The French government forced Prince Monivong to give Khmer Kandal to Yuon control like the French Government had done 10 years later in Khmer Krom by giving all power to Emperor Boa Dai’s control. Sieng Khoeum said: “Prince Monivong didn’t agree to sign flatly, even though the French intimidated him to be imprisoned.
AFTER Khmer is a good sandwich on silver plate between Siamese and Yuonese from 1432 to 1900 to become a tiny present-Cambodia. When we Khmer victims think back of the glorious pasts, which it makes us all feeling so extremely Nostalgia for a tiny Present-Cambodia, has been brutally raped repeatedly by Khmers’ 6-Formidable-Cancerous-old-Century Hereditary-Enemies-the fugitives of Mongols, Siamese in the West; and the prisoners of Mongols, Yuonese in the East. The biggest blot by the French during their ninety years’ control was their failure to educate the Cambodians. As the French ran all three Indochinese colonies from the Vietnamese cities of Hanoi and Saigon/Prey Nokor, they concentrated on educating the Vietnamese and training them to be officials for not only Vietnam but also Cambodia and Laos. And the French colonialism had also committed so much brutal crime against Khmers during their Reign of Terror from 1863 to 1954 by having inhumane conspiracies with Vietnamese to kill too many Khmer nationalists and compatriots.

It greatly angered Cambodians to have Vietnamese officials running Cambodia’s administration; also the open border between Cambodia and Vietnam that many hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese settlers moved into Cambodia, particularly to the fertile area around the Tonle Sap Lake.

Since we-Khmers are born; we only have known the sufferings and tragedies...etc. We and our ancestors are treated inhumanely by Siamese and Vietnamese over again and again until today. Here came again the French colonialists who brutally oppressed and trampled against Khmers in cold blood for nearly 100 years, with the Japanese Imperialists who also had a bad conspiracy with Siamese to slice up Cambodia into a tiny piece.

Why did French colonialists and Japanese Imperialists have a secret conspiracy with Siamese land plunderers and Yuonese earth eaters like that?

Cambodia's chief official during the French colonial occupation, the only person responsible to the governor general of the Indochinese Union and who was appointed directly by the Ministry of Marine and Colonies in Paris was the colonial official known as the Resident Superieur (Resident General). Residents, or local governor generals, were posted in all the provincial centers, or at that time, Battambang, Pursat, Odong, and Siem Reap. Phnom Penh was under the direct administration of the resident general.

The resident general held considerable power, but the person in the position frequently wanted more. In 1897, the ruling Resident General complained to Paris that the current king of Cambodia, King Norodom was no longer fit to rule and asked for permission to assume the king's powers to collect taxes, issue degrees, and even appoint royal officials and choose crown...
princes. From that time, Norodom and the future kings of Cambodia were figureheads and merely were patrons of the Buddhist religion in Cambodia and viewed as god-kings by the peasant population. All other power was in the hands of the Resident General and the colonial bureaucracy. Nonetheless, this bureaucracy was formed mostly of French officials, and the only Asians freely permitted were ethnic Vietnamese, who were viewed as the dominant Asians in the Indochinese Union.

In 1904, King Norodom died. Rather than pass the throne on to Norodom's sons, the French passed the succession to Norodom's brother Sisowath, who's branch of the royal family was more submissive and less nationalistic to French rule than Norodom’s, who was viewed as the more nationalistic branch of the family. Likewise, Norodom was viewed as responsible for the constant Cambodian revolts against French rule. Another reason was that Norodom’s favorite son, who he wanted to succeed him as king, Prince Yukanthor, had, on one of his trips to Europe, stirred up public opinion about French colonial brutalities in occupied Cambodia.

Meanwhile, the rule of King Sisowath, and his son, King Sisowath Monovang, were peaceful, even though the monarchs were nothing but puppets and pliant instruments of the French. The French acknowledged this by providing the royal family with rations of opium obtained from China. During Sisowath's reign, the French succeeded in getting Thailand's reformist king, King Chulalongkorn, to sign a new treaty in 1907, which returned the north-western provinces of Battambang and Siemreab back to Cambodian rule. In this sense, the Sisowath branch of the family is seen in restoring Cambodian land, even though it all passed under oppressive French colonial rule.

Not long after the French first established an autonomous presence in Cambodia in 1863, the French realized their dream of Cambodia becoming the “Singapore of Indochina” was an illusion and that Cambodia had no hidden wealth. Nonetheless, the French never modernized much economically in Indochina. All they did was collect taxes efficiently, but nothing much changed in the Cambodian village economy.

Industry was merely designed to process raw materials for local use or for export. Immigration into Cambodia was considerable; and Cambodia became quite plural. As in Myanmar and Malaysia, both under British rule, foreigners dominated the work force of the economy. Vietnamese, despite their privileged position, became laborers on rubber plantations. Soon, many Vietnamese immigrants began to play important roles in the colonial economy as fisherman and businessmen. The Chinese had been living in Cambodia for centuries, and they dominated commerce before the French arrival. Under the French, this status quo remained the same, but the French placed restrictions on the Chinese. Nonetheless, Chinese merchants and bankers in Cambodia developed commercial networks that extended throughout Indochina to China as well.

The French succeeded in keeping low literacy rates in Cambodia because the French wanted to stop nationalist currents to spread as they were in Vietnam.
The imperialistic and privileged, educated Vietnamese continued to enjoy favorable positions in Cambodia of Indochina.¹

French colonial control had ensured the survival of the royal family and confirmed the importance of the great official families. It had not developed a system of administration, or a corps of administrators, that could confidently confront the problems of independence. Many third world countries emerging from colonial control shared Cambodia's lack of trained administrators, engineers and doctors. The difficulties caused by lack of personnel should, nonetheless, not be forgotten.

France irresponsible actions caused the then Khmer Prime Minister Chhean Vam to present his resignation to King Norodom Sihanouk, at the Phnom Penh Royal Palace. But worst was that France had indirectly subjugated Khmer Krom for life of their rights to a nation-hood and their dignity as a human race, despite the French how bad the Vietnamese treated Khmer Krom.²

1900

- Jan. 16, 1900, Paul Louis Luce, interim Resident Superior.
- Oct. 05, 1900, Prince Yukunthor visits Paris. The prince, a favored son of king Norodom, travels to France and confronts the French government with a host of the King’s complaints about the French authority in Cambodia. [Learn more about the event - in French]
- 1901, The École Francaise d'Extreme-Orient sends its first mission to record and photograph the bas-reliefs of the Bayon.
- June 03, 1901, Leon Pol Jules Boulloche, Resident Superieur.
- July 17, 1902, Charles Pallier, interim Resident Superieur.
- Feb. 13, 1904, French and Siam sign a treaty establishing the general character of the frontier between Cambodia and Siam (Thailand). A Franco-Siamese Mixed Commission will survey and draw an exact boundary.
- May 25, 1904, King Norodom died. His half-brother, Prince Sisowath, was elected by the Council of Regent and Resident Superieur to succeed the late king. [About Sisowath in French]
- Sept. 25, 1904, Henri Felix de Lamothé, Resident Superieur.
- 1905, The protectorate authorities report that there are seven hundred and fifty pupils attending schools in Phnom Penh and that twenty-nine are princes and twenty-five princesses.
- Aug. 17, 1905, Museum of archaeology was built in Phnom Penh to store the work of l’Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient.
- Dec. 29, 1905, Paul Louis Luce, Resident Superieur.
- 1906, King Norodom's cremation.
- July 01, 1906, King Sisowath visits Paris.

² Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.283
April 01, 1906, Pen Nouth is born. (Prime Minister)
April 27, 1906, Prince Sisowath is crowned king.
Dec. 02, 1906, A Franco-Siamese Mixed Commission, which is established to demarcate the Cambodia-Siam border, agrees at its meeting to travel along the Dangrek ranges for the purpose of demarcation the borderline.
March 23, 1907, France and Siam signs a boundary treaty, in which France relinquish three Cambodian provinces - Battambang, Sisophon and Siem Reap - to Siam.
1908, French census reveals some sixty thousand Vietnamese in Cambodia (60,000); total Cambodian population is less than one million. Prince Monivong, who attended a French military academy, is commissioned as a lieutenant in the French Foreign Legion.
July 01, 1908, Nheou Vises leads a rebellion in Battambang, which lasts for a month
Dec. 07, 1908, Son Ngoc Thanh is born. (Prime Minister)
Feb. 10, 1909, Nheou Vises leads another rebellion.
April 14, 1909, Insurgents attack French Resident Superieur in Kampot. Twenty-three people are killed in the attack.
1911, Alexis Louis Chhun is appointed Yuanreach (Minister of Justice).
July 26, 1911, Paul Louis Luce, Resident Superieur.
Oct. 5, 1911, Son Sann is born. (Prime Minister)
Oct. 8, 1911, Ernest Outray, Resident Superieur.
1912, Penal Code is adopted in Cambodia.
Nov. 13, 1913, Lon Nol was born. (Prime Minister and President)
1914, Sisowath Sirik Matak was born. He had played a significant role in Cambodian politics, especially in the early 1970s.
Banteay Srei (the citadel of women), located about 20km from Angkor, is discovered.
Jan. 2, 1914, Cochinchina governor writes letter to Resident Superieur in Cambodia concerning maritime border between Cochinchina and Cambodia.
March 26, 1914, Xavier Tessareck, interim Resident Superieur.
July 25, 1914, Maurice Le Gallen, interim Resident Superieur.
Nov. 20, 1914, Pali school is established in Phnom Penh.
1916, Prince Mayura, King Norodom's son, is exiled to the remote northern Laotian town of Xieng Khouang; he was suspected of working against the French's rule.
Jan. 6, 1916, the 1916 Affair begins, in which thousands of Cambodian peasants march into Phnom Penh to complain to the king about the taxes and forced labor that are imposed upon them by the French. More than 500 people are arrested and put in prison.

That much took place in rural Cambodia that was hidden from the French was underlined by the so-called 1916 affair. Late in 1915, and increasingly in the early part of 1916, thousands of Cambodian peasants trooped into Phnom Penh to complain to the king about the taxes and corvees they were forced to meet. Once heard by the king, the peasants dispersed and returned to their villages. Despite the large number of participants in the protests, there were only isolated instances of violence, none of which was directed against the French.

Two points stand out in any evaluation of the significance of the affair. First, it first was to the king rather than the French administration that the peasants brought their complaints, and it was on the urging of the king that they returned to their villages. Despite the protectorate's having
been in force for more than five decades, rural Cambodian still saw the king as the source of power within the kingdom. Second, the affair emphasized how little the French administrators in Cambodia knew about what was happening in the rural areas. They had no forewarning of the protests and were never able to pinpoint their immediate cause, let alone connect the events to the actions of particular leaders.3

- 1917, School of Administration is established in Phnom Penh by the French authority to train Cambodian officials.
- 1918, National Museum of Cambodia is opened. Its purpose is to store and exhibit Cambodia's national treasures - stone, bronze, and wooden sculpture. [23]
- April 12, 1919, King Sisowath issues a decree to rename the National Museum of Cambodia to the Musée du Cambodge (Museum of Cambodia). [23]
- Feb. 25, 1920, Civil Code is adopted.
- April 13, 1920, Albert Sarraut Museum is inaugurated in Phnom Penh. The Museum is again renamed from the Museum of Cambodia by a decree issued on April 10 by King Sisowath in honor of the French governor-general of Indochina, Albert Sarraut. [23]
- April 15, 1920, Gaston Rene Georges Maspero, interim Resident Superieur.
- Dec. 6, 1920, Hector Clair Henri Jospeh Letang, interim Resident Superieur.
- April 10, 1922, Victor L'Helgoulch, interim Resident Superieur.
- Oct. 31, 1922, Prince Norodom Sihanouk is born.
- Feb. 14, 1925, France and Siam sign a Treaty of Friendship, which among other things, confirms the frontier between Cambodia and Siam that was demarcated in 1907.
- April 16, 1925, French Resident, Bardez, is killed by angry Khmer peasants at Kampong Chhang.
- Aug. 9, 1927, King Sisowath dies; his son Prince Sisowath Monivong is elected to succeed him.

