Vy said as he
went into the session.

U.S. Ambassador Philip C.
Habib told reporters as he en-
tered the session, "I have no
intention of having any com-
ment on Cambodia."

South Vietnamese delegate
Pham Dang Lam replied that
long-standing North Vietnam-
ese denials that its troops are
in Laos and Cambodia have
been disproved by recent state-
ments of the neu-
tral governments of both
countries.

19 MAR 1970

BAR SIHANOUK AS CAMBODIAN STATE CHIEF

Assembly Orders His Overthrow

[From Tribune Wire Services]

BANGKOK, Thailand, March 18 — Right-wing opponents deposed Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's neutralist chief of state, today while he was in Moscow. Sihanouk warned that the action could result in war between Cambodia and North Viet Nam and vowed to return, even if it meant his arrest.

The official Phnom Penh radio announced that the national assembly ousted Sihanouk, 47, blaming him for the "political crisis" created by at least 40,000 communist North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in Cambodia.

Troops Called Out

Air travel and communications with the Cambodian capital were cut off shortly before the announcement. A correspondent for the Japanese Kyodo news agency reported that tanks and troops were moved into Phnom Penh this morning, apparently before the ouster action, to guard important government buildings.

The broadcast said Sihanouk was provisionally replaced by Cheng Heng, 50, millionaire lawyer and national assembly speaker, who had been acting as chief of state since Sihanouk went abroad.

Two Behind Ouster

The key figures behind the take-over were believed to be Gen. Lon Nol, premier and military forces commander, who has led the recent drive to get North Viet Nam and the Viet Cong to withdraw their troops from Cambodia, and Sirik Matak, a high government minister. Both he and Lon Nol frowned on Sihanouk's evasive neutrality policy, which sometimes was pro-American but more frequently was pro-Communist.

Lon Nol tried to shift the government to the right in 1967 while Sihanouk was in France, but the prince quickly returned and effected a government shakeup that foiled the general's apparent attempt to seize power.

Today's take-over came only two days after Viet Cong and North Vietnamese negotiators ignored a Cambodian demand that their troops leave the country and demanded that Cambodia pay reparations for damage done to their embassies in Phnom Penh by anti-communist Cambodian mobs during three days of riots.

No U. S. Comment

In Washington the White House had no comment on the situation in Cambodia. "We're watching the situation very closely and have no comment on it," Ronald Ziegler, White House press secretary, said.

[Observers said the Nixon administration presumably was adopting an extremely cautious attitude because of the possibility that Sihanouk might return to power and because of the generally delicate nature of Cambodia's politics.]

A Phnom Penh radio broadcast declared the absent Sihanouk was ousted from leadership after the national assembly and the council of the kingdom "unanimously agreed to withdraw confidence" in him.

"As of 1 p. m. March 18, Prince Sihanouk shall cease his function as chief of state of Cambodia," the broadcast said. "Mr. Cheng Heng, chairman of the national assembly, is entrusted with the function of chief of state until the next election of a true chief of state in conformity with the national constitution."

Once was King

Sihanouk ruled as king from 1941 to 1955, guiding his country thru World War II and to independence from France. He abdicated in 1955 in favor of his father, King Norodom Suramarit, who died in 1960.

Sihanouk declined to become king again and instead became chief of state with wide powers.



[AP Wirephotos]

Sirik Matak, [left], a Cambodian rightwing leader, and Gen. Lon Nol. They reportedly are the powers behind the new government.

with his mother, Queen Sisowath Kossama, as monarch. By performing a delicate balancing act between the communist bloc and the west, Sihanouk managed for years to keep his country from becoming another Viet Nam or Laos.

Breaks with U. S.

But in 1965 Sihanouk broke relations with the United States, charging that American forces in South Viet Nam constantly violated Cambodia's border. He also charged that the Central Intelligence agency

was trying to stir up Cambodians against his regime.

Relations were restored with the United States last June, but on a low level. Meanwhile, Sihanouk had turned from denouncing Red China in 1965 to saying that the Chinese and Russians were friends who respected Cambodia's neutrality.

The coup came at a time when the United States was negotiating in Phnom Penh for the return of the hijacked munitions freighter Columbia Eagle. The freighter was towed into the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville on Tuesday.

The government obviously was too preoccupied to give much attention to the incident. In the past, Sihanouk has held American naval vessels that strayed into Cambodian waters from South Viet Nam for some time before releasing the crews. The two seamen who seized the freighter at gunpoint in the Gulf of Siam last week-end were believed to be in Phnom Penh. They were said to have hijacked the freighter, bound for Thailand, as a protest against the war in Viet Nam. They have been granted political asylum.

Pro-U.S. millionaire chief replaces Prince Sihanouk

STATINTL

Daily World Foreign Department

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's chief of state, said Tuesday he would return to Cambodia even if he risked arrest there, informed diplomatic sources said in Moscow on Wednesday.

The Cambodian leader made his remark before the government of Cambodia announced over Radio Phnom Penh on Wednesday that it had deposed him as chief of state and was appointing millionaire Chen Heng to replace him.

Sihanouk left Moscow on Wednesday bound for Peking, but had no additional statements to offer as he boarded the large, four-jet Soviet airliner at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport.

The Cambodian government, headed by armed forces commander, General Lon Nol, closed down all transportation and communications links with the outside world on Wednesday. An unconfirmed report from Saigon said Cambodian officials were expelling hundreds of Vietnamese from the country.

Only the broadcast announcing Sihanouk's ouster was heard from Cambodia's radio stations Wednesday.

The government statement said: "In view of the political crisis created in recent days by the chief of state, Prince Sihanouk, and in conformity with the constitution of Cambodia, the National Assembly and the Council of the Kingdom during a plenary session held on 18 March at 1300 hours (1 p.m.) have unanimously agreed to withdraw confidence in Prince Sihanouk."

Sihanouk charged earlier that the right-wing Cambodian military, headed by Gen. Lon Nol, were trying to oust him with the help of the U.S., in order to end Cambodian neutrality and to return the country to a pro-U.S. stance.

In Moscow on Wednesday, Sihanouk stated that the right-wing coup in Cambodia could make war between his country and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam inevitable.

Referring to his conversations with Soviet leaders, Sihanouk said: "The socialist camp considers the latest events as being a direct menace to the balance of forces between the U.S. and themselves."

