

NATIONAL

# US To Take Custody of Accused Debaucher

BY PORTER BARRON  
AND SAING SOENTHRITH  
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

US customs officials will take custody today of a US citizen arrested by Cambodian authorities for sex crimes against children, US Embassy spokeswoman Heide Bronke said Monday.

Although she declined to name the prisoner, Bronke said he will be prosecuted in the US under recently passed federal legislation that is being applied in Cambodia for the first time. That legislation stipulates that any US citizen engaging in illicit sex on foreign soil can be fined, imprisoned up to 30 years, or both.

Thierry Darnaudet, president of the NGO Action pour les Enfants (Action for Children), said Monday that a US Embassy

official had identified the prisoner as John Lewis Clark. Action pour les Enfants alerted the authorities to Clark's crime, he said.

Clark, 69, was arrested June 28 at the Pyco guest house in Phnom Penh and has since been detained at Prey Sar prison, police said.

Foreigner Police Chief Pol Pithey said at the time that when Clark's room was raided, he was caught in bed with two boys, aged 10 and 13. All three were naked, he said. Police said Clark was never a resident of Cambodia but had visited the country numerous times since 1998.

Employees of the Pyco guest house said in June that Clark had been frequenting their rooms with young boys since 2000, usually for about an hour once or twice a month.

US customs officials worked with Cambodian authorities to arrest US citizen Garry Evans Jackson, 56, last Monday. Phnom Penh Municipal Court charged Jackson with debauchery on Wednesday. Police said Jackson had committed sex crimes in his Meanchey district rental house with three boys, aged 8, 10 and 13.

Action pour les Enfants also gathered information to help facilitate Jackson's arrest, Darnaudet said. The group is monitoring 18 pedophiles in Cambodia in hopes of aiding further crackdowns.

The US customs officials are here working with Cambodian police to investigate and prosecute US citizens committing crimes against children, Bronke said.

The US has no extradition treaty with Cambodia.