



LON NOL: KHMER TO FIGHT AGAINST RED INVASION ALONE

Bangkok, Aug. 24 (CNA): Cambodia will fight against the invasion of the Indo-Chinese Communists alone, but will ask for assistance from important international establishments should the situation in Cambodia deteriorate, President Lon Nol told a group of visiting Thai journalists recently.

President Lon Nol urged the world to witness the invasion inside Cambodia and termed it the dirtiest invasion of Indo-Chinese Communists of the 20th century.

He made it clear that Hanoi was the leader in the Cambodian conflict and said it continued to stage hostile acts against Cambodian villagers, continuing to destroy property even after the U.S. bombing halt.

The President charged that the invasion violated the Paris Agreement and 1954 Geneva Accords.

Meanwhile, Cambodian Foreign Minister Long Boret told the Thai reporters that the Khmer Rouge were only using the name of the deposed Sihanouk.

"The world has misunderstood the true situation in Cambodia, especially the role played by Sihanouk. The Khmer Rouge has no purpose whatever in inviting Sihanouk to become their leader," he said.

The foreign minister vigorously denied reports spreading in Bangkok that high-ranking officials in the government of Khmer Republic are preparing for the return of the deposed Sihanouk.

Long Boret said: "The government of Khmer Republic would ask Thailand to help settle the conflict through political assistance outside Cambodia for a complete withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops."

No Thai Troops to Khmer

Bangkok, Aug. 24 (CNA): Deputy Prime Minister Field Marshal Prepass has confirmed that Thailand will not send any troops into Cambodia to help fight the Communists.

He made the comment on reports from Phnom Penh that the Cambodian government will seek Thailand military assistance if the situation deteriorates.

"The cabinet has made the decision that Thailand will not send any troops outside the country, mercenaries and volunteers included," he said.

This means that Thais with Cambodian nationality who have become volunteers in Cambodia, will face punishment if they ever return to Thailand.

He said the war refugees would be treated on a temporary basis and that the government officials should try and move them out of Thailand as soon as they have been taken care of to avoid further problems.
