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1-67 Cms

Vietcong-Cambodian Pact Reported Ready

By Jack Foisie

Los Angeles Times

1/1/67

BANGKOK, Dec. 31—Prince Sihanouk, Prime Minister of Cambodia, has agreed to a mutual assistance pact with Communist Vietcong forces in South Vietnam in the event they should win the war there, it was asserted here yesterday.

Louis Lomax, Los Angeles television newsmen, said he was told of this understanding while in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh three days ago awaiting final approval to go to Hanoi, the North Vietnamese capital, whose leaders direct all Communist forces in the war.

Lomax, who has since returned here to await further instructions, said his informant about the understanding was Phan Van Quang, a representative of the National Liberation Front, the political arm of the Vietcong.

Lomax said Quang told him the agreement in principle (but apparently yet unsigned) included these provisions:

In the event of a Vietcong victory, the sizable Cambodian minority living in the Delta area of South Vietnam are to be represented in a Communist government.

Cambodia will, in return recognize Communist South Vietnam's claim to Phuquoc, a large island offshore near the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

The island is now part of South Vietnam but the present Saigon government's right to it is disputed by Cambodia.

Also, the understanding

calls for a joint defense pact between a Communist government in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Lomax has tentative approval from Hanoi officials to spend two weeks as guest of the North Vietnamese government. He has his American passport validated by the U.S. state department allowing him to do so.

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WP 10 May 69
**NLF Opens
Embassy in
Cambodia**

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, May 9 (AP) — The Cambodian Foreign Ministry announced today it has been agreed to raise diplomatic relations with the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front (Vietcong) to embassy level. The NLF has maintained a diplomatic mission in Phnom Penh.

At a new conference later, Nguyen Van Hieu, the NLF representative here, avoided a direct reply to questions about the presence of Vietcong forces in Cambodia. Hieu said only that relations between the NLF and Cambodia are good and could develop even further after the war in South Vietnam ends.

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003578

**PRG Head Makes
Cambodia Visit**

PNOMPENH (AP) —
Huynh Tan Phat, President
of the Provisional Revolution-
ary Government of South
Vietnam, arrived here Mon-
day for an official visit to
Cambodia.

This was his first official
appearance in a foreign coun-
try since the Provisional
Revolutionary Government
was announced.

Phat arrived by helicopter
from Kompong Cham, where
he had been met by Lt. Gen.
Lon Nol, interim Premier of
the Cambodian Government.

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N.L.F.
FILE / SUBJ. X
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Agreement With Vietcong

PNOM 'PENH, Cambodia, May 9 (AP)—The Cambodian Foreign Ministry announced today it had agreed to raise diplomatic relations with the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front, the Vietcong, to embassy level.

N4T

10 May 69

Vietcong Leader Completes Visit to Cambodian Capital

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, July 5 (UPI)—Hynh Tan Phat, head of the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government for South Vietnam, completed a six-day visit to Cambodia today and apparently headed back to Vietcong headquarters.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian chief of state, saw Mr. Phat off at the airport. The Vietcong leader boarded a Cambodian military helicopter, which flew to an area near the South Vietnamese border. Mr. Phat and Prince Sihanouk conferred for about six hours, but no details on the talks were made available.

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NYT

V/CAMB

U.S. and Cambodia

The Sihanouk Weathervane Turns West

WASHINGTON — To veteran diplomats, Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk has long been one of the most reliable bellwethers of prevailing political winds in Southeast Asia. With a skill that has often exasperated, occasionally entertained, and always impressed much larger powers, the mercurial Prince has pursued a zigzag course, deftly playing off Peking, Washington, Hanoi and Saigon to suit his own needs.

His constant objective has been Cambodia's—and his own—survival. For Prince Sihanouk is haunted by the fear that his small kingdom will be engulfed by its more warlike neighbors in Vietnam or Thailand, or sacrificed in the ideological clash between Peking and Washington.