Sihanouk also said Premier Chou En-lai of the People's Republic of China had sent him a personal telegram as "an expression of the worry of China, which at the moment is keeping calm in the face of provocations directed at its ambassador in Phnom Penh."

According to Sihanouk, the USSR "offered me many-sided aid to reestablish order and neutrality" in Cambodia. He said he had declined the offer.

The 47-year-old Cambodian prince is a former king of his country who voluntarily abdicated in 1955, shortly after the country gained its independence from France. Sihanouk stepped down to organize a political movement which would elect him to office.

What was established was the "Sangkum Reastr Niyum," or People's Socialist Community, which Sihanouk regarded as a broad, nationalist coalition movement and which he headed. The figurehead

ruler was his father, King Norodom Suramarit, who died in 1960. That was the year in which Sihanouk adopted the "chief of state" title.

Up until 1963, Cambodia and Sihanouk were under strong U.S. influence. The U.S. influence was especially strong in the Cambodian armed forces, headed since 1955 by Gen. Lon Nol.

But Sihanouk's policy of non-alignment and careful neutrality brought Cambodia into increasingly sharp conflict with the U.S., which was escalating its war of aggression in neighboring South Vietnam.

In 1963, Sihanouk ordered the U.S. aid mission out of the country, charging it was a front for a CIA plot to overthrow him. In 1965 he broke all ties with the U.S. after repeated U.S. air and ground attacks on Cambodia. Relations were only resumed in mid-1969.

Foreign Report
Economic
19 March 1970

STATINTL

Asian Crucible: (i) Cambodia and Laos

South-east Asia is more of an ideological crucible this week than ever; Mr Galbraith's notion that the countries of the area may relapse into the obscurity 'which they deserve' looks singularly unrealistic. The irony is that the fate of the area may be determined more in Laos and Cambodia than in Vietnam itself.

The overthrow of **Prince Sihanouk** bears all the impress of a brilliant intelligence coup. The CIA may be in retreat in Laos; in Cambodia it could well have had a hand in precisely the kind of job which it believes it is meant to do. One domino looks like falling; but another is being shored up.

The net results of the events of the past week are unpredictable but certain lines of speculation are admissible:

(i) *Cambodia*. If the new Cambodian regime cracks down hard on the communists and deprives the North Vietnamese forces (and the Vietcong) of their sanctuaries and supplies, the effect in South Vietnam will be considerable. North Vietnam's use of Cambodian bases, and supplies, has been a factor of enormous importance throughout the war.

(ii) *Laos*. In Laos, the position is very different. North Vietnam is aiming to secure the establishment of a communist-dominated neutralist coalition; it also wants to extract an American pledge not to bomb the Ho Chi Minh trail. If it wins these two points, it would have scored a notable triumph. The creation of a new coalition in Vientiane would be adduced as an adequate precedent for the formation of a coalition in Saigon.

The situation in Laos is now so grave that Mr Rogers, the American Secretary of State, has dropped hints this week that American ground forces may, after all, have to be introduced - but only with the consent of Congress (which will be difficult to secure). It is arguable that, if the Americans were prepared to make a firm stand in Laos, they might carry the day in the whole of south-east Asia. This thesis will doubtless be derided in many quarters; the mere idea of 'another Vietnam' frightens a large sector of American public opinion.

But, while exaggerated importance should not be given to the reported ascendancy of the doves in the Hanoi politburo, it is clear that North Vietnam could not simultaneously (a) continue a losing war in the south, where Vietnamisation has proved more effective than many people forecast, (b) face the sustained hostility of the Cambodian regime, which would harass the Vietcong in various ways, and (c) face in Laos the full brunt of American military might and air power, backed by the Meo tribesmen.

North Vietnam's aim has always been the eventual control of all of former French Indochina, not merely the acquisition of South Vietnam. But it would find it hard to fight in three countries simultaneously.

(iii) *Russia and China*. From the calculations outlined above, it might seem that there is the chance of some kind of deal; but deals in south-east Asia are notoriously difficult to secure. Much will depend on the way Russia and China react to the current crises. As they are in grim competition with each other, as well as with the Americans, their mood is likely to be tough and unyielding; certainly China's. The odds are therefore that (a) if the Cambodian challenge to the communists fails, south-east Asia will become a more intractable, crisis-ridden region than ever, and the communists will step up their efforts to give the Americans a bloody nose in Laos; but (b) if it succeeds, the undermining of North Vietnam's whole strategy may have begun.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JOURNAL COURIER

M - 33,422

MAR 19 1970

Southeast Asia - As Always - Changes

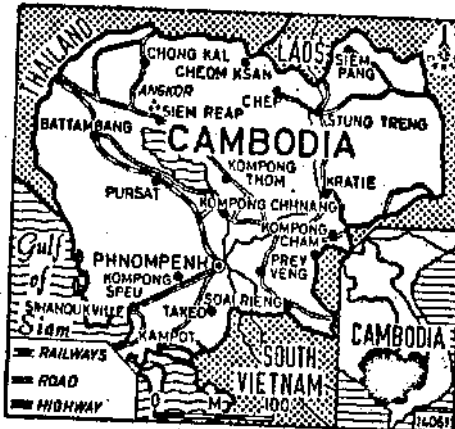
"You'll never plumb the Oriental mind, and if you did it isn't worth the toil."

The lines are Rudyard Kipling's, and the theme is as immortal as Asia's inscrutability. The case in point now is Cambodia, and the question is whether any amount of toil now can keep the Vietnam war from spilling across the whole Southeast Asian peninsula.

In the span of a few hours yesterday, the political and military picture in Southeast Asia changed radically. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's neutralist ruler, was deposed (at least for now) while visiting in Moscow. Into power came an anti-Communist military clique—a fact that led inevitably to the suspicion that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was behind the plot.

Unquestionably a strong, anti-Communist Cambodia—bordered by Western-allied Thailand, neutral Laos, and Red-besieged South Vietnam (see map)—would shift Southeast Asia's power balance and serve as a generous spur to Saigon's forces in their battle against Communist insurgents and invaders from North Vietnam.

But the issue that seems to have led to Sihanouk's removal is the use of Cambodia's soil as "Sanctuary" by Hanoi's and the Viet Cong's raiders who strike in South Vietnam, then retreat beyond the Cambodian border. Sihanouk tolerated this for years. Recently anti-Red Cambodian factions protested. Now the South Vietnamese



may be helping Cambodian troops in a drive to rout the Communist guerrillas. This would widen the war. Even if they succeed in sealing off Cambodia as a sanctuary, Hanoi's roving forces will find Laos (where they're already entrenched) all the more important as a springboard into South Vietnam. It's hard to be sure now how the newly fluid situation will help contain the war.

