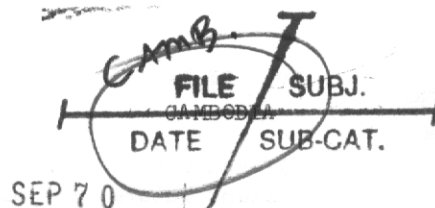


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AFP CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS PRINCE SIHANOUK IN PEKING

On Armed Forces

Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 26 Sep 70 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Peking, 26 Sep (AFP)--By Pierre Comparet--Prince Norodom Sihanouk told AFP here today that he will have 30,000 under arms by the end of this year. It was the first time that the Prince has made an estimate in numbers of the forces fighting for the United National Front of Cambodia in Cambodia.

"Our forces will be made up of three divisions of regular troops forming the National Liberation Armed Forces proper and 10,000 militia men," Prince Sihanouk said during an interview at his residence here. "Our regular troops are entirely equipped by China, including heavy equipment, and our militia are equipped by (North) Korea," he said. "The rainy season was marked by intensive work training combat units and political and administrative training and emplacement," the Prince said.

He showed me a map of Cambodia on which a good two-thirds of the country was coloured ochre to indicate "liberated areas." The map indicates that the Phnom Penh government only controls, besides the capital, one quite important area stretching the length of Lake Tonle Sap from the Pursat region to the Thai frontier and continuing in the direction of Laos the length of the frontier. Between the ochre coloured areas and the other, black coloured ones, stretch cross hatched disputed areas indicating the main routes linking Phnom Penh to Saigon, Sihanoukville and Bangkok.

"The roads are fiercely defended by Lon Nol to avoid the suffocation of the capital," Prince Sihanouk commented. "The crosshatched areas will be the stakes in the next fighting," he said. "We are now going to link up the ochre zones to each other." All the northeast half of Cambodia was ochre coloured, as were four separated areas in the rest of the country.

"We will not touch Phnom Penh itself this year," Prince Sihanouk said, "but you will see, next year the capital will not be tranquil. In all the areas we liberate, we hold elections and apply the principles of popular power," he said.

"Our political and administrative emplacements follow our military progress," the Prince continued. "People's committees are elected at village, district and provincial level. People's courts are established. The owners are dispossessed and their goods distributed to the poor," he said. "There are no more land owners, no more usurpers, no more officials," he went on. "Management is provided by the village, district and provincial people's committees," he said. "Once the people have tasted popular power, Lon Nol has lost them."

Referring to the Lon Nol government casualty figures, Prince Sihanouk said with a laugh, "Lon Nol claims to have [words indistinct] killed or wounded of his adversaries in 6 months. Since he is so strong, Nixon has only to 'Lon Nolize' the Indochina war to win it." The Prince was referring to American President Nixon's policy of "Vietnamizing" the war in Vietnam.

Peking radio today broadcast an appeal by Prince Sihanouk to help sweep the Lon Nol regime out of Phnom Penh, to stop being so "inactive" and "egoistic."

"If you prefer to sit back with arms folded, you should be aware that in the not too distant future, the misfortunes, sufferings and catastrophies inflicted on the provinces by Lon Nol's clique will surely fall on yourselves (even in) Phnom Penh," the Prince warned. It was his bluntest message to the Cambodian people and dated Sept 24.

'Red Khmer' Government

Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 25 Sep 70 C (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Peking 25 Sep (AFP)--By Pierre Comparet--Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today that the majority of the Royal Cambodian National Union Government is now Red Khmer, and the power already belongs to the Cambodian Communist Party. The Prince, receiving me at his residence here, was commenting on the recent broadening of his Royal Government. The original 12-member cabinet formed in Peking last May 5 included three "Red Khmer" ministers, notably Khieu Samphan, the defense minister who was (also named vice-premier last Aug 21.

At Mr Samphan's suggestion, seven vice-ministers have just entered the Royal Government. "They are not Sihanoukists, they are all Red Khmers," Prince Sihanouk said, distinguishing more clearly than ever between "Sihanoukists" and "Red Khmers." The seven vice-ministers correspond in theory to seven ministers (?based in) Peking, but "it is the vice-ministers who really govern, not those who are here," Prince Sihanouk said.

Sihanouk added: "A circular signed by Premier Penn Nouth has formally stated that the vice-ministers are real, independent ministers, who are not under the authority of the titular ministers in Peking."

The Prince announced that two ministries which have been based in Peking are soon to be transferred inside Cambodia and be placed under ministers chosen from among the guerrillas. The ministries are those of public works and of justice, now headed respectively by Huot Sambath, former Cambodian representative to the United Nations, and Chea San, the ambassador to the Soviet Union who rallied to Prince Sihanouk following the Cambodian coup d'etat and has remained at his Moscow post ever since. Mr Sambath is to be named ambassador of the Royal Government to Yugoslavia, Sihanouk said.

Prince Sihanouk said: "We have a real government inside Cambodia. Soon, there will remain in Peking only the head of state, the Prime Minister and a few ministers playing mainly a diplomatic role."

Among the latter, two are of special importance: General Duong Sam Ol, minister for military equipment and armament, who is responsible for supplying the guerrillas forces in Cambodia, and General Ngo Hou, minister of health, responsible for supplying medical equipment, who is now on mission in North Korea. There is no doubt that the two new ministers to be named to these posts will also be Red Khmers. Sihanouk said: "I am giving everything to the Red Khmers. They are pure. They will do what is necessary for the people. They are patriots. They will keep Cambodia independent." He added that the Communists had exerted no pressure on him.