French officials were conscious that they never been able to sheet home responsibility for the rebellion of 1885-86. The sudden emergence of the 1916 affair remained a mystery to them, just as the murder of residence Bardez in 1925 by an angry group of peasants stunned the French because they had no expectation that violence would occur.4

Over the next fifteen years, quantities of ink flowed in discussions between Paris, Phnom Penh and Hanoi on what to do when Sisowath died. Monivong's star waxed and waned. French officials considered him a man of "of very ordinary intelligence". But he was no suspected of being disloyal, as were some members of the Norodom branch of the royal family. Prince Norodom Yukanthor was still in exile in Bangkok and another Norodom, Mayura, had been exiled to Vietnam in 1913 for presumed readiness to plot the overthrow of French rule.5

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3 Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.18
4 Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.19
5 Elizabeth Becker: When the War Was over: Cambodia's Revolution & the Voice of its people (1986) P.20
Prince Monivong, who attended a French military academy, is commissioned as a lieutenant in the French Foreign Legion. Prince Monivong was the father of Queen Kossamak who was the mother of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Prince Monivong pretended to have insanity so that the Frenchmen believed that he didn’t care much about duty of Cambodia. He only thought of hunting animals to let the Frenchmen thinking that he didn’t care about his nation.6

The French colonialists oppressed Cambodia by using Yuon to control Khmers. The French colonial government controlled Cambodia had three layers: First layer was Farangse, second layer was Yuon and the third layer was Khmer themselves. Farangse controlled above all. The second layer was to control the third layer. French controlled Yuon who controlled Khmer. All managers (all workers, builders, doctors...etc.) In each position was all but Yuon. In each health department, the person who was in charge of was all but Yuon doctors, nurses, other was Khmers. About the issues of land, the ministers of map were all but Yuon. Vietnamese who helped to fill up application form of Land Tittles taking bushland given to Yuon easily.

Above mentioned, to see that Cambodia already had fallen into the grips of Yuon. Prince Monivong understood the greatest disaster, who counted on Khmer Krom to protect and solve. His advisors were all but Khmer Krom people.

To be opposed to the French who let Vietnamese occupy Cambodia, Khmer authority, advisors of Khmer Krom advised Prince Monivong to extend the power of village-commune, the committee of Wats in the area of health, handing out land to people, education and security. Prince Monivong quite agreed, and ordered Khmer Krom leaders to take this policy into account secretly on the spot. For as him, he still pretended not to take care of his nation. Some raised as a slogan that “Stupid Prince”; it means “Prince knows nothing.”

The French government forced Prince Monivong to give Khmer Kandal to Yuon control like the French Government had done 10 years later in Khmer Krom by giving all power to Emperor Boa Dai’s control. Sieng Khoeum said: “Prince Monivong didn’t agree to sign flatly, even though the French intimidated him to be imprisoned.

That’s why Prince Monivong who pretended to have insanity. In fact, he had a high nationalist ideal who had sacrificed for the nation didn’t agree to sign giving Khmer Kandal to Yuon.7

- May 25, 1928, Saloth Sar (Pol Pot) is born. (Prime Minister)
- July 20, 1928, Prince Sisowath Monivong is crowned king.
- Jan. 1, 1929, Achille Louis Auguste Silvestre, interim Resident Superieur.
- Jan. 12, 1929, Femand Marie Joseph Antoine Lavit, Resident Superieur.
- 1930, Ieng Sary is born. (Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister)
- Feb. 3, 1930, Indochinese Communist Party (ICP) is founded.

6 Baphuon: Chau Dara with interview P.6
7 Baphuon: Chau Dara with interview Pp.7-8
May 12, 1930, Buddhist Institute is established in Phnom Penh.
July 27, 1931, Khieu Samphan is born. (Head of State)
1932, Chan Sy is born. (Prime Minister)
March 4, 1932, Achille Silvestre, interim Resident Superieur.
Dec. 7, 1932, Achille Silvestre, Resident Superieur.
1934, Prince Yukunthor, who lived in exile since 1900 for protesting against French authority, dies in Bangkok.
1935, Heng Samrin is born. (Head of State)
1936, The first Khmer language newspaper, Nagara Vatta or Angkor Wat, is established by Son Ngoc Thanh and his associates - Sim Var and Pach Chhoeun.
April 15, 1936, Pen Sovann is born. (Prime Minister)
Dec. 12, 1936, Leon Emmanuel Thibaudeau, interim Resident Superieur.
June 16. 1937, Leon Emmanuel Thibaudeau, Resident Superieur.
Dec. 7, 1937, France and Siam sign a treaty confirming the treaty of 1925 and agreeing that any conflict should be solved by the International Court at the Haye.
1939, Siam is renamed Thailand.

French+Japanese+Siamese+Yuonese= Quadruple Murderous Imperialists, Genocide/pogrom/murderers,butchers/killing field creators, bloodsuckers/Draculas/imps/vampires/King of Hades/ghosts/zombies, the dreamers of creating Indochnese Federation, hegemonists, neo-colonialism, imperialism, expansionists, annexationists, totalitarianism, dictators/tyrants, landplunderers, landrobbers, eartheaters, conquerors, encroachers, invaders/aggressors, oppressors, statue looters and barbarianism …who are the worst violators of human rights on earth, have committed too much ferocious crime against Khmers, are perfectly trying to seal off their dirty plans of genocide on Khmers from the outside world, to read like this:
July 20, 1940, French Adm. Jean Decoux is appointed governor of Indochina.

Aug. 29, 1940, Japan and France sign a political accord in which France recognizes Japan’s special rights in Asia and in turn Japan recognizes a permanent France interest in Indochina.


Sept. 4, 1940, US Secretary of State Hull warns the Japanese government that aggressive moves against Indochina would have an unfortunate effect upon opinion in the United States. ---------- French authorities in Indochina officially reject the Japanese request for passage of its troops on route to China.

Sept. 14, 1940, Thai PM Gen. Luang Bipul Songkhram states that negotiations are under way with Indochina for the return of territory allegedly belonging to Thailand. (See more about Siamese are 6-Cancerous-Century-old-Hereditary Foes of Khmers.)

Sept. 17, 1940, Thailand demands France to return Cambodia and a large part of Laos.

Sept. 19, 1940, Japan gives France two days to accede to its demands in Indochina.

Sept. 21, 1940, French authorities refuse Japan the right to military bases in Tonkin.

Sept. 22, 1940, Japanese and French finally sign an accord in Hanoi granting permission for Japan to station 6,000 troops in Indochina and transit rights for larger forces.

Sept. 23, 1940, Japanese troops enter Indochina, crossing the Chinese border at Lang Son.

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8 http://www.geocities.com/chhaykongkea/cambodiamap.html
Sept. 26, 1940, Japanese forces begin their occupation of Indochina. Earlier, the French Vichy government conceded the use of three airfields and several ports in Indochina to the Japanese. The United States had placed an embargo on the export of iron and steel scrap after Oct. 15 to countries outside the Western Hemisphere except Great Britain.

Oct. 15, 1940, Thais demonstrate in the street of Bangkok in supporting their govt. demand for the return of territory from Indochina.

Oct. 16, 1940, French Vichy govt. orders its officials in Indochina to resist Thai incursion into Cambodia and Laos.

Nov. 5, 1940, Japan decides to back Thailand's territorial claims on Indochina on condition that Bangkok cooperation with Tokyo in the creation of a 'New Order in East Asia.'

Nov. 11, 1940, Thailand agrees to moderate its demands on territorial claim in exchange for Japanese promise of mediation.

Nov. 28, 1940, Reports from Thailand announce the bombing of Indochina areas after the alleged bombing of Thai positions around Nankorn Panom by French planes.

Nov. 29, 1940, Thailand orders French nationals to evacuate border provinces within 24 hours, after Thai patrols clash with Indochinese border guards at the Cambodian border.

Nov. 30, 1940, Thailand announces the occupation of the French Indochina districts of Banongkien, Bankokekrabang and Patruchai, as well as reprisal air raids on Thakhek and Savannakhet in the undeclared war.

Dec. 1, 1940, Thai attack the French in Cambodia; French troops are defeated.

Dec. 4, 1940, Reports say 20 native policemen were killed in new native uprising in western Cochinchina during a lull in the fighting on the Indochinese-Thai border.

Dec. 15, 1940, Governor of Indochina, Adm. Jean Decoux, stresses his desire for peace by saying he is ready at any moment to open negotiation with Thailand.

Jan. 1, 1941, French navy defeats Thai navy at Koh Chhang.

Jan. 4, 1941, French Vichy decrees dominion status of Indochina.

Jan. 10, 1941, Taking advantage of the French defeats in Europe, Thai attacks French positions in Laos and Cambodia, gaining control over most of Cambodia's North-western.


Jan. 29, 1941, Japanese, French and Thai representatives start armistice negotiations to stop border hostilities between Thailand and Indochina.

Jan. 31, 1941, Under Japanese auspices, an armistice is arranged to end hostilities which had broken out between Thailand and French in Indochina. The Japanese obtain rice, rubber, coal, and minerals from Indochina, and confirm their military occupation.


Feb. 22, 1941, A Vichy report says France has rejected a Japanese-sponsored proposal whereby Thailand would receive approximately one-third of Laos and Cambodia.

Feb. 24, 1941, Peace talks in Tokyo are extended for 10 days at Japan's request since no agreement could be reached within the original time frame which will expire the next day.

Feb. 26, 1941, Japan presents a final mediation plan for the settlement of the border dispute between French Indochina and Thailand.

Feb. 28, 1941, Japan warns France must accept its mediation plan today or face the consequences.
March 2, 1941, French Ambassador to Japan, Charles Arsene-Henry, indicates that his Vichy govt. accepts virtually all the Japanese demands.

March 9, 1941, French Vichy announces peace conference in Tokyo has reached a full accord on the Indochina-Thailand border dispute.

March 11, 1941, France and Thailand conclude a treaty, signed in Tokyo on May 9, whereby Thailand acquires the section of Laos province west of the Mekong River, three-fourths of the Kampong-Thom province, and territory in northern Cambodia.

March 12, 1941, Japanese newspaper Asahi says that Indochina and Thailand have pledged they will not enter into any agreement with a third power hostile to Japanese interests.

March 19, 1941, French officials in Indochina protest to Japanese military officials that Thailand has violated the peace agreement on March 11.

April 23, 1941, King Sisowath Monivong dies; his nineteen-year-old grandson, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, is chosen to succeed the late King.

April 25, 1941, Prince Sihanouk is crowned king of Cambodia. [2]

May 6, 1941, Japan and France sign two agreements in Tokyo for economic collaboration between Japan and Indochina.

May 9, 1941, French-Thai peace conference ends in Tokyo with a treaty stating that any future dispute between Thailand and French Indochina will be mediated by Japan.

Aug. 4, 1941, Vichy asserts that France signs the agreement with Japan because “enemy concentrations were threatening” Indochina.

Son Ngoc Thanh Was Really No More Than An Employee Of The Tokyo Government, And Later of the CIA.9

Starting with Vichy’s agreement to allow Japanese transit through Indo-China and following an arrangement that permitted Japan to station troops in northern Vietnam, the Japanese had further undermined France’s colonial position by cooperating with the Thai government to ensure the return to Thai control of two western Cambodian provinces and part of Laos to which Bangkok laid claim.10

Without question, Son Ngoc Thanh and his close associates, Pach Chhoeun and Sim Var., represented the first stirrings of modern nationalism in Cambodia. They had come together at the Buddhist institute in Phnom Penh. The French had founded this institute in 1930 with the patronage of the Cambodian and Laotian kings in an effort to counter what was seen as the excessive influence of the Thai Buddhist establishment over its much smaller neighbors. Thanh came to the institute in 1993. Born in southern Vietnam (Cochinchina), Son Ngoc Thanh was one of several individuals from Kampuchea Krom. Or lower Cambodia, who was to play prominent roles throughout Sihanouk’s tenure of power. Thanh's father was an ethnic Cambodian; his mother has been variously described as Vietnamese or Sino Vietnamese. Since his parents were moderately prosperous, thanh had the rare advantage for an ethnic Cambodians

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9 Norodom Sihanouk: War and Hope: The Case for Cambodia (1980) P.17
in the 192s and '30s of experiencing education in France. Employed as a librarian at the Buddhist institute, thanh was in a position to be aware of both the degree of Buddhist alienation from French educational programs, which sought to limit the traditionally important role of the monastery schools, and the extent to which a small but growing number of his compatriots felt aggrieved at being subjected to French rule.  

In the months that had followed governor-general Decoux's September 1941 decision to allow the Japanese to maintain a military presence in Indochina, Son Ngoc Thanh and his associates had taken note of the changed political circumstances in which they were living. How far they were encouraged to contemplate action against continuing French rule by the Japanese secret police, the Kempe Tai, is unresolved. Certainly Sihanouk, who has consistently chosen to minimize the importance of what took place in July 1942, has sought to emphasize a link between Thanh and the Japanese military. Son Ngoc Thanh, he has claimed, was to be seen wearing a Japanese military uniform as early as 1941 and when a major demonstration against the French took place in Phnom Penh on 20 July Thanh, Sihanouk asserts, was hiding in the Kempe Tai headquarters.

The catalyst of this demonstration was the arrest earlier in July by the French authorities of two Cambodian monks who had attacked French rule in their sermons and distributed anti-French pamphlets among the laity. The French had acted firmly but clumsily, since to arrest the monks while they were still members of the Buddhist clergy was an act of sacrilege in the eyes of all Cambodians, and most particularly in the eyes of their fellow monks. Son Ngoc Thanh and Pach Chhoeun saw the arrests as an opportunity to rouse the population against the French. If previously their aim had been to reduce French political control in favor of some ill-defined greater degree of Cambodian participation in the administration of the country, they now appeared to believe that they could dictate how the French should behave. On 20 July Pach Chhoeun led a crowd of some thousand Cambodians, roughly half monks and half laity, to the French administrative headquarters in Phnom Penh. Watched by thousands along the route of their demonstration and at the residence Superieur, Pach Chhoeun and those accompanying him presented a petition calling for the immediate release of the two arrested monks. When the French officials they were confronting refused, the demonstrators led by Pach Chhoeun broke into the residence Superieur, attacking French officials and smashing furniture.