Cambodia itself is factionalized. Sihanouk may yet prove the only national figure who can hold it together. Meantime, Washington must decide between wholeheartedly backing an anti-Red Cambodian regime, as it did in South Vietnam 15 years ago, and "lowering its profile" according to the Nixon Guam Doctrine. The temptation to grasp opportunity and support "our side" will be great—but only justified if it leads us out of the Asian swamp and not deeper in.

TOLEDO, OHIO
TIMES

MAR 19 1970
M - 31,347

After Sihanouk, What?

OVERTHROW of the often contradictory Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia came suddenly and seemingly without warning, but it has been in the works for some time. Gen. Lon Nol, who apparently is the real man in charge now, almost took over the government two years ago—and the issue then, as now, was the presence of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops in the country. Thus it may be assumed that the general and his backers object to the Vietnamese infiltration and would be willing to extend to the United States or South Vietnam the right of hot pursuit of their enemy's forces across the borders into Cambodia.

However, the coup d'etat also could incite the North Vietnamese to intensify their campaign in Laos, Cambodia's neighbor to the north. Laos becomes even more important to the North Vietnamese if there is a prospect that the Cambodian sanctuary will be denied them.

The poorly-defined 763-mile frontier between Cambodia and South Vietnam has been a constant source of friction. In 1963 Prince Sihanouk broke relations with South Vietnam over military violations of his border, which the South Vietnamese denied. On the other hand, while he often protested it, the prince did nothing about the obvious infiltration into Cambodia of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

Undoubtedly Prince Sihanouk will contend his ouster resulted from American (CIA?) plotting, but he was almost overthrown in 1968 because his generals tired of his unpredictable and inconsistent policies—denouncing the Communists one day and embracing them the next. He warned the Communists back then that if they continued their infiltration he couldn't last, and "General Nol and company will hold power instead." Then, he predicted, Cambodia would become "a fortified base for the Americans."

There isn't much anyone can do now but wait and see what happens. The coup d'etat apparently was predicated upon popular antagonism to the continued presence of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in the country, and it would be logical to assume some sort of action will be taken on that score. Whether the small Cambodian army is capable of enforcing demands that the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese leave the country is another question. The situation raises a variety of interesting possibilities for new crises in Southeast Asia.

Riddle in Cambodia: U.S. Ponders Impact Of Sihanouk's Ouster

• • •
Allies Could Benefit in Vietnam
If New Rulers Press Moves
Against Red Troops' Havens

By ROBERT KEATLEY

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — A foreign ambassador in Cambodia once met Princess Monique, wife of that neutral country's Prince Norodom Sihanouk, resting before a lavish state dinner at an official residence near Angkor Wat—the magnificent stone ruins of an ancient kingdom that form Southeast Asia's architectural masterpiece.

The beautiful princess was fatigued. "The Prince and I have been up since four o'clock," she explained, "checking guest rooms to be sure they all have soap and towels."

Such attention to detail has been a hallmark of Prince Sihanouk's 15-year rule. But things have gone terribly wrong this week for the energetic prince who has been so closely identified with his small nation's fragile independence and neutrality: yesterday, while he was in Moscow, the ruling council deposed him as head of government.

What happens next is unpredictable. Even diplomatic communications with Cambodia have been cut off, and Washington remains uncertain about the plans of those who now claim power. It's not even clear if the overthrow of the 47-year-old Sihanouk will remain permanent in a rural land where the prince has been so long revered as a combination chief philosopher, top executive and Buddhist god.

But the U.S. has a deep interest in events there, for Cambodian politics bear heavily on what happens in the adjacent war zone of South Vietnam. The Sihanouk ouster could bring more instability in former French Indochina (according to the prince, it could mean war between his country and North Vietnam). Or it could lead to more effective American efforts to defeat the Communist enemy.

Tales of Corruption

Power has been assumed by men who are comparative right-wingers on the Cambodian scene. They are Gen. Lon Nol, premier and chief of the 35,000-man army, and cabinet minister (and Prince) Sisowath Sihanouk Matak, a relative of the deposed ruler. A sluggish economy, an increase in educated but jobless youth, and tales of rising bureaucratic corruption were all factors in prompting these men to engineer Prince Sihanouk's dismissal.

But the real causes were some 40,000 to 60,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops who use Cambodian territory as safe havens, supply bases and staging areas while fighting across the border against the Americans and South Vietnamese. Officials in the capital of Phnom Penh want these troops to leave but they refuse to go, and the poorly equipped Cambodian army can't drive them out.

American generals in Saigon claim they could shorten the war by a year or so if Communists were deprived of their Cambodian refuges. They chafe under political curbs from Washington that sharply restrict—but don't entirely forbid—them from striking against Reds in border regions.

Lately these Hanoi troops have grown more high-handed in their use of Cambodian bases and have attacked Cambodian outposts nearly 200 times in recent months by Phnom Penh's count. These actions have aroused much public opposition to their presence, especially as Cambodians view all Vietnamese as their historic enemies. Rising tensions in recent months have also been aggravated by American raids against Red forces fleeing to safety in Cambodia; some of these cause Cambodian casualties.

An Ultimatum Is Ignored

Prince Sihanouk, though no Marxist himself, maintained close political ties to Hanoi and the Vietcong, hoping to curtail their illegal use of his country by quiet means. He frequently made anti-American statements that pleased the Reds, though the prince's true views are considered much less antagonistic toward Washington. One additional Sihanouk goal was to get North Vietnamese leaders to stop aiding a small Red Cambodian insurgency group that opposed the prince.

But results of such politeness were negligible, and tensions mounted. Last week events took an unexpected turn when some 20,000 students and workers sacked the North Vietnamese and Vietcong embassies in Phnom Penh, apparently with government help. This led to an official demand that all Red troops depart by last Sunday, an ultimatum ignored by Hanoi, which doesn't admit having any soldiers in Cambodia.

But the demand did bring diplomatic talks between Phnom Penh and the Vietnamese Communists beginning last Monday. However, Hanoi and its southern allies apparently have refused to remove their men. And on Sunday and Monday, in an unprecedented action, Cambodian troops battling a Vietcong unit asked for—and got—artillery support from a South Vietnamese force located just across the border.

