

Supply Trails Cut To Phnom Penh; U.S. Starts Airlift

SAIGON (AP) — The United States began airlifting fuel Tuesday into Cambodia's capital, whose main supply routes have been cut or harassed by Communist command forces.

The airlift was announced by the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh and the Pentagon in Washington. A C130 Hercules transport came in with the first load of fuel in a huge plastic bladder and unloaded it at Phnom Penh's airport.

The Pentagon disclosed that since July, an average of 10 cargo planes daily had been carrying supplies, mostly military, to the Cambodian capital.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry W.

Friedheim declined to give the maximum number of flights in any one day for the new airlift but said, "This is not a major airlift."

In Phnom Penh an embassy spokesman said that without fuel resupply the city would have to shut down electricity generators and water pumps.

Five tankers arrived in Phnom Penh Sunday and Monday after passage up the Communist threatened Mekong River. They added two weeks' supply to the city's reserves, but the government was pessimistic of any more ships making the 60-mile run from the South Vietnamese border.

All major roads to Phnom Penh have been severed for more than three weeks by Khmer Rouge insurgents and their North Vietnamese and Viet Cong allies despite massive U.S. air support for government forces.

In Honolulu, the U.S. Pacific Military Command said American B52s and tactical aircraft operated over Cambodia again Tuesday, but provided no details.

Military sources said the operations were not at the same intensity as the past few days.

It was the 35th straight day the heavy bombers operated over Cambodia.

The announcement of the U.S. airlift followed a visit to Cam-

bodia by President Nixon's special emissary, Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., who is on a four-nation tour to assess the general political, military and economic situation in Indochina.

Communist troops to the south of Phnom Penh are within 12 miles of the city and may launch an offensive Friday to mark the Cambodian new year.

U.S. military observers, however, believe rebel forces lack the strength for a full-scale assault on the capital.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who heads a Cambodian government in exile in Peking, said Monday he has enough arms and ammunition from Communist China

and North Vietnam to go on fighting until 1975.

Sihanouk, who is at least the nominal leader of the rebellion against President Lon Nol's regime in Phnom Penh, was overthrown in a bloodless coup in 1970. Speaking at a banquet in Hanoi to mark his return from a month-long visit to rebel-held areas in Cambodia, Sihanouk claimed his arms were delivered prior to the Jan. 27 Paris peace agreement. Rebel forces control about 75 per cent of Cambodian territory.

The one-time neutralist prince said his army mustered 120,000 men and its field commanders recognized him as Cambodia's only legal head of state.

Western military attaches in Phnom Penh believe Sihanouk's figure of 120,000 is greatly exaggerated. They put the number of Cambodian rebel fighting men at about 40,000. In addition, they claim there are large numbers of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in the country.

A spokesman said all four member nations — Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland — agreed to the move following the crash of a commission helicopter in northern Quang Tri Province. All nine people aboard were killed, including four officers of the commission.

A Canadian investigator claimed the helicopter had been shot down by a heat-seeking missile. He rejected a Viet Cong claim that the crash was an accident.

A second helicopter was forced to land near the crash site after taking sustained ground fire. Its passengers and crew were uninjured but the Canadians claimed the aircraft was in "desperate circumstances."

Canadian Foreign Secretary Mitchell Sharp warned in Ottawa that Canada would withdraw from the peacekeeping body unless conditions "improve very substantially."

LSU Teacher To Give Two Talks Monday

Dr. Dewey K. Carpenter, associate professor of chemistry at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, will present two lectures Monday.

Dr. Carpenter will speak at 4 p.m. in the Chemistry Department on "Scattering Functions of Chain Molecules in the Visible and Low Angle X-ray Region."

He will also speak at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Room 2, Zachry Engineering Center, on "Models of Reality in Science and in Christian Theology." The public-free presentation is sponsored by the Texas A&M Faculty-Staff Christian Fellowship.

Dr. Carpenter, known for his work in the field of polymers, received his Ph.D. from Duke University. He was assistant professor of chemistry at Georgia Tech and a research scientist with Humble Oil Co. before joining the faculty at LSU.

One-Act Play Contest Today

A&M will host Texas Inter-scholastic League regional one-act play competitions Wednesday and Thursday.

Six Region 4B schools will vie for first place and a spot in the state finals on Wednesday. Nine schools of Region 3AA will compete Thursday.

Plays will be staged at the A&M Consolidated High School auditorium, under sponsorship of the Theater Arts Section of TAMU's Department of English.

Competition starts at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday, announced Theater Arts chairman C. K. Esten. Thursday action begins at 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Admission is 50 cents per person.

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