Although no one was killed in the demonstration, the French saw it as a savage affront to their dignity. They arrested Pach Chhoeun and exiled him to the prison island of Poulo Condore (modern con son) off the southern Vietnamese coast.

From there he sought Japanese agreement to his living in Tokyo. After spending some months in the Japanese embassy in Bangkok he was given permission to travel to Japan, where he remained for the next two and half years.

Apparently attracted to the idea of Cambodia’s regaining its independence at the time of the coup de force, Sihanouk’s most significant political decision was to ask the Japanese to permit Son Ngoc Thanh to return to Cambodia from his exile in Japan.

David Chandler could well be right in suggesting that Sihanouk may have acted as he did because of urging from his father, Suramarit, who had been on friendly terms with thanh during the 1930s. Whatever the explanation, thanh returned to Cambodia in May 1945 and in doing so began his long career of opposition to Sihanouk.12

Amid the uncertainty following the 9 March coup, Son Ngoc Thanh’s return to Cambodia in May 1945 quickly made clear the extent of his continuing support among those Cambodians who took an interest in politics. This group now included the growing number of students who had had some secondary education as well as the monks who still resented the arrest of their fellows by the French in 1942. Shortly after his return, thanh was appointed foreign minister in the Cambodian government at the behest of the Japanese military command, who saw advantage in having in the cabinet a man, they believed shared their interests. What role thanh was supposed to play in his new post is unclear, since Cambodia’s ‘independence’ had not even been recognized by Tokyo, though he did travel to Saigon in June to press Cambodia’s claim to long-lost territory in southern Vietnam.13

If this was, as seems likely a sop to conservative opinion, it did little to inhibit son Ngoc Thanh’s drive to achieve a dominant domestic position. When a ceremony was held to mark the 20 July 1945 demonstration, Son Ngoc Thanh, now reunited with Pach Chhoeun, who had been released from prison, joined king Sihanouk in presiding over the commemoration. From then until his arrest by the French in October 1945, thanh was engaged in feverish activity to bolster his position and prepare for the return of the former colonial power to Indochina, a return that Charles de Gaulle had vowed would take place.

On 6 August, a major demonstration took place outside the royal palace. Possibly as many as 30,000 people were involved, a very large number considering that the total population of Phnom Penh at the time was little more than 100,000. Members of the paramilitary youth corps paraded past the palace as part of the demonstration, but exactly what those who participated in this affair intended remains unresolved. Bringing

Complaints to the attention of the Cambodian monarch was a tradition in Cambodian society, but we do not have enough evidence to know whether the demonstration represented support for the monarchy of the beginnings of a more public campaign to back Son Ngoc Thanh’s increasingly open desire to become Cambodia’s political leader.

13 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.44
After nightfall on 9 August a group of young men rounded up all the members of the Cambodian cabinet, with the exception of Son Ngoc Thanh and Prince Monireth. Although both Thanh and Monireth soon released the ministers as the result of intervention, members of group, in an act of lese majesty, broke into the palace with aim of confronting the king and calling him to dismiss the cabinet. But Sihanouk was not in the palace, for his mother, forewarned, had sent him to hide in a nearby monastery. Although they slightly wounded Sihanouk’s private secretary, the intruders were eventually disarmed and arrested. Four days later, Sihanouk dismissed the cabinet and named Son Ngoc Thanh prime minister.

Dissidents of both right and left laid claim to the title of Khmer Issaraks (free Cambodians). Initially just as their numbers were small, so was their influence. And whether of the left or right, they depended for their existence on support from foreigners. In the case of Prince Norodom Chantaraingsey, the best known of those who opposed France’s return to a controlling position in Cambodia but a man who had no vision of a Cambodia transformed by radical social ideas, early support from Thailand was important.

When a ceremony was held to mark the 20 July 1942 demonstration, Son Ngoc Thanh, now reunited with Pach Chhoeun, who had been released from prison, joined King Sihanouk in presiding over the commemoration. From then until his arrest by the French in October 1945, Thanh was engaged in feverish activity to bolster his position and prepare for the return of the

14 http://angkor1431.tripod.com/index/id21.html
former colonial power to Indo-China, a return that Charles de Gaulle had vowed would take place.\textsuperscript{16}

Dec. 19, 1942, Achar Hem Chieu and Nuon Duong are condemned to death; later their sentences are commuted to life imprisonment and sent to Koh Poulo Condor/Koh Tra Lach, where they meet with many of Vietnamese communists such as Pham Van Dong. Putting a number on those who felt this resentment is impossible, and the degree of resentment and its causes varied from group to group. Most clearly, members of the Buddhist Sangha continued to harbour bitter feelings against the Frenchmen for the arrests that taken place in 1942. And this bitterness was made sharper when one of the first two monks arrested, named Chieu, died in captivity.

Aware of the changing mood of some in the French community and imbued with a determination to maintain their grip on Indochina, despite the signs that the war was being lost, the Japanese struck on 9 March 1945. In a brief and largely bloodless coup de force they disarmed the French military and interned them and the French civilian officials. Four days later Sihanouk, acting under Japanese tutelage, proclaimed the emergence of his country from French 'protection' as the independent state of Kampuchea.\textsuperscript{17}

**Achar Hem Chieu - The Hero**

1898-1943 (Historical Documents) So-Hay, 1972

We knew through the book of Kra La Hom Kong’s Will that we Khmers had never closed our eyes to let the foreigners oppressing us at their will at all. There were only some kings and mandarins who believed and bowed to the French oppressors who brutally sucked Khmer blood continuously.\textsuperscript{18}

From 1864 to 1942, the Heroic Achar Sva, Por Kom Bour, Achar Leakh, Si Vatha, Kra La Hom Kong, Vishnu Lok Chuok with the people had constantly resisted for reclaiming their country back.

The downfall of our country, which was compared to the leaves that had fallen from its branches for our national literature that Evil French prohibited all Khmer children to learn. They only let Khmer children study their languages by using everything they produced in their country up to their clothes.\textsuperscript{19}

That’s why it made Achar Hem Chieu’s heart tried extremely hard to explain to Khmer Buddhist ignorance, poor that lost their consciousness to rise and build up their lives by themselves, not to

\textsuperscript{16} Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) Pp.44-45

\textsuperscript{17} Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) Pp.36-37

\textsuperscript{18} So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.10

\textsuperscript{19} So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.11
sleep according to their destiny eventually. He worked so hard by sacrificing his life because he could not live under the foreign rule.²⁰

Firstly, we have to study about Achar Hem Chieu’s brief history:

Achar Hem Chieu who was a venerable monk saw his people’s suffering under the French colonialists was in the period of (1933-1942). He was promoted to be a Great Hero in political ways until today. Of which family and where he was born?

Ven Achar Hem Chieu, who was born on Tuesday, the Year of the Dog, 1898, in Oo Kon Tienh village, Sangkat Dam Bok Mean Leak, Srok Udong Khet Kompong Speu.

His father, Hem, was the head of Dam Bok Mean Leak District. His mother, Tieu, tried extremely hard farming without being afraid of tiredness. The family had five siblings were Hem-Ly, Hem-Chieu, Hem-Huot, Miss Hem Soch, Hem-Say. His eldest brother was lawyer who was the head of District after his father.

When he was a childhood who had gone through many kinds of difficulties like other poor children was to tend cow, found firewood, chased away the birds. Being a farmer’s child with parents who worked from dawn to dusk until he was 12 years old. Mee Srok Hem the father who brought him to Preah Gru Chuon Nath at Unnalom Phnom Penh because Mee Srok Hem and Chuon Nath were closely friends.

A child Hem Chieu had a good and stranger moral than other children, who was loved by everyone. This child who tried extremely hard to learn literature in Chuon Nath’s place since the first time up until he could write perfectly.²¹

At the age of 16 came, Lok Mee Srok and his wife had discussed about ordaining their son a Buddhist monk at Wat Unnalom who had to stay and learn… after he was ordained a monk who learned by heart all lessons (grammar of Pali).

Date had passed by. Monk Hem Chieu, who was 20 years old, had finished….

Total of 7 years, he passed a certificate of diploma of Pali of number 6. In those days Khmers liked to learn Pali very much.

After passing of Salaa Pali, in 1927 Mr Resium? French Resident of Kompot province had relied upon Lok Krau Mee Kon Wat Ang Sorphy, known as “Kar” in Srok Kompong Trach helping to find a monk who had Salaa Pali Certificate during that period Lok Krau Mee Kon Wat Kantho paid a visit to Unnalom in Phnom Penh by relying on Preah Sangha Sitha Chuon Nath. At that time, Preah Sangha Sitha had assigned Achar Hem Chieu to teach national literature in Kompot

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²⁰ So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.13
²¹ So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.14
province by taking Wat Krang Doung Srok Banteay Meas and Wat Kantho of Srok Kompong Trach as the centre. Teacher Achar Hem Chieu went to teach national literature in Kompot province for 7 years was from 1927 to 1932, then returning to Phnom Penh and then had passed as a professor in Salaa Pali in that same year.\(^{22}\)

By seeing a student who was too lazy to learn, Lok (Hem Chieu) always softly spoke to that student:

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\text{You must learn hard! Don’t let it go because we are the same sex who are also respected and offered...Our parents are under the foreigners’ rule, Buddhist religion has faded away consecutively, and our literature is nearly eliminated. We all should work extremely hard not to be afraid of tiredness in order to rescue our motherland from the slave of the Frenchmen. We are Buddhist monks who lived on the people’s offerings, had to have profound knowledge which made the people who offered us a good heart. What if we are all ignorant, can we be their leaders? Who respects us? You please consider this problem carefully by leaving our farms, parents and siblings there. For what we come? We are all the poor children alike-have to help each other not to be negligent at all. Beware of someone looks down on us! I have nothing to give you but only little knowledge.}^{23}\]

Arriving in Phnom Penh, Hem Chieu had received as an Achar Salaa Pali (professor), who had paid monthly 50 riel that was enough to support his living.

Lok even studied harder by reading special Khmer-foreign books about religion, politics economics literature and philosophy every night never let the time passing. Beside studying and teaching students religion by explaining to ignorant Khmers, Hem Chieu took time to contact with top men who are nationalists such as Pach Chheun, Son Ngoc Thanh, Chhum Moung, Nuon Doung and Sim Va...etc. by finding a way to liberate the country from the slave of the Frenchmen.

One day, Mr Son Ngoc Thanh informed Hem Chieu:

“\text{Lok Krau Preah Ba Lat, our aim nearly achieved!}”

“\text{Bless! What will you achieve?}”

Preah Ba Lat Hem Chieu raised a question in doubt.

Mr Son Ngoc Thanh grinned slightly and then spoke:

“\text{Your venerable, today, as you already know the Red and black army don’t go along with each other because the French are very good at inciting to break up the unity. Now the Frenchmen}”

\(^{22}\) So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.20  
\(^{23}\) So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.24-25
assigned me to invite Buddhist monks preaching and explaining to those soldiers, in order not to fight each other. At that time, I would like to invite Lok Achar.’”

“Gee! Why don’t you invite Lok Achar Pang Khat Sor Hay, too?”

“I would like to invite all of you, there would be no one left. However, not to let them know or suspect us lest you can’t go to preach or explain.”

“Bless, this job is no problem for me but I’m so afraid of some of our Khmers who wanted promotion from the Frenchmen and report to the Frenchmen!”

“Yes, of course, it is. But we have not to be afraid of it. We have to struggle every obstacles, then our aims will have achieved. “

“Bless, you’re quite right! I am not afraid of the danger to myself. I am afraid of leaking our revolution’s secrecy! I’m never be optician like you is that I’m only Buddhist monk preaching and explaining to Khmer Buddhists to know, understand and follow Buddha!”

“If I died for nation, religion. I’m not disappointed, too. Human destiny has to suffer so.”

“That’s right, Lok Krau, in fact we have to talk that, we have to speak to our people to let them know not to play Dhamma of Minion. The people would drown. I would rathe sacrifice my life for nation, religion. I’m not afraid of death. Because we are born, and die as usual. I would like to say bye for now!”

“Bless you, please go. May you be safe!”

Son Ngoc Thanh bowed to say goodbye to Achar Hem Chieu by returning to his place with great pleasure.

Those Buddhist monks who made all Khmer soldiers wake up stopping fighting each other. The Frenchmen were so brutal who didn’t know custom at all. All Khmer compatriots really hated not allowing their children to get married with (Frenchmen). Therefore, Khmer farmers prohibited their children to be soldiers because they were afraid of hatred until today. Those soldiers who went into any village would destroy all the properties. That was a politic of dividing to rule in order to take full control of French bandits.