This chain of events began while Prince Sihanouk was in France, resting and fighting an obesity problem. At first analysts thought the anti-Communist outbreaks were part of a carefully orchestrated plot, enabling the prince to seek Communist concessions as the price of peace within his borders. But now this appears unlikely; the prince has been thrown out even before exhausting diplomatic moves that might have reduced Red incursions.

Prince Sihanouk's initial response after the embassy attacks was to jet to Moscow, where, apparently without success, he asked the Russians to get Hanoi to take its troops out of Cambodia. Late yesterday he was reported en route to Peking, where he had originally been expected to seek Red China's intercession against North Vietnam. As soon as it became evident that his mission to Moscow had failed, however, the prince was ousted by his critics at home.

STATINTL

No Physical U.S. Involvement in Cambodia Is Forecast

By Murray Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States will avoid any direct physical involvement in Cambodia even if requested to help oust North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces there, informed sources forecast yesterday.

If the men who deposed Prince Sihanouk seek it, there is a greater possibility of indirect U.S. assistance, in military aid or in support supplied through South Vietnam, sources here estimated.

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu yesterday promptly registered Saigon's interest in joint action with Phnom Penh against Communist troops on their border.

The tide of alarm in Congress against an increased U.S. combat role in Laos is seen as applying equally, or doubly, to a new American involvement in Cambodia.

These unofficial viewpoints came in reaction to speculation that Cambodia's new openly anti-Communist rulers are likely to seek American military support to counter the estimated 40,000 Communist troops in that country. These troops, however, now make up the predominant military power in Cambodia, as the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao troops do in Laos, where President Nixon has estimated their strength at 67,000.

For the present, the Nixon administration is avoiding any comment whatever about the unexpected Cambodian developments. "The situation is much too fluid and unpredictable for any planning," said one U.S. source, and Sihanouk may try to return.

"North Vietnam is probably having the same trouble trying to sort this one out as we are," said another source.

At the White House, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said only that "we are watching the situation very closely and I have no comment."

The State Department's communications with the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh were broken early Wednesday and remained out all day.

There is an outside chance, some specialists think, that recent developments in Cambodia and in Laos might jar the Southeast Asian situation enough to cast up new opportunity for settling the overlapping conflicts there.

For the first time since the French Indochina war ended in 1954, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are now in simultaneous ferment.

Initially, what has occurred in Cambodia appears as a surprising setback to the North Vietnamese and Vietcong cause. This could offset Communist gains in Laos in their current offensive there, for both Cambodia and Laos provide North Vietnam, involuntarily, with infiltration routes into South Vietnam.

But there is also some risk of a widened war.

Before leaving Moscow yesterday, Prince Sihanouk quoted Soviet leaders as having told him that if Cambodia's "extreme right wing continues to deal low blows to our (Vietnam) allies" at a critical time in "their struggle against American imperialism," then "that will inevitably mean war between Cambodia and Vietnam."

Even stronger talk may come from Peking, Sihanouk's next stop.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) who often has visited Cambodian and has a special friendship with Prince Sihanouk, told newsmen yesterday, "I don't think we should become involved in Cambodia in any way, shape or form."

Mansfield told newsmen that while he has not discussed

latest Cambodian developments while he has not discussed "I'll give you my word for it" that the United States was not involved.

The removal of Sihanouk from Cambodia would be "tragic," said Mansfield and "could well mean the end of Cambodia and its neutrality." He said "Sihanouk and Cambodia are synonymous." Mansfield said, "I don't think we ought to swallow the story (of his ouster) whole . . . He is the one man in all of Asia whom I wouldn't sell short."

Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.) said there have been "disturbing indications and reports . . . from time to time that the United States has been carrying on operations in Cambodia that are related primarily to right-wing groups in the country." But it would be "premature at this point to say that we had anything to do" with Sihanouk's ouster, said McGovern.

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told newsmen he has no information to indicate that the Central Intelligence Agency might be involved, although "there is that suspicion on general principles."

Sihanouk in 1963 renounced U.S. aid to his country (\$87.1 million in military aid since 1946), claiming CIA machinations against him. He severed diplomatic relations with Washington in 1965 but resumed them last year.

STATINTL

STATINTL

Nationalism Drove Sihanouk on a Zigzag Course

Washington Post Foreign Service

HONG KONG, March 18—Today's events in Phnom Penh spelled the downfall of one of the most colorful characters in Southeast Asia, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who single-handedly ruled Cambodia as a combination of modern leader and traditional devaraja, or god-king.

And besides serving as political ruler, Sihanouk also edited two magazines, carried on a voluminous correspondence with newspapers around the world, composed music and directed films that, by no coincidence, regularly won the top awards at Phnom Penh's annual film festivals.

At the core of Sihanouk's often opportunistic, unpredictable and volatile behavior was a sole motive—the survival of Cambodia as a nation amid the power rivalries of Southeast Asia. Underlying this obsession with survival was Sihanouk's conviction that Cambodia was threatened with extinction at the hands of its more dynamic neighbors, the Vietnamese and the Thais.

To meet the challenge, Sihanouk was constantly shifting ground and, in the process, perplexing observers, who could not appreciate that, if his tactics were mercurial, his strategy was consistent.

Now forty-eight, Sihanouk was a minor prince who was selected by the French as king in 1941, when he was a high school student in Saigon and considered to be weak and tractable. Under French guidance, as he later admitted, he was encouraged to be a playboy.

Soon afterward, however, he displayed his nationalistic passion and diplomatic skills. He proclaimed Cambodia's independence under

the Japanese occupation and later, when the French returned, began negotiating with them for freedom. He won complete Cambodian independence in November 1953, before the Geneva agreements ended the Indochina war.

But then, Sihanouk had to contend with the Communist-led Vietminh's claim that its Communist partisans deserved a voice in the Cambodian government.

Oddly enough, Sihanouk's strongest defender against the Vietminh was Chinese premier Chou En-lai, who was apparently anxious to reduce Vietnamese authority in Southeast Asia. Sihanouk has remained one of Chou's firmest admirers since then.

In March, 1955, seeking to enter the political arena, Sihanouk abdicated his throne in favor of his father, Prince Norodom Suramarit, who later died. Since then Cambodia has been a kingless kingdom.

Sihanouk sought admission into the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, being created in the mid-50s as an American-supported regional defense system.

