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# Sihanouk Says Mao Offers Him Arms to Regain Power

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PARIS (AP) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Saturday Mao Tse-tung has promised Red Chinese arms and financial backing to topple the Cambodian government that ousted him in March.

In an interview recorded in Peking by the French-owned Radio Luxembourg, Sihanouk expressed confidence of victory but showed concern because the

Soviet Union has not recognized his exile government.

His interviewer, Ahmed Miske, said Sihanouk and his family live in a large residence in a section of Peking reserved for high foreign dignitaries.

"Chairman Mao Tse-tung was kind enough to receive me," Sihanouk said. "He told me, 'We will lend you the money you need for your diplomacy and

your affairs of state. But where arms are concerned, we are not in the habit of playing the role of arms merchants. We cannot sell you any arms. We will give them to you. And their transportation (to Cambodia) will also be free of charge.'"

With the help of Chinese aid, Sihanouk added: "We hope to recover Phnom Penh in the not too distant future. It is a question of holding out for one year, two years, three years at the most. We can repay the loan after the victory."

Sihanouk made no reference to "Chinese people's volunteers," which Chau Seng, one of his ministers, said in Paris Friday might be deployed against the Americans and South Vietnamese in Cambodia.

Sihanouk said he believed the Soviet Union has refused to recognize his government because it is based in Peking.

He said he had urged Chou to land him on the Cambodian coast or to take him into Cambodia along the Ho Chi Minh trail through Laos, but even his own exile government vetoed the idea.