Japanese forces arrived for fighting its enemies were Frenchmen, Americans and British in the whole Indochina. At that time, the French forces had become too weak. By seeing so, we

24 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.29-31
25 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.32
Khmers went to contact Japanese in helping us. Japanese then had agreed Son Ngoc Thanh’s request who was the member of the revolution.26

Preah Achar Hem Chieu went to his Wat for paying a visit to relatives and other monks who were friendly. At night, there were elder ladies and gentlemen and monks came, sitting around him in order to listen to his describing Dhamma or other stories. So we all have already seen, I made Bon everyday praying Independence for Khmers not to let the foreigners oppressing us anymore. Meantime there was an old man spoke:

“I also think like Lok Gru/Kru Achar do, but don’t know how to win the Frenchmen?”

This point really made Achar’s heart so happy. He/Lok replied smilingly:

“Bless, that’s simple, Lok Ta if we really want Independence because Buddha already showed a way to us to walk and that “Solidarity brings all kinds of peace”.”

**Preah Ba Lat Hem Chieu was stripped off being a monk**

The Sun set, lost it ray...

In 1942 was the year of our country had lost too many nationalists.

The global events got even worse. The World War II was erupted.

The situation in Cambodia, which got even more intense because Cambodian people seemed to sleep like a log without knowing their country, was still under the domination of the French. But if they knew, only knew that they were afraid of making any activities. Why? There was no Khmer hero or king who protested against the Frenchmen who had arrested Cambodian people to be released. Therefore, the people who had little knowledge/education were so afraid of death.

But Khmers who had the full blood of Angkor Wat, used to be the powerful nation, rose by pulling all Khmer compatriots’ hands to resist and fight.28

According to the Book of Political Prison of Bun Chan Mal who was a special member of the Revolution clearly wrote, “Because of Khmer soldiers, who had contacted Lok Gru/Kru Achar Hem Chieu and Lok Nuon Duong, deeply loved the Frenchmen, whose brain could not be washed away, had reported all secrets to the Frenchmen that Achar Hem Chieu and Lok Nuon Duong who were the leaders of the soldiers who revolted against the Frenchmen. 15 Khmer soldiers were secretly arrested in order not to be leaked.

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26 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.33-34
28 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.40-41
On 17 June, 1942, all of a sudden, seeing the head of a French intelligent agents and his two Khmer secretaries held one dossier, went to meet Mr Prime Minister Ung Y and Mr Tea San the Minister of Interior and Dhamma Kar. At that time, Mr Tea San who ordered Chhum Muong to go to invite Lok Gru/Kru Achar Hem Chieu.

Mr Chhum Muong then went to Unnalom temple to invite Lok Gru Hem Chieu who also went with immediately. On the way, Lok then asked Mr Chhum Muong about the trip that Mr Minister came to invite. Mr Chhum Muong told all the stories that he saw but didn’t know what’s all about?

Lok spoke that:

“If they ask us about our story, we refuse that we don’t know anything! And then Lok interrupted that Son Ngoc Thanh who told us if Frenchmen knew; we have to run into Japanese Troops base immediately. There we will be safe.”

When Lok Gru Achar Hem Chieu arrived, Mr Tea Sann told his servant to buy one trouser and one shirt and forced Lok Kru Achar Hem Chieu to change monk’s robe and dressed up. And then Frenchmen who brought him in their car to an unknown place. There was no one to be told about. He was arrested and stripped off being a monk without putting on trail.

Mr Chhum Muong who so worried that I would be arrested by the Frenchmen. After work, he then went tell Mr Son Ngoc Thanh about that. Lok also told to be more careful, the Frenchmen would surely arrest us.

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29 http://devaraja.free.fr/Khmer-books/1kuknoyobay.htm
30 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.42-43
31 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.44
During the same period, Mr Nuon Duong was also arrested by the Frenchmen dicks at his home. When the Frenchmen arrested and stripped off Lok Gru Achar Hem Chieu who had a great pain that made him cried with lots of tears. Lok was greatly disappointed with Khmer top officer/officials who didn’t care about monks’ honorary, only letting the foreigners trampled Khmers at their whim. Lok wasn’t afraid of Frenchmen torturing him but Lok felt so regretful the plans that would nearly achieve the fruits given to Khmer people who were living in the pond of suffering under the Evil Frenchmen and brutal kings for many years.33

Oh, my country! When will you have independence, prosperity like during the period of Angkor! If notables who already sold their heads to the Frenchmen like that…When we Khmers wake up from bed?! Khmers know themselves like other human race! Oh! My friends! Who have one heart sacrificing your lives in order to free yourselves from the yoke of the French colonialism!34

Oh, compatriots of the same religion! I would like to wish to the gratitude of God Ratha Na Trey and the souls of Khmer Heroes like Kra La Hom Kong helping our resistance to achieve to let our grandchildren know about rights, freedom, justice and happiness like other civilized countries…35

On the banner with slogans: “We want Achar Hem Chieu and Lok Achar Nuon Duong to be released…

Protesters arrived in front of the Frenchmen Governor’s office in crowded, mix-up with yellow robes that made scenario look great.

By seeing the Frenchmen arrested Pach Chheoun so, the group of protesters could not stand, fought back the Frenchmen, which broke Yuons’ heads bleeding. Monks chased after the Frenchmen with umbrellas because their professors were brutally tortured by the Frenchmen. As for the people who also threw stones, bars and metal balls at the Frenchmen and Vietnamese. Such a revolt, which destroyed all Son Ngoc Thanh’s plans, had already contacted Japanese to intervene if the French Governor didn’t release those two heroes.36

The demonstration didn’t achieve its gaol was only a test that gave Khmers in general to wake up. Later, all political prisoners were shipped by the Frenchmen to Prey Nokor for a trial.37

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32 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.45
33 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.46
34 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.47
35 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.48
36 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.52-53
37 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.55
Sentenced to their death

The ship left Phnom Penh and travelled at a slow speed. On the ship, Achar Hem Chieu, Lok Pach Chhoeun Lok Nuon Duong and other prisoners whose legs were cuffed in chains staring at the dome of Unnalom Temple, showing nostalgia for motherland, didn’t want to go away. Lok could not live with Khmer patriots! Regret for not seeing all Khmer Buddhists who always discussed about the problem of nation-religion.

Please forgive me that I can’t go to the place (Birthplace) because I’m a prisoner who can’t have freedom of doing anything! However, I’m not only disappointed about the guilty that the Frenchmen who accused me for loving nation-religion. I die but let the Nation, religion live…!38

Lok really hated kings who were so brutal to have killed people without considering of finding justice, without thinking of the poor people who were ferociously oppressed by the foreigners like Chinese, Yuon and Frenchmen…so on.39

When the ship had passed over Khmer border, Mr Nuon Duong spoke to Achar Hem Chieu shockingly:

“Your venerable, we are far away from our motherland!”

“Yes, Lok! This is our normality…Please don’t be worried!”

“Right! But my soul can’t be separated from Khmer at all!”

“Yes! So does myself! I can’t completely forget our nation even if the Frenchmen killed me, I can’t think, too, is only to be afraid of our country can’t have freedom.”

Mr Nuon Duong answered:

“Never mind, some of our Khmers wake up, your venerable!”

Being conversed, all of a sudden, the Frenchmen approached and yelled:

“Stop talking! Get yourselves ready going up the port now!”

All prisoners who did as what the Frenchmen told them to do.

Arriving in Prey Nokor, a van transported the prisoners to be imprisoned in a large cell. Act of the brutalities in Prey Nokor Cell was also like in Phnom Penh. Newcomers who always were strongly tortured. Act of inhumanity took place because of the Frenchmen who didn’t want prisoners to get well with other prisoners was the policy of dividing to rule. Some Khmer prisoners, who were backed up by the Frenchmen, had brutally tortured their fellow citizens

38 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.56-57
39 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) P.58
without thinking. When Nuon Duong got in to the prison who was brutally tortured to his unconsciousness by the chief of Prey Nokor Prison for his answer that he betrayed the Frenchmen. This act made all his friends lost their mind. Achar Hem Chieu saw his friends who was ferociously tortured so, he was so worried and afraid of receiving unfriendly, disgraceful rewards like Mr Nuon Duong. But, then he remembers that, “This is the prisoners’ normality! This is why the hell on earth! I have to be unhesitant…” After they fiercely tortured Nuon Duong. That pagan/Thmil called Achar Hem Chieu for questioning. 40

Lok Achar Hem Chieu came closer as usual who could not look up at their face. The Chief also threw an obscene language at Achar Hem Chieu:

“And this man, what’s wrong to you?”

Lok Achar then replied to them:

“Yes, sir! I was arrested of being suspected of betraying the Frenchmen, but in fact the Frenchmen invited me to preach to villagers and soldiers not to let fight each others. When the Frenchmen, who saw that too many people who loved me, were so afraid of me revolting against them so they arrested me!”

“O.K. no problem with you. Go back to your place!”

Since he was imprisoned in Prey Nokor Prison, he never used any bad manner at all. He always advised to Khmer prisoners who had to love their fellow Khmer prisoners, not to forget their nation. Not only that, Achar Hem Chieu who was even loved and respected by his inmates so often. No other prisoners who were released from Prison. Only Achar Pang Khat who was the only one was released back to Phnom Penh.

Others are sleeping with their hands on foreheads thinking of how deep their fates are going to go? However tomorrow is tomorrow because our lives have already sacrificed for the nation.” Such a determination, which made these great men, not to be frightened until there were some of them who badly cursed the French Colonel:

“Bloody you want to do whatever to me. Go ahead! Bloody landplunderers! I very much hate to live under your bloody oppression, bloody bandit! Bloody chicken! Kill me!”

The day’s trial has arrived!

They first called Mr Pach Chheoun’s name, who stood up handsomely and then answered:

“Yes!”

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40 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.61-63
“You are sentenced to death! As for Lok Hem Chieu who is also sentenced to death! Mr Nuon Duong who is sentenced to death, too!”

Bun Chan Mal, who is sentenced to 5 years prison and is expelled from the country for other 15 years…etc. Among these prisoners, only Bun Chan Mal who was so frightened because he was younger than they were! Pach Chheoun, Achar Hem Chieu and Nuon Duong who still were hard-headed by smiling in un-compared pain to the dirty-shit sentence of the French. Later, the Colonel then spoke about sentencing the prisoners to death:

“We will send your case to plead for your light sentence from General Pe Tang, the head of French Government.”

The voice of Mr Colonel finished quietly, no Khmer prisoners who thanked to him at all.41

Preah Achar hem Chieu died in Koh Tra Lach prison

The tears of Lok Achar, which always ran down nearly every night by seeing those prisoners who were tortured worse than the animals. At that time, Achar took the prison as school of Sociology. This great man remembers that: “In our world, there are no other animals are worse than human beings! From day to day, only seeing the killings, kicking, handcuffing and sentencing to death without mercy. Look! The Big men bullied the small men! King sucked the people’s blood, killing the people at their will.”

The small country was ruled by the powerful nation! The farmers who worked from dawn to dusk had nothing nice to eat but only rice and prahoc (Fish paste) was all nice! Only human heaven? My Buddha! Only unhappy hell! In fact, human society get better in only injustice…inhumane, sucking blood each other continuously since this plant was created!42

Oh, compatriots! Please wake up in order to eliminate the Frenchmen or noblemen! Only the people who know their suffering and difficulties. Don’t just believe their deception!

In this world is so vast, which there is nothing better working than us to have freedom and happiness. For me, I can’t free myself physically but I will win morally over the brutal invaders. Please keep going on decidedly. We will have peace. If we are afraid or don’t get along well with each other, our fighting will surely not win. Our lives don’t have freedom, how can we live? If living is cheaper than animals? He thought all the times about suffering of the gentle people.

July, 1943, Mr Pach Chhoeun, Mr Nuon Duong and Preach Achar Hem Chieu who were transferred from the Prey Nokor Cell to Koh Tra Lach Cell. They were imprisoned in No. 4 where all criminals who were life-sentenced. This place was prohibited for visitors. All the prisoners who were brutally forced to work all kinds of hard jobs that the Frenchmen demanded.

41 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.69-70
42 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.64-67
Tra Lach Island, which had plenty of room, is the middle of the sea. There were thousands of houses built along the shore…the forests covered the hill, which was so sad. Very topsoil, all prisoners planted all sorts of vegetables. If prisoners who had light heart would cry and miss their birthplace every day. The prisoners who were brutally forced to work harder than animals; some of them lived on Koh Tra Lach for a few days became sick and died in agony.

In winter, the prisoners had to suffer tremendously for they had nothing to protect themselves from the cold.

Preah Achar Hem Chieu and Nuon Duong who were quite unhealthy had so often fallen sick. He lived in district of Duc Vuc for 6 months, who all of a sudden had terrible dysentery. His illness got worse. Lok Achar Hem Chieu then spoke to Achar Nuon Duong as his student:

“Achar Duong?”

“My master!”