But his request was rejected with the argument that it contravened the Geneva accords. However, Sihanouk was told, Cambodia would be sheltered under the SEATO "umbrella."

Sihanouk's alternative was a policy of neutrality. However, during the Eisenhower administration, neutrality was regarded as "immoral." Moreover, as the United States increasingly concentrated its attention on the South Vietnamese government under President Ngo Dinh Diem, Cambodia was neglected.

Sihanouk began to sour on the United States in 1958, when South Vietnamese

troops violated his border and, he later alleged, he was advised that he could not expect American help in the matter.

Convinced that he needed a countervailing force to the United States, Sihanouk recognized Communist China. His ties with the United States were frayed further in 1959 when South Vietnamese operatives financed by the CIA attempted to engineer a coup against him.

As the Vietnam war escalated and border incidents proliferated, Sihanouk's indignation against the United States mounted. In 1963 he suspended American aid and two years later broke diplomatic relations.

It was in 1965 that Sihanouk's association with the Chinese Communists was most intimate. He was guest of honor at China's national day in Peking.

In the later half of the 1960s, Sihanouk started to dilute his former notions to conform with the changing situation in Asia, always keeping in mind that his interest was Cambodia's self-preservation.

He began to feel his way back towards a rapprochement with the United States.

Sihanouk's pro-Western switch was mainly actuated by his rising apprehensions at the sight of an expanding Vietnamese Communist presence in Cambodia.

By the end of 1968, he no longer believed in his former thesis that a neutralized Southeast Asia was feasible. Now, he affirmed, the region's security depended on what he called a "balance of

threats" by the major powers against one another. This included, he said, a continued American presence in Southeast Asia.

Last summer, Sihanouk re-established diplomatic relations with the United States at the charge d'affaires level. He also hinted later that he might bid for U.S. aid.

After skillfully guiding an independent Cambodia for more than 16 years, however, his wily maneuvers failed him and the movement of events led to his collapse.

E - 345,675
S - 581,591

MAR 18 1970

U.S. Delays Comment On Cambodia Pending Word From Envoys

By RICHARD DUDMAN
Washington Correspondent of
The Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, March 18—
Department of State officials
awaited word today from the
United States diplomatic mis-
sion in Phnom Penh before
venturing comment on the over-
throw of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's chief of state.

Authorities in the Cambodian
capital city cut off external
communications this morning
when the Royal Cambodian
Council and the National As-
sembly seized control of the
government. Sihanouk was in
Moscow.

There was no expectation here
that the coup would result in a
definite shift of Cambodian
policy. Radio Phnom Penh was
quoted as saying that the coun-
try would continue to follow its
policies of independence, neu-
trality and territorial integrity
and respect all international
treaties it has signed.

Little Mention of CIA

There was little or none of
the usual speculation that the
Central Intelligence Agency was
involved in the coup. Since di-
plomatic relations were restored
last July between Washington
and Phnom Penh, the United
States deliberately has kept a
low profile in an effort to get
along with Sihanouk, who fre-
quently had accused the CIA
of plotting against him.

The entire staff of the U.S.
mission comprises only 11
Americans, headed by a charge
d'affaires rather than an am-
bassador. He is one of only
three professionals, the other
two being a lower-ranking car-
eer Foreign Service officer and
a single defense attache.

One member of the embassy
staff is a boxing coach, a re-
minder of the time in the early
1950s when the U.S. officers in
the Military Assistance Advi-
sory Group used to play volley-
ball regularly with Sihanouk
and his team of Cambodian of-
ficers.

The United States cut off its
military assistance program in
November 1969 at Sihanouk's
request. The country has con-
tinued to accept military aid

from the Soviet Union and Com-
munist China.

Wew Other Americans

In addition to the 11 Ameri-
cans at the U.S. embassy, there
are only four or five other
Americans living in the coun-
try, aside from such temporary
residents as the 15 members of
the crew of the American
freighter Columbia Eagle,

which two hijackers diverted to
Sihanoukville over the weekend.

The other permanent Ameri-
can residents of Cambodia are
said to be the wives of Cam-
bodian citizens.

Some officials believed that
the ouster of Sihanouk dis-
proved speculation that he had
been behind the recent demon-
strations against the presence

of North Vietnamese and Viet
Cong troops on Cambodian soil.

They noted, however, that the
disturbances occurred just as
Sihanouk was planning visits to
Moscow and Peking. The er-
rant prince sometimes has
made oral attacks on other na-
tions as part of a negotiating
stance, apparently to empha-
size his country's independence.

Officials expected Sihanouk
to return to Phnom Penh de-
spite the coup. They said they
thought that the men who de-
posed him would permit him
to return without restricting his
movements there.

Cheng Heng, president of the
National Assembly, named in-
terim chief of state pending
elections, had been acting chief

of state since Sihanouk went to
Paris last January on his an-
nual trip.

Cheng came out of an obscure
civil service background. He
was elected to the National As-
sembly in 1955, re-elected in
1962 and defeated in 1966. He
was secretary of state for agri-
culture from 1960 to 1962.

the new government is thought
to be Gen. Lon Nol, Prime
Minister and chief of the coun-
try's 40,000-man armed forces.
He is described as somewhat to
the right in his politics.

Officials said that the military
co-operation between Cambo-
dian and South Vietnamese
forces this week in attacking
Viet Cong troops along the

border between the two coun-
tries reflected a growing con-
cern by Cambodia over Viet
Cong use of Cambodian terri-
tory.

They said that Sihanouk had
expressed dismay last fall when
he toured the frontier region
and found that Communist
forces had gained a foothold
on Cambodian soil.

WILMINGTON, DEL.
JOURNAL

E - 89,875

MAR 14 1970

Senator and the Prince

SEN. J. WILLIAM Fulbright of Arkansas and Prince Norodom Sihanouk suddenly begin to sound alike. The Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee rejects the assurances of President Nixon that the United States will not become hopelessly entangled in Laos.

The Central Intelligence Agency, says Sen. Fulbright, is subtly and irreversibly creating a new Vietnam in Laos. In Paris, meanwhile, Cambodia's chief of state warns Hanoi and the Viet Cong that unless they respect his nation's neutrality, the CIA and his own army will depose him in a coup d'etat.

Time was when Prince Sihanouk found it much less difficult to be neutral on the side of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong and in opposition to the American presence across the border in South Vietnam. That was before Hanoi's forces and the V.C. so blatantly used Cambodian territory as a haven for hit-and-run assaults into South Vietnam that Prince Sihanouk could no longer ignore it.

