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17 AUG FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON CAMBODIAN STRUGGLE

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[Text] Hanoi VNA August 17--The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam today issued the following statement expressing full support to the Cambodian people's patriotic struggle:

In face of the repeated victories of the Cambodian people's heroic struggle supported by the world's peoples and under the strong pressure of progressive opinion in the United States, the Nixon administration had to **declare** a halt to its genocidal bombing in Cambodia as from August 15, 1973.

The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia on August 15 issued a statement pointing out that this is a great victory of the Cambodian people and their People's National Liberation Armed Forces who have fought valiantly against the U.S. imperialists and their stooges. This is also a great victory of the just policy of the National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia.

It is also a victory of the friendly countries and peoples throughout the world including the American people and many personalities in the U.S. political circles, a victory of all the world's democratic organizations that are fighting for the ideals of peace, freedom and justice and have constantly given active support to the Cambodian people's just and noble cause.

The Vietnamese people warmly acclaim the Cambodian people's great victories in all fields as well as their victory in compelling the U.S. to stop bombing Cambodia. The National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia have always upheld the banner of national independence, taken their destiny into their own hands and brought into full play their strength in all fields. At the same time they have enhanced their militant solidarity with the Vietnamese and Lao peoples and have enjoyed the vigorous support and assistance of other friendly countries. That is why they have recorded one victory after another.

The victory of the signing of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and the Vientiane agreement on Laos providing for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Vietnam and the cessation of the U.S. interference in Laos have also created favourable conditions for the fraternal Cambodian people's victorious struggle in forcing the U.S. to stop its bombing.

However, the obdurate and warlike U.S. imperialists are still continuing its [as received] military involvement and interference in Cambodia's internal affairs, still providing all-round assistance to the Phnom Penh puppet administration so that the U.S. can carry on its war of aggression in other forms. For many weeks now, the U.S. has substituted its extermination bombing in Cambodia by pouring in a huge quantity of war material such as aircraft, artillery, armoured vehicles, etc., to help the Phnom Penh puppet clique oppose the Cambodian people. The U.S. has ordered Saigon puppet troops to stealthily intervene in Cambodia and is preparing to send Thai troops to that country in an attempt to maintain the Lon Nol stooges, tool of U.S. aggression in Cambodia. Moreover, the Nixon administration has bluntly stated that the U.S. is continuing its reconnaissance flights and military transport in Cambodia and will give all possible aid to the Phnom Penh puppet clique.

This proves that the Nixon administration, slighting the strong protests by American and world opinion, is continuing its aggressive war against the Cambodian people. These acts of the U.S. have grossly encroached upon the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia, very blatantly violated Article 20 of the Paris agreement, Article 8 of the act of the International Conference on Vietnam in Paris and Point 13 of the Paris June 13 joint communique. As was clearly pointed out in the statement of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, it is the U.S. imperialists--the aggressor in Cambodia--who are creating constant tension in this region.

On August 15, 1973, the Nixon administration again came out with threats against the DRV. The odious slanders and arrogant threats lavished by the U.S. and its henchmen in Saigon against the DRV are only aimed at paving the way for their new military ventures. However, all these perfidious schemes of the U.S. and its lackey to distort the just resistance of the Cambodian people and play the Cambodian and Vietnamese peoples against each other can deceive nobody, and they will unquestionably receive due punishment if they dare infringe upon the sovereignty and territory of Vietnam.

The Cambodian issue comes under the sovereignty of the Cambodian people. The DRV Government has always respected the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

The Vietnamese people and the DRV Government fully sympathize with and support the aspiration for independence, peace and neutrality and the reasonable demands of the people and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia. This was pointed out in the August 15, 1973 statement: The U.S. imperialists must completely, unconditionally and definitively stop their aggression in Cambodia, give up all their military, financial and economic aid to the clique of traitors in Phnom Penh, respect the Cambodian people's fundamental national rights and end all their interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia, so that the Cambodian people can settle their own affairs.

The Vietnamese people are consistently determined to increase their solidarity with and support to the just struggle of the fraternal Cambodian people and firmly believe that the latter will attain their noble goals as expounded in the March 23, 1970 5-point proclamation of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and in the political program of the National United Front of Kampuchea.