“My illness, perhaps, can’t be cured. I feel so regret that I can’t go back to meet our people! I would leave my bone on Koh Tra Lach, for sure. Achar-you please hold your breath carefully if I died! Don’t get shocked, the cycle of human who always dies as normal.”

“My master! Please don’t give up hope. You will be cured soon…Doctor who is treating you!”

“We are really treated but they didn’t give us any medicines to take. The dysentery here is not too easy to be cured is 90% have to die…I have been waiting in my sleep for only the death. However, just ignored not to be worried about me!”

“We both are only one life…if my master die, I will die, too.”

As matter of fact, Achar Duong, we have served the nation together; we are imprisoned together again…Preach Achar Hem Chieu got to this pointed who was choked, by pulling his handkerchief to wipe out his tears running down out of his eyes through his miserable skinny cheek. As for Nuon Duong, even if he had an illness, looked after his master who was never left unattended:

“My master, stop thinking too much!”

“If our Sangkhaa (material existence) is not going to perish, we do not die. We will live and go back to our country again.”

“Yes, I got it! But last night I had a dream that told me that, “Your life has to finish now! Achar Duong!””
“No, my master! The fact that is your nightmare...Please rest little more, not to think too much, it will only make you tired.”

“Achar Duong, does Mr Pach Chhoeun know that I’m sick?”

“Yes, he does! Yesterday he visited you but my master, you were unconscious!”

“And brother Bun Chan Mal?”

“Brother Mal who hasn’t come yet only sends medicines through someone to us.”

“I really want to see all faces of our friends before I will pass away...”

Later on, the rain falls like someone pour water from their pot, which made the sick unbearable. All of a sudden, Bun Chan Mal who got in seeing his two laymen who were quite shivering like a little bird. He was too surprised who nearly could not find a word to speak. Three of them had tearful faces unknowingly.

“Master! Do you feel any better?”

“Alright, Mal!”

Lok Achar Hem Chieu tried to smile tearfully at Bun Chan Mal and spoke:

“Don’t worry, brother! I will not regret to die. I only feel regret that I can’t live to see our country’s destiny”

“Please don’t forget our revolution! We have to achieve our goal, not to abandon it!”

“Yes, my master! So long I live, I will do as what you told me until I achieve it and then I stop”

“How are you nowadays, Mal?”

“Fine!”

“Mal, it’s time for you to go back lest they bully you; we both are too happy that you sneaked in to see my illness so!”

“Yes, never mind! I really want to look after you but I can’t do it!”

“Don’t think further, here is not our house, we only see each other, is our big luck, Duong!”

“That’s right! Here is hell-not hospital”

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43 So Hay: Historical Documents (1898-1943), (1972) Pp.71-77
One day later, the King of Hades came to take Lok Gru Achar Hem Chieu’s life leaving Lok Nuon Duong so lonely in the middle of Koh Tra Lach. This Great Statesman died at the age of 45 years old for loving his motherland, could not live under the French colonialism.44

Two days later, Bun Chan Mal came to see him again but didn’t see his master Achar Hem Chieu, only Nuon Duong who he saw was sleeping hopelessly!

“Brother Mal! Our teacher has passed away!”

“When did he die? Did he tell you anything?”

“He passed away two days ago! He died on my lap! Before he died who told that,” Please you Achar tell all friends that I won’t live. Building the country alone, we can’t achieve at all. We must pull together with all kinds of classes and keep on working! Please all of you must try to build it for me. I can’t carry the earth alone...the land is all for every one of us... I’m not afraid of dying but I only regret not seeing Kampuchea to have fully independence. Peace for you all... if wanting peace for our country, we have to prepare the Republic, don’t forget! I pass away...”

What Achar Hem Chieu told Bun Chan Mal who recorded in his heart until today. He prepared a good grave for our hero. Friendly readers! Preah Achar Hem Chieu who died on Koh Tra Lach but his soul flew into the brain of Khmer nationalists every time. Because of his great effort, which made Khmer politicians, had to force the Frenchmen out of our country, we would like to pay a great tribute to Lok Gru Achar Hem Chieu as the statesmen of Cambodia and are all friends of his forever.45

Preah Achar Hem Chieu was born again

One of many Khmer fighters who had sacrificed their lives for the nation fighting against the oppression of the French colonialism and who were completely forgotten by the history in the monarchy’s regime had received a great honour again. The bone of Lok Achar Hem Chieu, which was abandoned in Srok Yuon, caused the time to easily destroy the evidence, was brought back by the plane to his hometown where he shed his blood for paying a gratitude.46

The cremation ceremony of Preah Achar Hem Chieu who was considered the “Statesman” by the President Lon Nol.47

Son Ngoc Thanh put Klem Chan (heartwood of a tree) on the ash-coffin of Hem Chieu on 20-21 July, 1972 paying a great tribute to him for his sacrifice.48
Achar Hem Chieu was brutally tortured to his death at Koh Tra Lach

Cambodia - The legacy of Achar Hem Chieu by Michael Hayes http://www.phnompenhpost.com

THE name “Achar Hem Chieu” has been cited frequently by those who have been talking with Buddhist monks after the recent demonstrations. He's been referred to as a role model for those monks who took to the streets last month.

One participant in Maha Ghosananda's first Dhammayietra in 1992 said that several monks carried pictures of Achar Hem Chieu during their walk from Poipet to Phnom Penh. So who was this monk and what did he do? According to Ben Kiernan's "How Pol Pot Came to Power", Achar Hem Chieu was an activist in the early 1940s. As a teacher at the Higher School of Pali in Phnom Penh, he and another monk, Achar Nuon Duong, were two of the key recruits brought in by Son Ngoc Thanh and Pach Chhoeun in their efforts to develop a political organization with the goal of claiming independence for Cambodia. Thanh, considered a founder of modern Khmer nationalism, had been the Deputy Director of the Buddhist Institute, and it was he and Chhoeun who had created the first Khmer-language newspaper, Nagarvatta, in 1936.

In 1942 the French introduced the Gregorian calendars in Cambodia and had plans to Romanize the Khmer script (as had been done in Vietnam). This outraged the Buddhist clergy, which had been the traditional institution of Cambodian education and cultural preservation. As a result, Thanh, according to Kiernan, then decided to attempt a pro-Japanese coup. French intelligence agents had been monitoring closely the activities of the group and moved to intervene. On July 18, 1942, “the French arrested Achar Hem Chieu and Nuon Duong for preaching anti-French sermons to Khmer troops in the colonial army in preparation for the revolt. “Chieu was summarily defrocked without, as required by religious law, first having been judged by his fellow monks.” Thanh organized a protest and on July 20 a group of over 1,000 including 500 monks marched on the French Resident Superior's office near Wat Phnom where they planned to present a list of demands, including the release of Achar Hem Chieu.

The March leader, Chhoeun, was grabbed and hustled away by the French just as he had asked to see the senior French colonial official. After that the demonstration turned ugly, and the ensuing riot saw both police and monks use violence against each other. Achar Hem Chieu was never released. On December 19, 1942 he faced a French military tribunal in Saigon. The court's verdict: death, a sentence later commuted to life with hard labor by the Vichy government. The de-frocked monk was sent to the island of Poulo Condore off the coast of southern Vietnam where the French authorities maintained a prison for political prisoners.

Kiernan’s research indicates that Achar Hem Chieu remained politically active even in jail, that he struck up close associations with imprisoned Vietnamese activists, but that his “heroism in the prison led to sanctions which brought on his early death, from illness, in October 1943. He was forty-six.” The name of Achar Hem Chieu was taken up and used by those who took to the jungles to fight for Cambodian independence in subsequent years. In 1950, the United Issarak
Front (UIF), a guerrilla movement with close links to the Indochinese Communist Party, set up the ‘Achar Hem Chieu Political School’ in south-western Cambodia where hundreds of cadres were trained. Kiernan also notes: “In May 1952, French intelligence reported that scattered UIF bands in Prey Veng were combining into a Mobile Unit.” By August, Keo Moni (another former Khmer monk) and a Vietnamese commander had merged their forces with So Phim’s Achar Hem Chieu Unit, with the aim of launching concerted large-scale attacks on French posts in the southeast.” Whether or not Achar Hem Chieu would have appreciated his name being used by a revolutionary who rose in the ranks of Pol Pot’s Democratic Kampuchea to become chief of the Eastern Zone is a question even So Phim can’t answer. Accused of treason in 1978, wounded and surrounded by troops loyal to Pol Pot near the village of Prek Pa, he shot himself on June 3 that year. Whether or not the current government is pleased with monks recalling the memory of Achar Hem Chieu is another matter altogether. By Michael Hayes [link to article]

According to Hu Nim’s thesis: French first loved Khmer so much, but when French ambition grew bigger and bigger by expanding their colonization over in Asia. French used Vietnamese so that they could go to China. By betraying and torturing Khmers, the Murderous French colonialists who used the Vietnamese to do dirty job for them. (I forget the name of local Khmer news)

All Vietnamese jailers/prison guards and executioners who were employed by the French colonialism to torture and execute Khmer nationalists freely and happily as King Norodom Sihanouk clearly told to his Khmer children:

Although intermarriage between Cambodians and Vietnamese was not known, it was uncommon. A large proportion of Vietnamese were Roman Catholic, whereas the number of ethnic Cambodians who embraced this religion in the early 1960s probably did not exceed 4000, many of them the descendants of Iberian adventurers who had come to Cambodia centuries before. When Vietnamese were adherents of Buddhism, it was the Buddhism of the Mahayana (greater vehicle) formed not the Theravada (lesser vehicle) tradition to which all Cambodian Buddhists belonged. This religious difference was only one that set the Vietnamese apart from Cambodians of almost every class. For all Cambodians the memory of past Vietnamese aggression was a given that was never forgotten. Few might know the details of nineteenth-century history and the Vietnamese occupation of their country. But all had a vague awareness of the past as well as more modern memories of the fact that, under French rule, Vietnamese provided the bulk of the minor officials of the colonial administration, most of them directly concerned with the imposition of the most irritating regulations and taxes. The state executioner in colonial Cambodia was usually a Vietnamese.49

49 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.125
For Khmer Liberty (Part 3)

Kong Sim who was after by Yuon who wanted to kill him. He fled along the forests to Khmer Kandal. He had 12 men in all who were after by Yuon. He had never been to Khmer Kandal. He just knew that, for a long time, had an uncle who fled to Khmer Kandal. He didn’t know his address.

For a long time, for many centuries of every reign, Khmer Resistances always flee to hide themselves in Khmer Kandal or in Thailand, Surin, Trat that are illegally plundered by Siamese.

Kong Sim and all his men had changed all their names when arriving in Khmer Kandal.

Siam controlled three Khmer provinces until 1945. Svay Daun Keo was the last country where Frenchmen controlled, before crossing into Siam. Before arriving in Svay Daun Keo, all the travellers had to cross a village of Trapeang Chaong Sinn. Trapeang Chaong Sinn was a village where Khmer Preah Tra Peang refugees had formed. Trapeang Chaong was the last place where the travellers asked for their relatives in Battambang or in Siam before continuing their trip. The travellers could not ask anyone in public because if the Farangse/Frenchmen or Yuon knew that they would be imprisoned by accusing in all kinds that wanting to form the Movement Resistance or escaping from being conscripted into an army for the Frenchmen.

At this village of Trapeang Chaong for escaping from the French government, there are two pathways crossing to Battambang and then crossing into Thailand. First pathway is a path going onto the hill toward a village of Samlot. Samlot is a village that was formed by Khmer Preah Trapeang. In Samlot, 25 years later, was so well-known because of the Pol Pot’s Khmer Rouge boastfully said about their heroic that they had sacrificed to fight against Prince Norodom Sihanouk in a terrible damage. But they didn’t know they were being defeated by Yuon politics.

A path along the Tonle Sap, Kompong Thom, Siemreap and then to Siam. Khmer Krom built many built villages from one to the others until Surin, Chunbury and Trat. Kralanh Keng (Siemreap) Bovel (Battambang) were all Khmer Krom villages. All Khmer Krom, who escaped from the Yuon-French authorities who were after to kill them, by leaving their children and wives at home in Khmer Krom, to have run for their lives only. They all married with Khmer indigenous Phnong, Kuy, Rader, Por and Kham. Yuon also came to have bred with these Khmer indigenous minorities in Kracheh, Stung Treng, Kompong Thom, Siemreap, Battambang and Mlu Prey provinces.

By the time, Kong Sim had arrived in Battambang during the French colonial period, Siamese still controlled. He found that Yuon lived along the bank of Stung Sangke, Kvak or a village of Pradak was close to Siemreap. Yuon and Yuon race who lived closely to each other. Kong Sim understood that Yuon already fully controlling Khmer Kandal stronger than Kampuchea Krom.
By speaking Yuon language very fluently, he walked to sell animal’s skins, horns with indigenous minority. And bought beans, corns from Yuon to be sold in Battambang. This made him to understand more clearly about Yuon’s secret influence, controlling Khmer villages in the countryside. In the villages of the countryside where Yuon formed, and Yuon named to remember for their Yuon heroic.