This week, Cambodians, unresisted by police, sacked and burned the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front embassies in Phnom Penh and the traveling prince's position became even more difficult. His retention as chief of state may be in question but one suspects that his allusion to the CIA was a convenient device with which to dignify his warning to Hanoi and the NLF.

The intelligence agency is a convenience in the case of Mr. Fulbright, as well. He is one of a group of senators, most of them Democrats, who were in the vanguard complaining that the American people were not being told about Laos. Now that President Nixon has ended his long-acknowledged reluctance to reveal the extent of U.S. involvement in Laos, Sen. Fulbright and his friends are left with a bit less of an issue.

The senator, however, does not give up easily. There is enough U.S. activity in Laos, both in aerial bombing and reconnaissance and in military advisory groups, with which to irritate the nerves of a war-weary public.

There is no question that the American people must be alert to avoid new embroilments of the type the nation is now seeking to end in Vietnam. Insofar as the pressures in Congress and from the news media forced the President to report the extent of U.S. involvement in Laos, public interest has been served.

One wonders now, however, whether Sen. Fulbright's persistence on the issue is still purely a matter of serving public interest. One cannot forget amid this new stridency on Laos that the senator still deplors his own successful campaign for approval of the Tonkin Gulf resolution from which active U.S. involvement in Vietnam really sprang.

Is Sen. Fulbright really fearful that Laos will become a new Vietnam or is he still doing penance for the original?

SIHANOUK ISSUES WARNING TO REDS

Says Their Choice Is Neutral
Cambodia or Rightist Coup

By JOHN L. HESS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, March 12 — Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today that the Communists had a choice between respecting Cambodia's neutrality or seeing pro-American rightists take over his Government.

The Cambodian chief of state posed this alternative in a television interview on the eve of his departure for home by way of Moscow and Peking, to face the crisis posed by the sacking yesterday of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong embassies in the Cambodian capital, Phnompenh.

Speaking in a calm tone, the Prince said:

"If I do not obtain satisfaction that the Communists will respect Cambodia's neutrality, then I will resign. A showdown between the extreme right wing and myself is most probable."

"A coup d'état is possible, unless I step down before they depose me. Everything is possible. I may be beaten. I do not like civil war. I do not want to see bloodshed among my compatriots."

Prince Sihanouk specifically raised the possibility that Gen. Lon Nol, commander of the armed forces, might lead a coup.

Many of his army officers, Prince Sihanouk said, not only are naturally right wing but also "are nostalgic about American aid, which would enable them to lead an easy life."

"The Americans are inside the castle walls — that is, inside our homes," he said. He expressed certainty that right-wing leaders in the parliament and in his government had established contact with the United States, "whether through the embassy, the C.I.A. or any such like organization, I do not know."

He declared that if the right wing took power, "at

best Cambodia would be a second Thailand and at worst it would be a second Laos or South Vietnam."

"I do not want to see that happen," he said.

'Imperialists' Are Blamed

Earlier, at the Paris peace talks, a spokesman for the Vietcong agreed with Prince Sihanouk's declaration yesterday that the Phnompenh events were a plot "to throw Cambodia into the arms of an imperialist capitalist power."

The spokesman asserted that it was American and Thai agents, not the Vietcong, that had "attacked the neutrality and sovereignty of Cambodia for more than 15 years."

Nguyen Minh Vy, representing North Vietnam, told the meeting that the Nixon Administration was developing "another Vietnam" in Laos.

The Chief of the United States delegation, Philip C. Habib, spoke six times during the session, demanding that the Vietcong give their prisoners the right to send and receive mail. The other side replied that he was trying to downgrade the conference.

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STATINT

Cambodian Regime Probably Backed Anti-Communist Attack

By Stanley Karnow

Washington Post Foreign Service

HONG KONG, March 11

The major assault by youths against the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front embassies in Phnom Penh today appears to reflect a radical change from Cambodia's formerly close links with the Vietnamese Communists.

The demonstrations, undoubtedly organized with government sanction, represent growing Cambodian indignation against the virtual occupation of parts of the country by North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops.

That the attacks against the Communist legations occurred during Prince Norodom Sihanouk's absence from Cambodia may also indicate open opposition to the chief of state, who has consistently favored friendly ties with Hanoi and the Vietcong.

Sihanouk is now in Paris following medical treatment in southern France for obesity and high blood pressure. A relative, Siso-

wath Sirik Matak, has been in charge of the government since Sihanouk's departure in January.

According to an official government statement, the Phnom Penh demonstration followed recent rallies in Svay Rieng Province which demanded that the Vietcong quit Cambodian territory.

The Council of Ministers has taken note of the wishes of the demonstrators and considers their actions "worthy of praise," the statement said. "The destiny of the country is at stake," it added.

The extent of Vietnamese Communist infiltration was disclosed last month by Oeur Traluch, a member of Cambodia's National Assembly, who claimed to have investigated the situation.

Estimate of 60,000

Speaking at a National Assembly session, Traluch estimated that as many as 60,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops were inside Cambodia.

In Paris yesterday, Sihanouk said the number had decreased from a November estimate of 40,000. He said that despite occasional clashes between Cambodian and Communist troops his country maintained "harmonious diplomatic relations" with North Vietnam and the Vietcong.

Traluch said the Communists occupied two-thirds of northeastern Ratanakiri Province, adjacent to the South Vietnamese highlands, and operated as well in Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kampot and Kandal provinces.

"Despite their professions of sincere support," Traluch said, "our foreign friends have deliberately nibbled away at our national territory."

The Cambodian deputy further alleged that the Communists in Ratanakiri Province had built houses and planted crops "as if this were their own country." He also accused them of mobilizing the Khmer Leu, local

mountain tribesmen, to fight the Cambodian army.

A common Communist tactic, Traluch went on, is to open fire across the border at allied forces in South Vietnam and then flee, leaving Cambodian frontier villages exposed to retaliatory shellings.

"Therefore," he said, "The Vietcong provoke the Americans to bomb our Cambodian troops, who are not always strong enough to resist such attacks and must consequently abandon their border posts, which the Communists then occupy."

Traluch implied that weapons distributed to Cambodian self-defense and militia forces were sold to the Communists, thereby leav-

ing the frontier zones unprotected.

