

EXPRESS NEWS

MARCH 19, 1973

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* CAMBODIANS CELEBRATE 3RD ANNIV. OF OVERTHROW OF SIHANOUK

Phnom Penh, March 19 (CNA-UPI): The people of Phnom Penh sang and danced in the streets Sunday, to celebrate the third anniversary of the overthrow of Prince Norodom Sihanouk as Cambodian chief of state.

Already forgotten were Saturday's one-man air attack on the Presidential Palace, which killed 27 persons and injured 40, Sunday morning's Communist rocket attack on the capital, the suspension of most civil liberties and the closure of the non-government press.

Traditional theater groups, opera singers, orchestras and dance troupes performed throughout the city to big crowds, mostly of young people. The older ones were hardly aware of the significance of the day, and too concerned with the cost of living to want to celebrate.

President Lon Nol, target of the T28 attack on the Chamcar Mon Palace by a son-in-law of Sihanouk, canceled official appointments Sunday and stayed inside the palace. He did, however, receive several hundred Buddhist monks and offered them the traditional gift of food as in the olden days when Buddhist monarchs ruled throughout Southeast Asia.

Lon Nol ordered all local Cambodian newspapers suspended as part of the state of siege, leaving only government papers and a French-language daily publishing. He also suspended most constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties, including the freedoms of thought expression, assembly and the rights to privacy and protection from illegal entry.

KHMER ORDERS ARRESTS OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF SIHANOUK

Phnom Pehn, March 18 (CNA-AP): Cambodia's government, investigating the aerial bombing which almost hit President Lon Nol's palace, ordered Sunday the arrests of several members of the family of ousted head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Army Chief of Staff Sosthene Fernandez issued warrants for Prince Norodom Chakapoung, Sihanouk's son and presently an air force captain; Princess Botum Bopha, reported common-law wife of the pilot who hijacked a plane Saturday and bombed the palace grounds; Prince Ho Nireth, an uncle of Sihanouk; Prince Sisowath Virya, another uncle, and Prince Norodom Kantol, a former premier and foreign minister during Sihanouk's rule.

Sihanouk now heads a Cambodian government in exile in Peiping.

The government also has prohibited all Cambodian nations and foreign nationals with resident visas from leaving the country except for diplomats.

The pilot who hijacked a Cambodian Air Force T28 plane Saturday and dropped one bomb within 20 yards of Lon Nol's palace has been identified as Air Force Capt. So Patra. Lon Nol claimed in a radio broadcast that he was "bribed by the enemy to kill me."
