

W file subj
date sub-cat.
7/73

59

Khmers Break Out New 155s

PHNOM PENH (AP) ^{7/8/73} Cambodian 7th Div. troops used their new U.S.-donated 155mm howitzers for the first time in combat Friday in support of an infantry operation against estimated 2,000 Communist-led insurgents entrenched around the base of the strategic Uphnom

Baseth hill, nine miles northwest of Phnom Penh, a field report said.

According to the informant, 7th Div. artillerymen fired four of the new heavy guns on insurgent emplacements at the western and northern foot of the hill whose 138-meter summit affords the government side a sweeping view of the surrounding plains and Route 5 to northwestern Battambang Province ricefields.

The road runs past the hill less than seven miles to the east. The report said the shells were hitting bunkers where U.S. Air Force F111 fighterbombers had struck earlier.

American B52s, F111s, F4 Phantoms and seven Corsairs also carried out daylong raids against other targets, some as close as 10 miles from the capital.