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FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SIHANOUK'S REFUSAL TO MEET KISSINGER

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[For an earlier AFP report see p H 1 of the 5 Jul Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT]

[By Rene Flipo]

[Text] Peking, July 5 (AFP)--Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia returned to Peking today after an extended overseas tour and stated that he "absolutely" refused to meet President Nixon's national security adviser Henry Kissinger on his forthcoming visit here.

The prince's words were applauded by Chinese Premier Chou En-lai, who met him on his arrival in the Chinese capital after a tour lasting nearly two months and taking in 11 countries in Africa and Europe. [When] asked "so you refuse to see Kissinger?" Prince Sihanouk replied in English "absolutely".

As Chou En-lai applauded, the prince added: "No room for talks. We cannot accept any compromise. We cannot accept a pax Americana. We are ready to fight until 1976 or 1980 or 1984". At this point, the Chinese premier--who was still clapping--was heard to say in French "bien, bien" (good, good).

Dr. Kissinger is expected to visit Peking early in August, and observers and diplomats are unanimous in linking the journey with Washington's efforts to reach a ceasefire agreement in Cambodia before August 15, the date when the U.S. Congress will in theory cut off all funds for continuing American military operations there.

The prince, who had arrived back in Peking to be greeted with the honours due to a head of state, continued in French: "I proposed to Kissinger that he should see us. I made the proposal two or three times. Now, it's too late". Prince Sihanouk had earlier said that Dr. Kissinger had refused to see him the last time the American emissary was in Peking last February.

He told newsmen: "In any case it's useless to talk, because I know what he will offer us: A compromise or a partition of Cambodia. This is unacceptable. We are absolutely decided to go forward, and to struggle to the end... Even if it takes us 20 years".

The prince, who is president of the United National Front of Cambodia, made a secret visit in March and April this year to the "liberated" zones of Cambodia.

Asked when he thought he would return to Phnom Penh, where he ruled until the military coup d'etat in 1970, Prince Sihanouk replied: "I no longer know anything. With (President) Nixon... We'll end up making war until 1976."

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