Describing their activities in Phnom Penh, the deputy said that Communists were training Vietnamese students and taxing Vietnamese merchants in the capital. About a half million Vietnamese live in Cambodia.

He also alleged that pretty Vietnamese girls were being recruited as spies to gain intelligence from high-ranking Cambodian army officers.

Though the Cambodian government sells rice and other foodstuffs to the National Liberation Front under a formal trade agreement, Traluch and other Assembly members have contended that smuggling to the Communists has reached large proportions.

Much of the smuggling is reported to be going on with the connivance of Cambodian officials and army officers stationed in the frontier provinces.

In an unusual move last month, the Phnom Penh authorities began examining diplomatic pouches in an apparent effort to block counterfeit Cambodian currency from being introduced into the country.

Cambodian officials privately expressed the belief that fake banknotes were being brought in by the North Vietnamese, Vietcong and Communist Chinese legations to finance local Communist activities.

While he consistently affirms his support for the Communist cause in Vietnam, Sihanouk has become increasingly alarmed at the pervasive North Vietnamese and Vietcong presence in Cambodia.

The First Stone

Last spring, after a trip to the northeastern provinces adjoining Vietnam, he returned to Phnom Penh and publicly denounced the Viet-

were violating Cambodian territory. Soon afterwards, Cambodian Foreign Minister Norodom Phurissara called in the North Vietnamese and Vietcong envoys in the capital and accused their troops of both occupying Cambodian soil and backing left-wing elements opposed to the government.

The diplomats denied the charges and reasserted their respect for Cambodian sovereignty, adding that the Vietnamese seen inside Cambodia were actually Saigon troops functioning under CIA orders "to destroy Cambodian-Vietnamese friendship."

Unconvinced by this explanation, Premier Lon Nol told a press conference in October that some 40,000 Communist soldiers were then "implanted" inside Cambodia.

According to Lon Nol, who is also the highest-ranking Cambodian army general, about 17,000 Communists were in the sparsely populated northeastern provinces of Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri and roughly 19,000 were in the densely populated frontier zone adjoining South Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

The premier asserted later that the Vietnamese Communists had also set up four camps to train so-called Red Khmers, left-wing Cambodian insurgents. These rebels have been especially active in western Battambang Province adjacent to Thailand.

Small Army

Most sources agree that the Cambodian army, numbering only about 35,000 men, is incapable of coping with the Vietnamese Communists inside the country.

Poorly equipped, especially since Sihanouk's rejection of U.S. economic and military aid in 1963, the army is reported to be heavily involved in corruption in order to subsist.

In the estimation of some

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'Terminated' Agent

By Murrey Marder

Washington Post Staff Writer

"WE WERE JUST sitting, talking . . . The next thing I knew, the car swerved, the windshield was shattered, glass fell out; Jimmy was leaning forward, he had blood coming out of his nose and mouth, and he looked like he was dead."

Inchin Hia Lam, whose code name was "Jimmy," was indeed killed, a fact that effectively terminated his service as interpreter for a secret operation of the U.S. Special Forces (Green Berets). An official "termination" order had been issued shortly before his death, but the intended method of separation was dismissal, not execution.

Sitting beside Lam when he died on the front seat of an automobile traveling along a South Vietnamese highway was Green Beret Capt. John J. McCarthy Jr., who had been assigned to carry out the dismissal. His pistol, a snub-nosed .38-caliber Smith and Wesson, discharged at about the time that "a projectile entered the back of the head of the victim just within the hairline . . . and exited from between his lips . . ."

Capt. McCarthy said his firing was accidental and only coincidental with Lam's death. An Army medical examiner testified at McCarthy's court-martial that the projectile which killed the victim was a .22-caliber bullet, not a .38. McCarthy nevertheless was convicted of premeditated murder.

The incident could have come from the imagination of a Graham Greene or a John Le Carre. But it really took place—on Nov. 24, 1967—and it could produce international travail for the U.S. government if McCarthy's defense attorneys succeed in convincing the Army's Court of Military Review that their client should have had an open trial before a civilian court.

Capt. McCarthy, 27 and the father of three, is free pending appeal from what originally was a life sentence at hard labor but since has been reduced to 20 years.

While comparatively obscure, the McCarthy case carries a larger potential for international complications than the celebrated Green Beret case last year, in which Special Forces Col. Robert B. Rheault and seven co-defendants were accused of murdering a South Vietnamese who was a suspected double agent.

To avoid exposure of Central Intelligence Agency operations, the

of national security, the Nixon administration dropped prosecution of Rheault and his subordinates. McCarthy's attorneys have proposed the same remedy as an alternative to the public retrial they seek.

But the Rheault case never reached court, and the McCarthy case already has. Despite censorship of the record, it provides a rare public glimpse of clandestine U.S. operations in Southeast Asia.

What makes the McCarthy case more prickly from an intelligence-diplomatic standpoint for the United States is the fact that Lam was a Cambodian, not a South Vietnamese. Lam also was a member of the Khmer Serai (Free Cambodia), a small, now-disorganized secret society that aspired to overthrow the Cambodian government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Lam had worked for the Green Berets from about 1965. When he was slain, he was working for a clandestine mission code-named "Project Cherry," headed by Capt. McCarthy. The captain's public assignment was Detachment B-57, Fifth Special Forces Group. (The same detachment was involved in the Rheault case.)

Whether Lam was hired just because he was a Cambodian or whether the fact that he was a Khmer Serai had a bearing is not ascertainable from the heavily censored version of the trial record which, after considerable prodding, the press can inspect.

Exactly what mission Project Cherry performed also is blanked out on that record, with empty pages marked "secret" or "confidential," and elliptical references to such cloak-and-dagger accoutrements as "safe houses"—secret quarters maintained by intelligence agencies as presumably free from surveillance.

It is common knowledge in South Vietnam, however, that members of the Cambodian minority (estimated at three-quarters of a million to a million people) are employed by the Americans and the South Vietnamese for open and secret work in the war.

The work includes obtaining information about Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces who operate from a "sanctuary" across the border in Cambodia.

The Khmer Serai has long experience in penetrating that border. This secret organization has disintegrated considerably in the last two years, especially since some of its forces openly swung over to support Prince Sihanouk's government. But according to U.S. sources, the Khmer Serai leader, Son Ngoc Thanh, is still active, hiding in South Vietnam.

Haunt U.S.

