STANFORD UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES
REFERENCE ROOM
DOES NOT CIRCULATE
AUG 14 1975

ASIAN RECORDER

May 21—27, 1975

Regd. No. D—(c)—92
Vol. XXI No. 21

BURMA

A. **Off-shore Oil Prospects:** Addressing the opening session of the People's Congress in Rangoon on March 10, the Prime Minister, Mr. Sein Wein, said Burma might soon declare a 320-km off-shore economic zone. Arrangements were in hand for a Bill to establish such a zone.

In his report to the Congress, he said that Burma had good exploration prospects for both inland and off-shore sources of oil and that more exploration and a greater extraction of local oil were planned.

He said foreign oil companies had already started off-shore oil exploration and there was a prospect that oil finds could mean Burma could eliminate entirely its need to import foreign oil.

He added that negotiations were being carried out with Bangla Desh for a demarcation of their off-shore and territorial waters and for the establishment of a pillar at the exact junction of the border with both India and Bangla Desh.

(**The Statesman,** Calcutta)

B. **ADB Technical Aid:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved in March a technical assistance grant to Burma for a forest industries project.

This was the Bank's first technical assistance to Burma since it joined the Bank in April, 1973.

The objective of the technical assistance is to carry out an in-depth feasibility study of the forest industry in a selected area of approximately 800,000 acres in Upper Burma and to formulate a specific project, for possible financing by the Bank. The technical assistance will concentrate on the improvement of logging and transport operations and the rehabilitation of sawmilling facilities.

The Government has accorded high priority to the development of the country's forest resources. Next to rice, forest products constitute the second major source of foreign exchange earnings.

Burma's forests cover about 149,000 square miles (57.3 per cent of the total area) and contain approximately 75 per cent of the world's supply of teak, a very valuable and versatile tropical hardwood.

Under the technical assistance, the Bank will provide consultant services in the fields of tropical forestry, mechanized lopping and transportation, sawmilling and forest economics.

(**UN Newsletter**)

[Prev. ref. 9874:BUR:A]

CAMBODIA

SUMMARY: Khmer Rouge Forces Enter Pnom Penh—Prince Norodom Sihanouk On Relations With Khmer Rouge—Mr. Khieu Samphan To Execute Direct Power—World Reactions.

A. **Khmer Rouge Forces Enter Pnom Penh:** Khmer Rouge Forces entered Pnom Penh on April 17 after a 3½-month siege, ending five years of war that had devastated Cambodia, caused uncounted casualties and disrupted the lives of seven million people.

White flags and banners of surrender fluttered from every building and shop in downtown Pnom Penh to welcome the black-uniformed Khmer Rouge Forces.

In a telephone interview from Peking, the Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk was quoted as saying: "There are no words to express my joy at the reports that the Khmer Rouge have liberated Pnom Penh."

Asked by the Japan Broadcasting Corp. if a curfew had been imposed on the city, he said: "No, no. As a matter of fact, people came out into the streets to welcome our forces."

However, Prince Sihanouk, who was ousted five years ago as Head of State and had since served as titular head of the Khmer Rouge Government-in-exile in Peking, indicated that he did not plan to return in the near future.

Tanjug, the Yugoslav news agency, reported a statement from the Prince saying that, while he remained Cambodia's Chief of State, 45-year-old Mr. Khieu Samphan, his Deputy Premier and chief commander of the "armed forces of national unity in Cambodia," would execute direct power in the country along with the Khmer Rouge.

Prince Norodom said he would continue to represent Cambodia abroad and would guarantee Cambodian policies of non-alignment." He said he would return to Pnom Penh "maybe in a couple of days, maybe in a couple of weeks."

He said: "I will work for the good of my country and for realization of full national unity. Besides that, I will devote most of my energy to Cambodia's foreign relations."

He described the victory as "the most beautiful page of Cambodia's history. The victory is also a victory of the Third World countries."

Tass quoted Pnom Penh radio as saying that Gen. Lon Nol, brother of former President Lon Nol, who had left the country several weeks before and was now in Hawaii, had surrendered to the Khmer Rouge with several other leaders of the former **regime.**

Mr. Khieu Samphan entered the capital with his troops and broadcast an appeal for calm. He urged all Government forces to lay down their arms.

The first order given by insurgent spokesmen who took over Pnom Penh radio, was for the surrender of senior officials and for all civil servants and Government functionaries to return to work as usual on the following day.

A radio announcement said: "We enter Pnom Penh as conquerors and we have not come here to speak about peace with the traitors of the Pnom Penh **clique.**"

Meanwhile, the commander of the Khmer Rouge forces in the Pnom Penh area, Gen. Hem Ket Dara, established his headquarters in the Information Ministry building. A Khmer Rouge broadcast invited all "Ministers and Generals who have not run away" to meet at the Ministry to "help formulate measures to restore order."

The broadcast said Khmer Rouge from throughout the country, which

had been 80 to 90-per-cent controlled by them, were heading for Pnom Penh and a committee was being set up "which will include comrades of the United Front and comrades of the National Liberation Front," two of the insurgent factions.