Kong Sim and his men formed Khmer Krom Association for protecting Khmer interests, to help protecting Khmer authority in the countryside. Khmer Krom association was linked to each other as a network that they had also branches in Surin, Trat and Khmer Krom.

Khai Seng who was a cousin of Former PM Son Sann. Khai Seng told him that the Farangse need a manager for building a railway from Battambang to Poipet. Kong Sim didn’t want to work with the Frenchmen; he just wanted to make a living along the villages and communes in order to contacting people more closely. Because of Khai Seng implored him for many times that we must carry and contact among Khmer with Farangse. We had not to let Yuon monopolize alone. Therefore, he then accepted as a manager. Other managers were pretty close to Yuon. He also hid to have disguised himself as Yuon. He was a hard worker. In the long run, he was liked by the Frenchmen who appointed him to a higher promotion. Yuon suspected him. Yuon secretly investigated that he was a Khmer Krom.

One evening, the committees of Khmer Krom Association, 12 members met to discuss solving the problem in the villages as usual. And then they went to eat in a restaurant by drinking alcoholic. Kong Sim didn’t like to drink wine. But in a polite way, he sipped a little with his friends. After eating, everyone went to their houses. After 2 or 3 hours, all of his men were poisoned to their death immediately. Kong Sim died at the last because he only sipped a little. He died on his youngest son who was carried on his shoulder when he ran away from Khmer Krom. Only Hermit Sok lived on the Mount of Kulen who knew this was they were poisoned. Kong Sim himself could cure those victims, too, if he wasn’t poisoned.

Yuon leaders aren’t afraid of killing good Khmers

On 24th February, 2004, Radio Free Asia broadcasted that in Phnom Penh 500 houses were destroyed in fire. Those huts all but belong to Khmer Krom. Yuon authority intimidated Khmer Krom endlessly that they almost can’t live. This is Yuon politics forcing Khmer Krom out of Khmer Krom. Some fled to shelter in Khmer Kandal in Wats/temples. The reason that Khmer Krom run away from Khmer Krom to shelter in Kampuchea Kandal is the reason Yuon government confiscate all lands. Radio Free Asia didn’t confirm that those victims weren’t Khmer Krom at all.  

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50 By Baphuon, Source: Chau Dara Interview. Angkor Borei
March 2, 1943, Goerges Armand Leon Gauthier, Resident Superieur.
OTHER EVENTS HAPPENED IN 1943- Princess Bopha Devi is born.
Jan. 2, 1944, Prince Norodom Ranariddh is born.
OTHER EVENTS HAPPENED IN 1944- Excavation begins at Angkor Thom (The Great City).

Even more important, by the end of 1944 the tide of the war in the Pacific was inexorably turning in the Allies’ favour. As a result of General Macarthur’s strategy of ‘island hopping’ and leaving land attacks on the Japanese in much of mainland Southeast Asia for the final phases of his planned campaign, Allied air forces were able to carry out bombing raids against Japan and occupied Southeast Asia by early 1945. Phnom Penh sustained such a raid in February 1945. The Allied air campaign also contributed to a growing natural disaster that further undermined the tattered ‘legitimacy’ of the French administration in Indo-China. Because of the Allied blockade of shipping leaving southern Vietnam at the end of 1944, a terrible famine began to grip the northern areas of that country as a combination of crop failure and grievous flooding led to the death of many thousands of peasants.51

Feb. 7, 1945, US aircraft bombs Phnom Penh; Unnalom pagoda is hit, injuring 20 people.
March 9-12, 1945, Cambodia declares independence. On March 9, the Japanese stage a coup de force throughout Indochina, imprisoning French officials, military personnel, and interning other French citizens. Soon after, the Japanese asked the rulers of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to declare independence. King Sihanouk complies on March 12.
March 18, 1945, King Sihanouk becomes Prime Minister (03/18/45-08/13/45).
March 23, 1945, French cabinet says Indochina will be granted partial self-govt. after the war and that its citizens will be declared citizens of the "French Union" which will include France and all parts of the imperial community.

One of Sihanouk’s first acts in the new order was to match action to his earlier complaints about Gautier’s Romanization of the Khmer alphabet and introduction of the Gregorian calendar. On 14 March, Sihanouk revoked these measures. Discussing this decision shortly afterwards, Sihanouk prefigured a theme that was to recur time and again in his speeches and writings. 'We are,’ he said, ‘a people deeply attached to the traditions bequeathed us by our illustrious ancestors.’52

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51 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.37
52 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.43
By 1946, still only 24 years old, Sihanouk had fathered six acknowledged children.  

May 30, 1945, Son Ngoc Thanh returns from exile in Japan to serve as Cambodian Foreign Minister.

Shortly after his return, Thanh was appointed foreign minister in the Cambodian government at the behest of the Japanese military command, who saw advantage in having in the cabinet a man they believed shared their interests. What role Thanh was supposed to play in his new post is unclear, since Cambodia’s ‘independence’ had not even been recognized by Tokyo, though he did travel to Saigon in June to press Cambodia’s claim to lost-lost territory in southern Vietnam.

Aug. 14, 1945, Son Ngoc Thanh becomes Prime Minister (08/14/45-10/16/45).

Aug. 14, 1945, Japan capitulates. Emperor Hirohito of Japan announces unconditional surrender of the second atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki on Aug. 9. The first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on

Aug. 6. [Oxford Companion to WW II p.1336-1337]

Oct. 8 1945, British troops enter Phnom Penh and disarm Japanese forces. French military units filter back into Cambodia and gradually reassert their control of the colony.

Oct. 15, 1945, French Gen. Leclerc arrives in Phnom Penh from Saigon and arrests Prime Minister Son Ngoc Thanh, who is accused of being a traitor.

Oct. 17, 1945, Prince Sisowath Monireth becomes Prime Minister (10/17/45-12/15/46).

Jan. 1, 1946, The Cambodian School for Officers is established.

Jan. 7, 1946, Cambodia is granted autonomy (Modus Vivendi). France recognizes Cambodia as an autonomous kingdom within the French Union, permitting Cambodians to draft a constitution and form political parties.


May 27, 1946, Fighting breaks out along the Indochinese-Thai border in an area ceded by Vichy France to Thailand in 1941 but claimed by the present French govt.

May 31, 1946, Electoral law is promulgated to allow the election of a Consultative Assembly, which would approve a draft constitution.

June 1, 1946, France asks US and British support for its demand that Thailand return the Indochinese territory ceded by the Vichy govt. in 1941.

July 15, 1946, Thailand formally submits its border dispute with Indochina to the UN Security Council.

Sept. 1946, Election for a 67-seat Constituent Assembly is held. The Assembly is to approve a draft constitution, which had been formulated by a joint Franco-

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53 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.53
54 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.43
Khmer commission. The Democratic Party, led by Prince Sisowath Yuthevong, wins 55 seats; the French-sponsored Liberals Party win 14 seats and 3 seats are won by independents.

- Oct. 15, 1946, Thai parliament approves the cabinet's decision to return, the ceded territory by the French Vichy in 1941, to Indochina - Cambodia and Laos.
- Nov. 18, 1946, French and Thai negotiators agree to create a commission consist of French, Thai and neutral representatives to study the dispute over the Cambodian-Thai border.
- Dec. 15, 1946, Prince Sisowath Yuthevong becomes Prime Minister (12/15/46-07/17/47).
- Dec. 25, 1946, French High Commissioner for Indochina Ad m. Thierry d'Argnlieu, in a Christmas message, says: "France does not intend in the present stage of evolution of the Indochinese people to give them total and unconditional independence."
- Thailand returns to Cambodia the two provinces, Battambang and Siem Reap, which were retaken at the start of WWII.

**The first Indochina War begins**

- Jan. 8, 1947, French Defense Ministry places all regular army and air force troops on call for service in Indochina.
- Jan. 31, 1947, French liner Lle de France arrives in Indochina with 8,000 French troops.
- Feb. 4, 1947, France recognizes the provisional govt. of Cochinchina, under Pres. Levan Hoach, as a "free state within the French Union."
- March 5, 1947, Emile Bollaert is appointed French High Commissioner for Indochina, succeeding Adm. Georges Thierry d'Argenlieu.
- March 14, 1947, French National Assembly concludes three days of acrimonious debate on Indochina, with Radical and Republican Party deputies accusing the Communists of aiding rebellion in the colony.
- March 22, 1947, French National Assembly gives PM Paul Ramadier a unanimous vote of confidence on the govt.'s Indochina policy.
- May 6, 1947, Cambodia's first constitution is promulgated.
- June 27, 1947, a five-nations mediation commission in Washington concludes six weeks of deliberations by rejecting Thailand claims to territory in Indochina.
- July 1947, Prince Sisowath Yuthevong, leader of the Democrat party, died.
- July 25, 1947, Prince Sisowath Watchayavong becomes Prime Minister (07/25/47-02/20/48).
- Aug. 12, 1947, Thailand abandons its claim to territory in Indochina.
- Dec. 1947, the first election is held for National Assembly under a new constitution, which had been promulgated in May. Again, the Democrats gained a majority by winning 55 of 75 seats. Mr. Cheam Van becomes Prime Minister.
- Jan. 1, 1948, The Excise Office is transferred from the French to the Royal Government of Cambodia.
- Feb. 20, 1948, Cheam Van becomes Prime Minister (02/20/48-08/14/48).
Aug. 1948, Cheam Van's government collapses.
Aug. 15, 1948, Penn Nouth becomes Prime Minister (08/15/48-01/21/49)
Feb. 12, 1949, Penn Nouth resigns his premiership; he is replaced by Yem Sambor (Prime Minister 02/12/49-09/20/49).
March 10, 1949, Sam Rainsy is born.
Aug. 1949, Saloth Sar/Pol Pot leaves Phnom Penh for France to study. He is going on a government scholarship. [3]
Sept. 1949, King Norodom Sihanouk dissolves the National Assembly.
Sept. 20, 1949, Ieu Koeus becomes Prime Minister (09/20/49-09/29/49).
Sept. 29, 1949, Yem Sambor becomes Prime Minister (09/29/49-04/28/50).
Nov. 8, 1949, Franco-Cambodian Treaty is signed in Paris between the High representatives of France and Cambodia. Text of the treaty
Jan. 1950, a grenade is thrown into the Democratic Party's headquarters in Phnom Penh fatally wounded Ieu Koeus; his funeral draws an enormous crowd.
Feb. 11, 1950, Greece recognizes the pro-French governments of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.
March 12, 1950, Vatican recognizes the pro-French government of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
April 1950, United Issarak Front or Khmer Issarak (Liberated Khmers) is established and funded by the Thai; the front dedicates to armed resistance against the French.

For the latter, the transformation of Cambodia’s social system was an essential plank in their political program. Dissidents of both right and left laid claims to the title of Khmer Issarakas (free Cambodians). Initially, just as their numbers were small, so was their influence. And whether of the left or right, they depended for their existence on support from foreigners. In the case of Prince Norodom Chantaraingsey, the best known of those who opposed France’s return to a controlling position in Cambodia but a man who had no vision of Cambodia transformed by radical social ideas, early support from Thailand was important.

For those on the left, linkage with the much stronger Vietnamese communist movement was of great important and among those who emerged as leaders of left-wing band part-Vietnamese parentage was common. This association with Vietnamese communists and the presence of men of mixed Cambodian and Vietnamese ancestry were to have profound consequences as the Cambodian left developed over the ensuing decades, but in the immediate post-war years link with Vietnam played a vital part in sustaining the embryonic Cambodian communist movement.55

55 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.52
Vietminh, Yuon authority didn’t allow Khmers to learn Kung Fu. During the French colonial period, Yuon instigated Farangse that Khmers learned Kung Fu was in order to uprise against the Farangse/French. Therefore, Farangse prohibited Khmer to learn Kung Fu. During the reign of Sihanouk, who also prohibited Khmer to learn Kung Fu because of being deceived by the tricks and instigations of Vietminh who had hidden in the Royal Government. But Khmer Krom are still adamant, still secretly trained in the middle forests.\footnote{Angkor Borei, Source: Chau Dara with interview, By Baphuon, P.3}

We’d like to consider Vietminh who had sent their men to have hidden in our Cambodia. Each Vietminh didn’t get paid. Vietnamese associations raised fund to support each other. They contacted each other forming secret organisation to rule Cambodia. In the end, Vietminh uprooted our Khmer Krom government in Khmer Krom, now they started to continue uprooting the government of Khmer Kandal.

But we must not forget each government that we form unless the Army survive. Army can survive unless has people supporting. The people supporting unless the people survive. If killing the people. The Army have to die. If the Army die, the government must die, too.\footnote{Angkor Borei, Source: Chau Dara with interview, By Baphuon, P.5}

When the war was over, Cambodia’s revolution & the voice of its people, Elizabeth Becker, 1986:

When the Vietminh launched their war in 1945 to prevent the French from recolonizing Vietnam, Cambodians were already fighting the French in their own country. Their greatest strength was in western Cambodia, where the noncommunist Khmer Issarak (free Cambodians) was headquartered and their rear base of safety was Thailand. At the time, Thailand was ruled by the liberal anti-colonialist regime of Pridi Phanomyong. Pridi had strong and open desires to rid Southeast Asia of all European colonialists, and he allowed Bangkok to become a haven for independence fighters from Burma, Vietnam, and Indonesia as well as Cambodia.

