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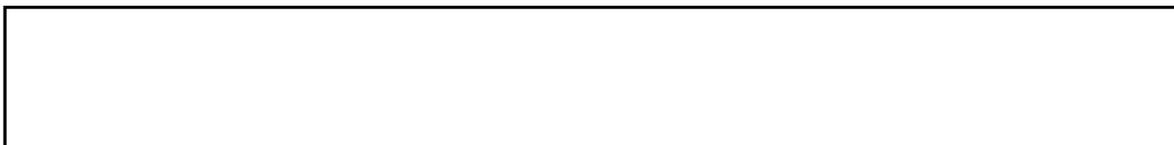
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Cambodia: Vietnamese Communist embassies in Phnom Penh have been sacked and burned. (Page 3)



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C Cambodia: Growing anti-Communist feelings in Phnom Penh have been vented in unprecedented attacks against the Vietnamese Communist embassies in the capital.

Both the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong Provisional Revolutionary Government embassies were sacked and burned by Cambodian students on 11 March. Details are sketchy but the students apparently were acting with the connivance of the government. Before the attacks began, a representative from a quasi-official Cambodian political group told US Embassy officials that demonstrations were planned to protest the Viet Cong presence on Cambodian territory and the forthcoming visit of North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong.

It is possible that rightist elements in Phnom Penh, including Deputy Prime Minister Sirit Matak who has played a major role during Sihanouk's extended absence in France, may have organized the attacks to help undermine what they have long regarded as Sihanouk's leftist leaning foreign policy.

Sihanouk, who is now in Moscow and who plans to visit Peking before returning to Phnom Penh, stated publicly earlier in the week that most Viet Cong troops had departed Cambodia. Nevertheless, he has been castigating the Communists for well over a year, and he is not above allowing demonstrations as a means of underlining Phnom Penh's displeasure, especially before another round of talks on such sensitive issues as the arms flow through Cambodia and the presence of Communist base areas on Cambodian soil.

It seems unlikely, however, that he would go so far as to countenance physical attacks unless he was prepared to accept the cancellation of Pham Van Dong's visit and a sharper deterioration in Cambodia's relations with the Communists.

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