

Rebels receive Chinese tanks

Khmer Rouge plans attack

SIEM REAP PROVINCE, Cambodia (AP) — Bolstered by their first shipments of Chinese tanks, Khmer Rouge guerrillas are preparing a major attack to seize an area considered Cambodia's most important cultural and historic region.

After making major gains in rural areas in the past year, the Khmer Rouge now are shifting to conventional military tactics to seize cities and key economic regions, Western military analysts say.

The rebels recently took the key government artillery base at Sre Noi, and now say they are preparing to attack Bantei Srei, the last major government position defending the provincial capital of Siem Reap and the nearby Angkor Wat temples, the symbol of Cambodian civilization.

The rebels have massed tanks, heavy guns and troops to attack government defenses in this northwestern province, according to field commanders and Khmer Rouge fighters interviewed in the guerrilla zone.

A recent 10-day, 190-mile trek through guerrilla-held area near

Angkor Wat showed the rebels had overrun important positions and moved freely through villages less than an hour's drive from the Siem Reap provincial capital.

"We were ordered to attack Bantei Srei this month and then we will attack Siem Reap," said Bong Thieun, a young Khmer Rouge soldier interviewed at Sre Noi.

Khmer Rouge bulldozers and chainsaws are carving tank and truck roads through the jungles toward Angkor Wat.

"What we see happening in Siem Reap is alarming," said a Western military intelligence analyst. "They are using a strategy different from anywhere else. It looks like a real move to take Siem Reap."

Analysts said the capture of Siem Reap and Angkor Wat would be a major psychological victory.

Thai and Western sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said China's secret delivery of 24 tanks is the first such shipment ever to the guerrillas. Dozens of the Communist rebels have returned to the jungles from China, where they were

trained to operate tanks, they said.

The sources said 12 tanks are at the Khmer Rouge-controlled district capital of Andung Veng, the staging area for the offensive against Siem Reap. The other 12 are near the Khmer Rouge-held town of Pailin in western Battambang province.

The guerrillas also have received scores of Chinese jeeps, transport trucks, and heavy weapons.

The Khmer Rouge has relied on Chinese arms in the nearly 12-year-old war against the Vietnamese-installed government armed by the Soviet Union.

Hundreds of thousands of people died during the Khmer Rouge's fanatical Communist rule from 1975 until Vietnam invaded in late 1978.

Areas of the country's north are under the control of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, whose guerrillas are allied with the Khmer Rouge and a third rebel group. Sihanouk has wide support among peasants, and several thousand of his troops move freely through scores of isolated rural villages.

Koriyama

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hair once he gets back to Japan.

Pointing to a male student sporting a small ponytail, Irumagawa said he wants to grow his hair long so he can have "one of those."

Irumagawa said he also learned the United States is not as dangerous as many Japanese people think.

"I found a new knowledge in America; many Japanese think America is dangerous, but I don't think that's true," Irumagawa said.

He explained that the only knowledge most Japanese have about the United States is through television, which tends to be violent.

Takizawa said a difference he noticed between Japan and the United States is weekends.

"In the United States, the weekend is very exciting — lots of parties," he said, grinning. "In Japan there is nothing like this, the weekends are for playing sports or sleeping."

Tomoe Ono, a freshman chemistry major, said she was surprised to see that clothes U.S. students wear to class are very different from their Japanese counterparts.

If Japanese students saw the jeans and T-shirts most U.S. students wear to class, they'd laugh, Ono said.

She said most Japanese students are very fashion-conscious, spend lots of money on clothes and dress more formally. She said most women wear expensive skirts and blouses to class everyday, and men wear nice pants.

Ono also said she noticed U.S. students have a lot of pride in their University. She said in Japan the students were told that when they go to A&M, certain things upset U.S. students.

Ono formed the infamous "hook 'em horns" sign of the University of Texas at Austin, and said: "I heard if you make this sign, they get very angry."

Maruyama, Irumagawa, Takizawa and Ono agreed they had a great time visiting A&M's College Station campus.

Ono said she did not want to go back to Japan.

"I love Texas A&M University — I promise I will come back here," she said.

Supreme Court adopts Souter despite intense media coverage

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — His presumed ideology has been condemned on all sides, his housekeeping has been derided and his neckties have been likened to dishrags, but David Souter's friends say he is a man content with himself who won't change when he joins the Supreme Court this week.

"Goodness no, that's like saying that Gibraltar could be changed by a rainstorm," said Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., who preceded Souter as state attorney general and sat behind him all through Senate confirmation hearings.

"David Souter's foundations and values have been built over 51

years," Rudman said. "David hasn't changed at all and will not change at all."

The 51-year-old ascetic bachelor's life has been turned upside down in the past few months as he went from a little-known regional jurist to one of the nation's nine most powerful judges.

Liberals and conservatives alike have voiced suspicions that he'll vote against them on abortion, civil rights and other social issues. Journalists have scrutinized everything from his suits to how he'll cope with crime, noise and high real estate prices in the nation's capital.

But friends say he ultimately will be the soft-spoken, even-tempered man he always has been whether he is in Weare, N.H., or Washington, where he moved this weekend to get ready to join the court Tuesday.

"He's in a constant whirl of change, but he will be himself wherever he is.... He is satisfied with who he is," said Concord lawyer Tom Rath, Souter's deputy and successor as attorney general.

Throughout a barrage of public and media scrutiny that began when President Bush nominated him to the court July 23, Souter remained polite, almost courtly, to anyone who begged a minute.

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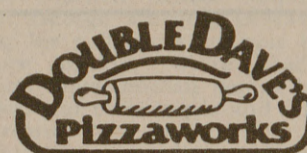
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