It was a crucial base for the nationalist Issarak. From Thailand the Issarak might outflank the French if the Vietminh continued to fight from the east. In Bangkok, the Issarak could coordinate with other independence fighters. They could buy food, arms, and exchange intelligence. Bangkok became more attractive in 1946 when Pridi was forced to hand back the north-west provinces to Cambodia under pressure from the French and from international community the price for Thailand's entry into United Nations: Thailand was no longer seen as a colonizer itself in Cambodia. Without Thai support, the Khmer Issarak (free Cambodians) had only one source of aid-the communist Vietminh. Neither the United States nor Great Britain would help. Many of Issarak refused to work with the communists, refused to join in a united front with them against the French, and this led to the permanent split in Cambodia between communist and noncommunist independence movement.

\footnote{Angkor Borei, Source: Chau Dara with interview, By Baphuon, P.3}
The Vietnamese communists originally tried to build a united front by joining the Khmer Issarak (free Cambodians) to the fledging Khmer communist movement under Vietnamese control. By the time of the right-wing coup in Thailand the Vietnamese had been grooming several Cambodians to become leaders of a Cambodian communist movement within the Indochinese communist party. Once these Cambodian communist were properly trained and organized, they would call for and create a broad Cambodian front to fight the French. Instead, they founded the united Issarak front, led by the former monk Son Ngoc Minh, (See more about WHO WAS A MYSTERIOUS SON NGOC MINH?) who had joined the underground Indochinese communist party in 1946. the communists used the Issarak's name in hopes of uniting all Issarak groups under their banner the word “Issarak” traditionally had implied noncommunist. Moreover, the communist former monk had chosen a nom de guerre that consciously aped the name of the noncommunist nationalist leader Son Ngoc Thanh. The confusion multiplied. Who was the original leader of independence movement who fled to Japan and joined the Japanese fascists? Which group were the original Issarak movement and which communists led? As one revolutionary said early in the war, “it was difficult to know who were the real Issarak, the loyal revolutionaries and who were bandits and robbers? Matters became more confused for the communists in 1951, the year after the founding of Issarak front group. That year the Vietnamese/Vietnam officially restored their communist party. In Cambodia the party kept the old name, Indochinese communist party, maintained the same organization with mixed units and cells of Cambodians and Vietnamese/Vietnam under Vietnamese control, and remained underground.

The Vietnamese communists wrote the statutes for Khmer people’s revolutionary party and the draft platform, which they sent back to Cambodia for translation into Khmer language and for approval. Even after 1951, Cambodian communists were inducted into the underground Indochinese communist party. Membership in Khmers people's revolutionary party did not constitute membership in a proper party.

This vague situation not only confused Cambodian communists at the time, it led the thunderous debates later when Cambodians were fighting over the roots of their communist party. did it grow directly out of the Indochinese communist party in 1951, and was it therefore subservient to the Vietnamese, or was it properly founded in 1960 by Cambodian far less dependent on Vietnam?

Anti-French war was dominated in the northwest by noncommunist Issarak group who fought throughout most of the country. They often coordinated their fighting with the communist-led Issarak, the united Issarak front, adding to confusion. Some Issarak were nothing more than bandits; other were among the fiercest independence fighters. It was Cambodia’s fate that no one could bring them altogether; the noncommunist Issarak did not trust the Vietnamese-dominated Khmer communists.
Within one decade after his return from Paris, Saloth Sar joined other Cambodian communists to finally create a party in Phnom Penh and join it with the surviving activities in all parts of the countryside.

Saloth Sar arrived in Phnom Penh a member of the French communist party.

Peasants were said to be in charge in China. Reason was said to have replaced coercion through discussion, criticism, and self-criticism. On his return home, Saloth Sar visited his brother Loth Suong and told him of his work on the Yugoslav road crew and a secret meeting of Cambodian resistance fighters in Spain. When Sar lived with him in Phnom Penh while studying at the technical college, he had done little but study, or so Suong thought. He said of Sar, years later: “he didn’t run after girls or drink very much. He worked hard at his studies, he was a good person…he was good as a child, not nasty or vicious.”

The noncommunist Issaraks spoke only of removing the French colonialists. The communist-led-Issarak front wanted to the French and American imperialists and found a Cambodian “people's democracy.”

There was no history in the region of such a federal system, certainly not one where power was shared equally. Sihanouk was criticized by the front for his feudalism and dependence on the French. The Chinese and Vietnamese revolutions were on Sar’s mind when he made contact with the communists in eastern Cambodia. Another of his brothers made the initial introductions, and Sar transferred his French communist party membership to membership in a cell of the underground Indochinese communist party. It was a cell made of ten Cambodians and ten Vietnamese.

He was appointed a member of a production unit and given what he considered coolie duties. His sister-in-law, Khieu Thirith, Ieng Sary’s wife, said Saloth Sar resented being treated like a raw peasant recruit, especially since his leaders were Vietnamese, not Cambodians. “It was a very sad experience,” she said. “The Vietminh put all the students from Paris in the background. They gave them kitchen chores, to carry excrement. Saloth Sar had to carry excrement for the Vietnamese. There was no political work.”

The Vietnamese dressed the Cambodians in Vietnamese uniforms and then scattered one Cambodian with every ten Vietnamese as they stood at dockside in South Vietnam for inspection by the international control commission set up by the Geneva conference. Lim said the Cambodians were told not to say a word if asked whether they were going north against their will. Everyone kept quiet, and the Cambodians were boarded on a polish ship for the voyage to North Vietnam. Lim was told he could return home in the two years. He had to stay for sixteen

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years. He studied Vietnamese, learned a technical skill and then joined the North Vietnam army, in which he trained new recruits and won a posting at the military academy in Song Tay.

Among those who had remained in Cambodia was Saloth Sar. He must have earned some degrees of respect from the Vietnamese, for he was one of twenty Cambodians selected for secret political work inside the country. He was smuggled back into Phnom Penh at war's end in 1954, disguised as an aide-de-camp of a Vietnamese officer.\(^59\)

Son Ngoc Minh was still in Hanoi, where the Vietnamese continued to accord him the title of leader of Cambodia's communists. Sieu Heng had defected. Nuon Chea, originally recruited by the Thai communist party while studying in Bangkok, was elected to the second position, Saloth Sar to the third. His friend Ieng Sary captured the fifth position.

The congress named the party the workers party of Kampuchea. (later, in 1966, the name was changed to the communist party of Kampuchea. as required, the party congress wrote and approved the Cambodian communists' view of their country's political and economic situation, why they believed Cambodia need a resolution and how they planned to achieve one. the analysis employed by the Cambodians was entirely online with Hanoi's view of the Indochinese-wide situation even when it did not apply to Cambodia. the Cambodians showed no signs of dissatisfaction with Vietnam in these initial party documents.

The Cambodians’ loyalty to Vietnamese and Chinese orthodoxy was better served when describing the second enemy, the feudal landowners. Since 86 percent of Cambodians was peasants, the communists figured they should be the chief targets for recruit. In addition, the peasant's chief enemy, they said, was the moneylenders.

Finally, the party had to choose its “line,” the encapsulation of its goals and methods. They chose: “independence, national sovereignty, and self-reliance” and “revolutionary violence.” It was a mixture of Vietnamese and Chinese influence as filtered through the Vietnamese. The latter was the same as that adopted by the communists in South Vietnam to combat Diem’s serious and effective police action against them.

Nearly 100 Cambodians remained in North Vietnam undergoing communist train there, including Son Ngoc Minh whom Hanoi continued to treat as the leader of the Cambodian communists. There were no two potentially competitive, hostile groups of Cambodian communists: those in Hanoi under direct Vietnamese supervision, and those in Cambodia who just had proclaimed themselves an independent party.\(^60\)

The party leader Tou Samouth disappeared mysteriously and was presumed kidnapped and murdered. He had returned from a secret trip to Hanoi in early 1963.


Saloth Sar had faithfully and successfully carried out the urban struggle the Vietnamese had recommended in 1954 and, for all appearance, seemed loyal to the Vietnamese, whom he known briefly in the last days of jungle. In the early morning, a Vietnamese courier would escort him out of the city and into the jungle. At this stage the Cambodian and Vietnamese communists were working in tandem. Phat followed the Vietnamese across the country and into South Vietnam, where he was assigned to the Khmer-language radio department. He was therefore out of the country at the next turning point in the party's history.

He set up a “shadow” cabinet of loyalist and moved to shore up what he considered his best advantage—his friendship with the Vietnamese communists. The Prince yielded to Hanoi’s pressure and gave the Vietnamese communists rights of passage to Sihanoukville, the deep-sea port he had built on the gulf of Siamese to prevent the Americans from blocking his country through South Vietnam, which controlled the Mekong River and Phnom Penh’s river port. The Vietnamese communists were allowed to ship arms to Sihanoukville and truck them overland to eastern Cambodia. By 1967 the North Vietnam already were preparing for the TET offensive the following year: if the promised “uprising” succeeded, Sihanouk’s worries about an American intervention would be over. The communists would win and the war would end.

The Prince put his military chief, Lon Nol, in charge of overseeing the North Vietnam transport of arms from Sihanouk to South Vietnam. Lon Nol skimmed off great amounts of the arms, reportedly with Vietnamese approval, as a price for cooperation. He apparently reaped more weapons than he was receiving from china, privately, Lon Nol feared the Vietnamese communists planned to take over Cambodia once they had won in the South, and he wanted his soldiers well armed in the event.

The coup ended the twenty-six-year-old game of the Vietnamese and Chinese communists. The two Asian powers now determined to unite Sihanouk with the Khmer Rouge. Saloth Sar and Sihanouk were in Peking shortly after the coup, and although they never met, they agreed to work together. Sihanouk would be the titular leader of the Khmer Rouge, Saloth Sar its true and secret chief. The Khmer Rouge needed no longer to fight against a Prince who espoused socialism and starved their chances for aid by his befriending communists had been confined to use of Vietnamese sanctuaries inside Cambodia as safe, rearguard positions when Lon Nol’s army chased them. Now they could count on the Vietnamese for their full support. The Vietnamese army was prepared to fight their battles against Lon Nol.

It was still “pure and “self-sufficient,” still distrustful of outsiders, especially the Vietnamese and Chinese communists. Its leaders were convinced they were the anointed ones who could rescue their country, “whose honor and dignity have been jeered and which has been exploited, oppressed and despised during many centuries.\(^{61}\)

April 28, 1950, Norodom Sihanouk becomes Prime Minister (04/28/50-05/30/50)

May 8, 1950, US Secretary of States and French Foreign Minister meet to discuss situation in Indochina and U.S. aid to the Associated States of Indochina and France. Statement is issued following their meeting.

May 17, 1950, Cambodia places with the UN her acceptances of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

May 24, 1950, US Charge d'Affaires in Saigon informs the Chiefs of State of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos about the US decision to provide economic aid to the three states.

May 25, 1950, US announces that Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will get "industrial rehabilitation projects and other economic help" from the US.

May 30, 1950, Prince Sisowath Monipong becomes Prime Minister (05/30/50-03/03/51).

Sept. 12, 1950, US minister to Indochina, Donald Heath, presents US arms and equipment for three battalions to Cambodia.


Nov. 22, 1950, French cabinet promises that the native govt. of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos will be granted almost complete authority over home affairs by Jan. 1, 1951.


Jan. 19, 1951, Cambodia places with UN her acceptance of the Agreement for the Establishment of Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council.

March 3, 1951, Oum Chheang Sun becomes Prime Minister 03/03/51-10/12/51)

April 4, 1951, Hun Sen is born.

July 3, 1951, Cambodia accepts the Constitution of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

July 16, 1951, Cambodia places with UN her acceptance of the Constitution of the International Rice Commission. [1613]

Sept. 1951, General election is held. Again the Democratic Party gains control of the National Assembly.

Sept. 8, 1951, Cambodia and US sign an agreement on Economic Cooperation between the two countries in Phnom Penh. Foreign Minister Oum Chheang Sun signs for Cambodia and Charge d’Affaires Don Catlett for the U.S. Original Agreement

Sept. 23, 1951, U.S and French officials discuss US military aid program for the defense of Southeast Asia. [Statement]

Oct. 13, 1951, Huy Kanthoul (Democratic Party) becomes Prime Minister (10/13/51-06/16/52).

Oct. 29, 1951, The French commissioner in Cambodia, Jean de Raymond, is assassinated by a Vietminh.
Oct. 18, 1951, Cambodia and US exchange notes\(^{63}\) constituting an agreement concerning mutual security.

Oct. 30, 1951, Son Ngoc Thanh returns to Cambodia.

In March 1952, Ho Chi Minh knew that Son Ngoc Thanh came back from France and then he ran into the jungle uniting with Khmer Issarak for continuing to drive the Frenchmen out.