An Indicator

Cambodia's survival has rested, in large measure, on Prince Sihanouk's ability to pick the likely winner in the mortal combat swirling around him. The twists and turns in his foreign policy thus reflect his appraisal of the fortunes of the region—and are hence taken as an indicator of what shrewd Asian neutrals think about the outcome of the Vietnam war.

Small wonder, then, that some

American officials last week took comfort that Prince Sihanouk wanted to resume diplomatic relations with the United States and had sharp words of criticism for Hanoi and the Vietcong. Although the Prince stuck to his basic neutralist posture, his latest moves were taken as a sign that he evidently thought allied prospects were improving.

Back in 1965, the Sihanouk weathervane was pointing the other way. With the Vietcong then seemingly on the verge of victory over a faltering Saigon, the Prince broke diplomatic relations with the United States and proclaimed Communist China as Cambodia's "No. 1 friend."

He accused American forces in Vietnam of arrogantly violating Cambodia's frontiers and he disingenuously denied that the Vietcong were hiding troops on Cambodian soil.

By 1967 Prince Sihanouk was hedging his bets. Evidently it looked like a long war to him. The North Vietnamese and Vietcong were no longer as discreet and inconspicuous about using Cambodia territory. But his own armed forces were too weak to do anything about it; they had

problems enough trying to cope with Cambodian Communist rebels stirring in the countryside.

In recent weeks, his tune has really changed. He has taken to warning that Communist "provocations will only push us into the other camp." Apparently very worried at the security threat posed by tens of thousands of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops in Cambodia, Prince Sihanouk has told his people that these Communist forces have set up "staffs, bases, hospitals, depots and rest centers" in Cambodia.

Passed the Word

Privately he passed the word to Washington through the Philippine Embassy that he understood that in wartime some allied incursions from Vietnam were inevitable. And he acknowledged that Cambodia's disputed border with Saigon was poorly marked in spots.

With Prince Sihanouk is such a mood, Washington saw advantages in improving relations: encouraging his new line would increase international pressures on Hanoi to pull its troops back home. The Nixon Administration decided to recognize publicly Cambodia's territorial integrity "within its present frontiers"—

something the Prince had always wanted to bolster his territorial claims against Vietnam and Thailand.

These soothing words moved Prince Sihanouk to action. On Wednesday, he announced he would soon reopen relations with Washington and said this would let him "play a new card since Asian Communists are already attacking us before the end of the Vietnam war."

The Prince, however, still supports the Vietcong politically and has snubbed an effort from Saigon to discuss their longstanding border dispute. But his position is more genuinely neutral than previously.

The reasons are not hard to find. The outcome of the war evidently looks more uncertain than ever before, and in a real compromise settlement, Prince Sihanouk calculates that it would pay to have some credit in Washington.

Support from West

In the long run, if the Paris negotiations succeed, Prince Sihanouk will want diplomatic support from the West for getting North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops to quit his territory.

—HEDRICK SMITH

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to the Editor

Cambodia and Viet Cong Supplies

SIR: Your newspaper of December 19, 1969, published an article by William F. Buckley, Jr., under the headline, "North Vietnamization of the War" in which he said, and I quote: "... In fact, a great deal of material laps into the port of Sihanoukville in Cambodia. ..."

I must oppose a most categorical denial to this unfounded accusation, the aim of which is to discredit the neutrality of Cambodia. Also, this article could mislead the minds of your readers who are not aware of our neutral policy.

As fact, all international observers of good faith and members of the International Control Commission, including Americans, in Cambodia have affirmed very often, after numerous inquiries, that the port of Sihanoukville has never served as transit port for material supplies for Viet Cong forces.

On the other hand, Cambodia has no interest in favoring Viet Cong to transport its arms across her territory in order to avoid jeopardizing her policy of strict neutrality and non-interference in the other countries' affairs.

Thay Sok,
Charge d'Affaires,
Embassy of Cambodia.