

# Cambodian Crisis May Spark Rapprochement Between Soviet, China

## Sihanouk to Stay In Moscow, Peking

AFP

PEKING, March 22—The Cambodian crisis may do more for a rapprochement between Moscow and Peking than has ever been achieved by the five months of Sino-Soviet talks here, observers said today.

The crisis, they said, marked a new episode in the basic problem of whether or not Indo-China was to go Communist.

From this viewpoint, the Cambodian question was of direct concern to Asia's major Socialist Powers, and could be expected to bring a united reply from Moscow, Peking and Hanoi.

### Despite Conflict

The observers said the gravity of the situation was capable of provoking a tactical and circumstantial rapprochement between China and the Soviet Union, despite their latent conflict.

For if the new regime in Cambodia were to win the day, it would mean a setback for the Socialist Powers.

Cambodia's political evolution, however, was only part of the problem. The essential factor was Cambodia's strategic position.

Although theoretically neutral, Cambodia's pre-coup foreign policy favored entente between Cambodia and the Socialist Powers.

This attitude was illustrated by the tolerance accorded Viet Cong troops on Cambodian territory.

Geographically, Cambodia was a choice route for north-south communications in the Indo-China Peninsula.

The danger of the Cambodian coup for the Socialist Powers was that a Bangkok-Phnom Penh-Saigon axis might now be establish-

ed, strongly under United States influence.

Observers here are wondering if the new Cambodian leaders have any clear idea of the forces they would unleash by overthrowing Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

If the answer is that they do, one must conclude that they received solid guarantees beforehand from outside Cambodia.

### Reveals Plans

Prince Sihanouk today revealed that he plans to spend all the time of his exile alternately in Moscow and Peking and that the Chinese and Soviet Governments have agreed to take care of his material needs.

The disclosure that he intends to spend the duration of his exile here and in Moscow confirms for observers the conviction that he has obtained solid support from both.

Details of this support remain unknown, but Prince Sihanouk indicated clearly yesterday that he was counting on Cambodian leaders to provoke the collapse of the new authorities which he described as "inevitable in the near future."

The deposed chief of state appears to have made rapid progress in his political conversations here since his arrival from Moscow on Thursday. The political statement he released yesterday is regarded as an outline of results of these conversations in which Premier Chou En-lai participated.

It is rumored that the Cambodian leader has conferred with Vassili Kuznetsov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister heading Moscow's delegation at Sino-Soviet talks. But he is known to have received French Ambassador Etienne Manach twice.