Ho Chi Minh who was in a hurry to send 4 representatives were two Khmers, two Yuon to Orsmach Village to meet Son Ngoc Thanh who allowed only two Khmer men to see him. That time, Khmers who were the representatives of Ho Chi Minh requesting to meet Ho Chi Minh’s following requests:

- K1 - Requesting to send more Bo Dois to Cambodia for helping to fight driving the Frenchmen out of Cambodia.
- K2 - Requesting Khmers to provide food to Bo Dois in Srok Yuon.
- K3 - Requesting for rights for Bo Dois to patrol up and down along Khmer-Yuin frontiers freely.

Then, Son Ngoc Thanh flatly refused those requests, and taking a chance explaining to two Khmer-Vietminh to know dirty plans of Yuon Hanoi who used tricks perfectly. Don’t trust them. He confirmed that Khmer people who are 90% sagacious, gentle, honest, pacifists of Buddhist believers. We cannot jump like the volcano being violent like Yuon Vietminh.\(^{64}\)

April 9, 1952, Cambodia and the UN International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) sign an agreement, in Phnom Penh, concerning the activities of UNICEF in Cambodia. Original Agreement.\(^{65}\)

June 2, 1952, Cambodia accepts Treaty of Peace\(^{66}\) with Japan.

June 6, 1952, US, Vietnam and Cambodia raise their diplomatic missions to embassy status.


June 15, 1952, Cambodia declares her acceptance of the obligations contained in the charter of the UN. PM Huy Kanthoul makes the declaration\(^{67}\) in Phnom Penh.

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\(^{63}\) http://www.treaty.un.org/LibertyIMS::/Cmd=Request;Request=TREATYBYLOC;Form=none;VF_Volume=UNVO L05;VF_File=00000022;Page=1;Type=page

\(^{64}\) Yiey Tien: Who was Angkar Leu/Cap Tren? (1993) Pp.22-23

\(^{65}\) http://www.treaty.un.org/LibertyIMS::/Cmd=Request;Request=TREATYBYLOC;Form=none;VF_Volume=UNVO L03;VF_File=00002068;Page=1;Type=page

\(^{66}\) http://www.treaty.un.org/LibertyIMS::/Cmd=Request;Request=TREATYBYLOC;Form=none;VF_Volume=UNVO L03;VF_File=00002059;Page=1;Type=page

\(^{67}\) http://www.treaty.un.org/LibertyIMS::/Cmd=Request;Request=TREATYBYLOC;Form=none;VF_Volume=UNVO L06;VF_File=00000459;Page=1;Type=page
“I, the undersigned, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, being duly authorized thereto by the Cambodian Government, hereby declare, on behalf of the State of Cambodia, that that State unreservedly subscribes to the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the UN and accepts and undertakes to fulfil all the obligations deriving there from.” King Sihanouk dismisses Huy Kanthoul’s government, dissolves the National Assembly, and begins governing the country by decree. [24]

- June 16, 1952, King Sihanouk becomes Prime Minister (06/16/52-01/24/53)
- June 18, 1952, Minister in the French Cabinet for the Associated States in Indochina, officials from the U.S. Dept. of State and Defense, Cambodia and Vietnam ambassadors conclude a series of discussions about the defense of Indochina from communists and issue a communiqué.
- July 17, 1952, Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Songdeth makes a declaration, in Phnom Penh, accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.
- Sept. 19, 1952, Russia vetoes the UN membership applications of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
- Jan. 24, 1953, Penn Nouth becomes Prime Minister (01/24/53-11/22/53)
- May 9, 1953, French and Cambodia rep. announce agreement after a 2-week Paris meeting on protocols to assure Cambodia "full sovereignty" in military, judicial and economic affairs. King Sihanouk is made titular head of French-directed forces in his state.
- June 13, 1953, King Sihanouk goes into self-imposed exile in Thailand to enforce his demand for Cambodia independence.
- June 20, 1953, King Sihanouk ends his self-imposed, one-week exile in Thailand.
- June 26, 1953, French send several battalions of troop reinforcement to Phnom Penh to guard against a possible anti-French uprising.
- July 2, 1953, France’s new Lanial government offers to holds a conference with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to settle their demands for self-government in the 'economic, financial, judicial, military, and political fields.'
- July 5, 1953, PM Penn Nouth says France's offer to negotiate on greater self-rule falls short of Cambodia's desire for complete independence.
- July 24, 1953, Cambodia and UN sign an agreement concerning technical assistance to Cambodia. PM Penn Nouth signs for Cambodia and N.E.S. Raghavachari for the UN (500).
- July 3, 1953, French Government announces its intention to give independence to the three Associated States of Indochina.
- July 23, 1953, Cambodia places her ratification or accession, with the government of Belgium, constituting the acceptance of Universal Postal Convention, Agreement ConcerningInsured Letters and Boxes, Agreement Concerning Postal Parcels, Agreement Concerning Postal Money Orders and Postal Travellers’ Cheques, Agreement Concerning Cash-On-Delivery Items, Agreement

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68 http://www.treaty.un.org/LibertyIMS://Cmd=Request;Request=TREATYBYLOC;Form=none;VF_Volume=UNVOL03;VF_File=00002115;Page=1;Type=page
Concerning the Collection of Bills, Drafts, Etc., and Agreement Concerning Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals.

- July 29, 1953, France hands over police and judicial power to Cambodia.
- Aug. 11, 1953, PM Penn Nouth reports that France has agreed to give Cambodia full internal sovereignty while retaining some judgesthips, military posts and control over foreign affairs.
- Sept. 16, 1953, PM Penn Nouth protests US and French criticism of his country's neutrality, claiming that Cambodia wishes to avoid "making herself a mercenary of foreign power."
- Sept. 30, 1953, US govt. agrees to provide additional aid to France and the Associated States of Indochina. [Joint Franco-American communiqué]
- Oct. 17, 1953, France and Cambodia sign an agreement on the hand-over of military sovereignty to Cambodia.
- Nov. 8, 1953, King Sihanouk returns to Phnom Penh after five months of self-imposed exile in Siem Reap. He grants an amnesty to 360 political prisoners held for helping the Viet Minh.
- Nov. 9, 1953, The independence ceremonies are held, marking the end of colonial presence in Cambodia.
- Nov. 23, 1953, Chan Nak becomes Prime Minister (11/23/53-04/7/54).
- Nov. 26, 1953, King Sihanouk announces that he will abdicate to prove that he does not seek personal absolute power.
- Dec. 20, 1953, King Sihanouk leads his army against Communist forces near the Thai border.

During 1953 both Thailand and South Vietnam encroached on Cambodian territory. The Thais seized an Angkor-period temple, Preah Vihear, on the Dangrek escarpment forming Cambodia’s northern border. Then, in June, South Vietnam troops occupied an area of the remote north-eastern Cambodian province of stung Treng. In Sihanouk's eyes both acts bore the mark of direct involvement by the men then ruling in Thailand and South Vietnam.69

- Jan. 7, 1954, Thai diplomatic mission in Phnom Penh suggests the possibility that Thailand join Cambodia and Laos in an anti-Communist bloc.
- Feb. 18, 1954, Foreign Ministers of the US, France, the UK and the Soviet Union issue a joint communiqué in Berlin following their meeting to discuss plans for the Geneva Conference on Korea and Indochina.
- March 2, 1954, Cambodia accepts the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (2163).
- March 29, 1954, US Secretary of State addresses his country's views of Indochina and the Chinese Communist on the eve of the Geneva Conference. [Text of the address]
- April 7, 1954, King Sihanouk becomes Prime Minister (04/7/54-04/18/54).
- April 8, 1954, King Sihanouk orders general mobilization and takes command of Cambodian and French forces defending northern Cambodia against a possible renewed Viet Minh invasion.

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69 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.107
April 14, 1954, US Secretary of State and French Foreign Minister issue a joint
statement following their conversation in Paris about the situation in Indochina.
April 18, 1954, King Sihanouk names Penn Nouth as PM (04/18/54-01/26/55)
and instructs the new cabinet to tighten the nation's defences.
April 23, 1954, Cambodian Ambassador To the US, Nong Kimny, files formal
charges with the UN that Viet Minh forces have committed aggression against
Cambodia.
May 5, 1954, U.S. President issues a statement concerning the preparations of the
May 7, 1954, U.S. Secretary of State's address referring to the Geneva
Conference, which he had attended, and is still going on in Geneva.
May 25, 1954, U.S. Secretary of State addresses the conditions for the U.S. direct
intervention in Indochina at a news conference. [Excerpt of the news conference]
Viet Minh FM Pham Van Dong suggests partition of Vietnam as part of a cease-
fire agreement, with Viet Minh and French forces withdrawing to different parts
of the country. Cambodia and Laos demand that any cease-fire agreement
provide for withdrawal of all Viet Minh units from their territory.
June 10, 1954, British Foreign Secy. Anthony Eden declares that Communist
deleagtes must agree to effective, impartial international supervision of an
Indochina armistice and halt manoeuvres designed to extend Viet Minh influence
in Laos and Cambodia.
June 11, 1954, U.S. Secretary of State addresses the threat of direct Chinese
Communist intervention in Indochina: “At the moment, Indochina is the area
where international communism most vigorously seeks expansion under the
leadership of Ho Chi Minh.”
July 15, 1954, U.S. Secretary of State issues a statement following his
consultations with the French Premier and British Foreign Secretary concerning
Indochina.
July 20, 1954, The Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Cambodia is
agreed, providing for a cease-fire, withdrawal of all foreign armed forces, military
personnel, and establishment of an International Control Commission, which is
comprised of representatives of Canada, India and Poland, to supervise its
execution. [Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Cambodia, Vietnam and
Laos]
of the Geneva Conference on the problem of restoring peace in Indochina.
July 23, 1954, all hostilities are to be ceased from 0800 hours (Pekin mean time)
throughout Cambodia (Article 1 of the Agreement).
Aug. 7, 1954, a cease-fire throughout Cambodia went into effect at 7 hours local
time (Article 2 (a) of the Agreement).
Aug. 8, 1954, The Manila Pact or Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty and
Organization (SEATO), engineered by the US in an effort to forestall further
Communist gains following the defeat of France in Indochina. The US is joined
by Great Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan,
with the objective of contributing to peace and security in Southeast Asia through
mutual aid in resisting armed attack and countering subversion. Cambodia, Laos,
and South Vietnam, precluded by the Geneva accords from formally joining, sign a **protocol** bringing them within the scope of the treaty’s military and economic terms. The treaty becomes effective on Feb. 19, 1955.

- Dec. 31, 1954, US Dept. of State issues a **statement** concerning direct aid to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos: “Arrangements have been completed so that on Jan. 1, 1955, the US can begin supplying financial aid directly to the Government of Viet-Nam, Cambodia, and Laos for the purpose of strengthening their defense against the threat of Communist subversion and aggression.”

**Other events happened in 1954**

- Thailand claims and occupies Preah Vihear.

Dulles had no quarrel with the suggestion that communism posed a major threat in Indochina. Indeed, he spoke to Sihanouk in the sombre terms that would be more and more frequently heard in the months that followed, as France’s grip on Vietnam became increasingly tenuous—the same terms that later led him to contemplate the use of a nuclear weapons to relieve the besieged French garrison at Den Bien Phu. But for Dulles, the situation in Indochina required a very different solution to the one the king envisaged. Sihanouk quotes him as saying; ‘we are at the most crucial point of the war. We must win it. That is why, more than ever, we must unite, unite our forces, our capabilities and not argue among ourselves. Your dispute with France can only play into the hands of our common enemy. ‘ Dulles continued with an assertion that deeply wounded Sihanouk, telling him that without French military aid Cambodia would be conquered by the ‘reds’ and would lose its independence.70

I will die happily. I was sure that my country will be liberated from the foreign yoke. I pray for Freedom.71

After the French + Japanese + Siamese + Yuonese = Quadruple Murderous Imperialists; who was behind all of destructions dragging Cambodia into Vietnam War? Who let Vietcong use Cambodia for a source of supply, sanctuary and temporary military facilities? Who secretly created Killing Fields in 1800-1845 and 1945 to present day in Khmer Krom, and in Kandal from 1975 to 1979 to brutally massacre more than 3 million innocent Cambodians, more than 460 000 lives again from 1979 1991 in Cambodia like that? Why did on Nov. 21, 1963, Prince Sihanouk ends U.S. military-economic assistance? Why did on Dec. 1963, Cambodia receive People's Republic of China military assistance instead? Who were behind the Gall Bladder harvesters? How many Khmer Rouge groups are there? How many Pol Pots are there? Who was behind Angkar Leu/Cap Tren? Who brutally forced Cambodian refugees back into Cambodia

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70 Milton Osborne: Sihanouk, Prince of Light, Prince of Darkness (1994) P.77
71 Hem Cheav, Cambodian monk, uttering his last words, in French prison near Saigon, P.43
from 1975 to 1979? Who keep encroaching and plundering Cambodian lands so far so worse like that?