The radio said that the Pnom Penh Government commander, Gen. Chhim Chhuon, and Gen. Lon Nol were the first to surrender.

The formal surrender order was made over the radio by Brig.-Gen. Mey Siehan, **chief of operations of** the defeated Cambodian armed forces. He said soldiers and Government functionaries should cease all combat. Insurgent troops with loudspeakers moved through the streets making appeals for calm.

In Paris, on the same date (April 17), representatives of the Khmer Rouge announced the triumphal entry of their forces into Pnom Penh at 9-30 a.m., Cambodian Time, and hailed "this historic day of national liberation" after a five-year war.

Mr. Chau Seng, special representative of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Politburo member of the Cambodian National Liberation Front (FUNK), and Mr. Ok Sakum, their Paris envoy, gave a news conference to proclaim their "triumphant success."

The formal statement stressed that the new Government would follow a policy of neutrality and non-alignment. "This is not a tactical or temporary policy," Mr. Chau Seng said. "It is a fundamental and strategic position." policy."

Internally, he said, Cambodia would have "a new society, certainly different from the one which preceded the fascist **coup d'etat** of March 18, 1970 (when Marshal Lon Nol declared the deposition of Prince Sihanouk and installed a Republic) and this is irreversible, like it or not."

But, he declared that Prince Sihanouk remained "Chief of State" and would return to Pnom Penh when "circumstances" permit. Mr. Chau Seng praised the "dynamism and competence" of the Prince.

"Things have evolved, everything evolves," he said, referring to the long period before 1970 when Prince Sihanouk and the Khmer Rouge were enemies. He recalled that he was the Prince's Cabinet chief when Marshal Lon Nol was Minister of Defence and charged that Marshal Lon Nol had "fabricated" reports about the Khmer Rouge to turn Prince Sihanouk against them.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Statement:

On April 18, Prince Norodom Sihanouk was quoted in an interview with radio station Europe No. 1 as saying that Pnom Penh was a "bourgeois" stronghold and that the capital had to be "cleaned out."

He said that his return to Cambodia depended on the health of his mother, who was with him in Peking. He said she was close to death and it could be a matter of weeks before he went to Cambodia.

He planned to represent Cambodia at **summit** conferences, take charge of State visits and "help the Khmer Rouge to create a harmonious and perfect national union."

Describing the Khmer Rouge, he said: "They tell me they are not Communists, that they shouldn't be called Marxists either, that they're Cambodians above all; that is, that they want for the country to progress, a popular democracy, and that the people run things. They are certainly Leftists, very Leftist, very much to the Left, but they say it's false to call their **regime** Communist."

World Reactions:

In Moscow, **Tass** said that the Cambodia situation offered "fresh proof" that attempts from outside to "impose **regimes** rejected by the people are, in the long run, doomed to failure."

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said the British Government was closely considering the question of recognition of the new Government.

In Copenhagen, the Danish Foreign Minister, Mr. Knud Andersen told Parliament that, under current policies, Denmark would automatically establish diplomatic relations with the new Government in Cambodia.

The Australian Government recognized the new Government within hours of the fall of Pnom Penh.

The Australian Foreign Affairs Minister, Sen Don Willesee, said in Canberra that there was no point in Australia continuing to recognize the Government of Marshal Lon Nol.

But, the Australian Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr. Andrew Peacock, said in a statement: "Such a cold-blooded agility in adjusting to new circumstances so quickly to switch from recognizing one Government to recognizing another without even pausing to draw breath, appears both opportunistic and callous."

In Tokyo, the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Fumihiko Togo said Japan would recognize the new Cambodian Government at an early date. He said it was Japanese policy to recognize any Government "effectively controlling its land."

The Algerian Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika hailed the fall of Pnom Penh to the Communists.

Iran also recognized the new **regime.**

Informed sources in Laos said the coalition Government would recognize the Government of Prince Norodom Sihanouk very soon.

On April 1, India accorded full diplomatic recognition to the Royal Cambodian Government headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

India's decision was announced in a joint **communique** issued at the end of a visit by the Foreign Minister of the Royal Government, Mr. Sarin Chhak.

Consequently, the **Charge d'Affaires** representing the Pnom Penh **regime** was requested by the External Affairs Ministry to leave the country. The envoy informed the Ministry that he and his three colleagues would soon leave India and close down the mission.

The **communique** added that Mr. Chhak and the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan had agreed to develop bilateral contacts and relations in all fields on the basis of principles of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence.

In Saigon, Opposition politicians said that unless the United States forced President Nguyen Van Thieu out of office, South Viet-Nam might soon be faced with a surrender such as occurred in Cambodia.

The Philippines called for a **summit** meeting of the five-nation Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) following the fall of Pnom Penh to Khmer Rouge forces.

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines said in a statement that such a summit meeting—of Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore—was necessary because of "events in Indo-China as well as other developments in Asia."

He said: "A hard-headed exchange of views on immediate and long-term problems and prospects is unquestionably a high priority for all the nations in the area."

On April 18, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the five countries geographically closest to the turmoil in Indo-China, jointly recognized the new Government of Cambodia.

The five countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines—had agreed to make the announcement jointly, but in their eagerness some advanced it by several hours.