The Khmer Serai is characterized as usually having operated from an opportunistic position to the right of Sihanouk, although its leader is said to have cooperated with the Communist-led Vietminh before 1954, when Cambodia was still part of French Indochina. The more important opposition to Prince Sihanouk in Cambodia is the Khmer Rouge (Cambodian Reds), who cooperate with Communist Vietnamese forces.

Sihanouk's Charges

BEFORE THE Khmer Serai fragmented, Prince Sihanouk repeatedly charged that the American CIA was colluding with the Khmer Serai, Thailand, South Vietnam and other "enemies" of his regime.

A typical Sihanouk charge came in 1967, the year of Lam's "termination": "The Khmer Serai, Americans, Vietnamese, Thai and South Koreans have joined forces in attacking us . . ." Another: "The Central Intelligence Agency has been able to bribe . . . two high-ranking officers of the Khmer (Cambodian) Armed Forces who have considerable deposits in a Swiss bank" for "starting a coup d'etat against Sihanouk . . ."

A State Department spokesman issued a denial last month that was prefaced by the Lam-told formulation often employed in refuting allegations concerning CIA activities: "I'm informed that the U.S. Government has never assisted or cooperated with the Khmer Serai movement."

In the early 1960s, Prince Sihanouk's relations with the United States were strained to near-breaking point over his allegations against the CIA. He invoked those charges as justification for rejecting U.S. aid. Then, in 1965, Cambodia broke diplomatic relations, primarily on grounds that U.S. forces were violating the Cambodian-South Vietnamese border.

In that period, Sihanouk, who balances precariously between East and West to preserve his neutral nation, expected the Vietnamese Communists to win the war in South Vietnam—which they were doing. When the tide of war shifted, so did Sihanouk, openly declaring he was "caught between the hammer and the anvil." Last summer, the United States succeeded in re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cambodia.

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U.S. renews bombing of North Vietnamese

Daily World Foreign Department

Waves of U.S. bombers attacked the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on Wednesday, the DRV charged, and three U.S. planes were shot down over Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces.

Colonel Ha Van Lau, deputy DRV negotiator, just before entering Thursday's session of the Paris peace talks, said he would deliver a stiff protest to the U.S. side "against this very serious act of war."

In a Thursday broadcast, the DRV's Radio Hanoi said: "The Americans blatantly sent numerous aircraft to violate the air space of the DRV, dropping bombs and machine-gunning populated areas west of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces."

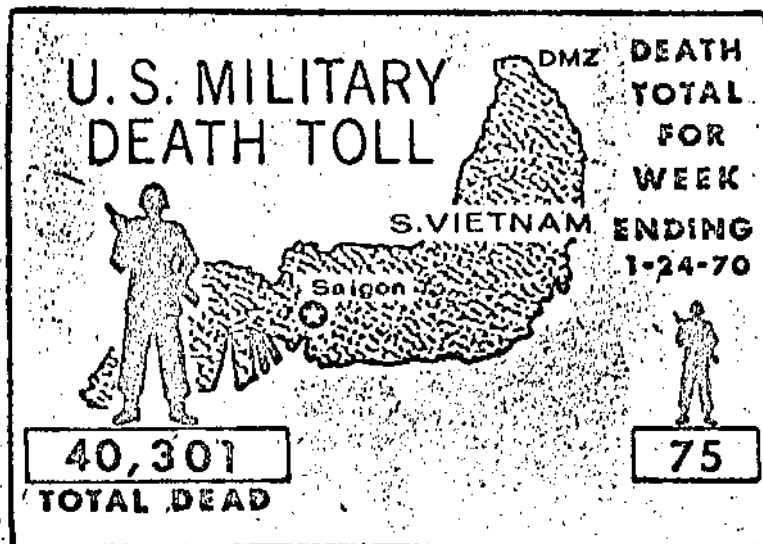
DRV anti-aircraft fire knocked down three planes and damaged others, Radio Hanoi reported.

U.S. sources in the Saigon military command reported that on Wednesday, MIG jet fighters shot down a U.S. rescue helicopter which was trying to pick up two American pilots "near the Laos-North Vietnamese border." The U.S. airmen's plane, an F-105 Thunderchief based in Thailand, earlier had been shot down by what the U.S. command called "Communist gunfire."

In Saigon, meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy and the Saigon government disclaimed any involvement in the U.S. military command's attempt to infiltrate the Saigon press corps with military intelligence agents.

The two agents, Howard Hethcox and William T. Tucker, posed as newsmen and were issued press cards by the U.S. command. The agents were identified by the Defense Department as members of the army's Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

The CID generally handles actual criminal cases (theft, murder, etc.) involving army personnel. But the two agents' mission was to uncover American newsmen's sources of information in South Vietnam. This would appear to place the mission within the province of the army Counter-Intelligence Group (CIG).



the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

"This is an amazing thing for me to learn about," a Saigon regime spokesman insisted, adding he knew nothing about any such case. "We have mutual understanding and cooperation with the U.S. Command," he said.

Later, the U.S. command in Saigon announced it had revoked the press credentials of two Saigon government agents who similarly had tried to infiltrate the corps of U.S. and foreign newsmen, on the same mission as their U.S. counterparts. These events follow on the heels of sweeping repression unleashed by the Thieu-Ky clique against Saigon opposition forces.

CIA front in Cambodia

This week, motions filed by defense lawyers before the Military Court of Review in Washington revealed that the CIA and U.S. "Special Forces" used the so-called "Free Cambodia" (Khmer Serei) movement for secret operations in Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam. The sworn testimony was given at the 1968 trial of Green Beret Captain John J.

McCarthy, Jr.

McCarthy was convicted at the 1968 court-martial of killing a Cambodian agent who was a member of the "Khmer Serei" and also a member of Detachment B-57, Fifth Special Forces Group, based in Nhatrang, South Vietnam.

The McCarthy case recalled the arrest last year of eight "Green Beret" officers, including the commander of the Fifth Special Forces Group, on charges of having murdered one of their South Vietnamese agents.

Trial records disclose that when Capt. McCarthy was asked what the "Khmer Serei" was, he replied that it "is an organization which plans the political overthrow of the Cambodian government." McCarthy said that a U.S. government intelligence agency, whose name he did not reveal, was engaged in the same type of operations in Cambodia as the Special Forces.

So far as is known, the Daily World was the first U.S. newspaper to charge, nearly a year ago, that the "Khmer Serei" was a front for the CIA.