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SIHANOUK WARNS COUNTRIES NOT TO WAIT TOO LONG ON RECOGNITION

OW161616 HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH 1659 GMT 16 APR 75

(BY RENE FLIPO)

(TEXT) PEKING, APRIL, 16 (AFP)--PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK OF CAMBODIA HAS WARNED COUNTRIES AGAINST WAITING TOO LONG TO RECOGNIZE HIS ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF CAMBODIA (RGNUC), SCANDINAVIAN SOURCES DISCLOSED HERE TODAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRINCE FORCAST THAT PHNOM PENH WOULD BE IN KHMER ROUGE HANDS WITHIN A WEEK.

PRINCE SIHANOUK MADE HIS COMMENTS, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, TO SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA KAJ BJORK WHEN MR BJORK OFFICIALLY INFORMED HIM THAT SWEDEN HAD RECOGNIZED RGNUC.

DURING THEIR TALKS, THE PRINCE INDICATED THAT RECOGNITION WOULD INVOLVE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES AFTER A CERTAIN TIME. HE CITED THAILAND, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AS EXAMPLES.

ONCE CAMBODIA WAS "LIBERATED," PRINCE SIHANOUK SAID, IT WOULD FOLLOW A POLICY OF TOTAL INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS ITS NEIGHBORS. HE PERSONALLY PLEDGED TO WORK TOWARD "NATIONAL UNITY."

HE ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR OF HIS "BITTERNESS" TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAD GRANTED SUPPORT TO THE REGIME OF MARSHAL LON NOL IN PHNOM PENH.

FOLLOWING THE "LIBERATION" OF CAMBODIA, PRINCE SIHANOUK SAID HE PLANNED SEVERAL TRIPS ABROAD WITH VISITS TO MORE THAN 20 NATIONS.

CAMBODIAN SOURCES HERE SAID, MEANWHILE, AT IRAN'S AMBASSADOR TO CHINA WAS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THIS EVENING THAT IRAN WOULD RECOGNIZE THE RGNUC.

16 APR 1825Z PC/CAJ

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