

IV. 16 Apr 73

NORTH VIETNAM

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FILE SUBJ.
DATE 4/73 SUB-CAT.

DRV ISSUES STATEMENT ON U.S. BOMBING IN CAMBODIA

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1435 GMT 14 Apr 73 B

[DRV Foreign Ministry statement issued on 14 April]

[Text] For more than a month the United States has successively used different types of aircraft, in particular B-52's, to carry out round-the-clock extermination bombings and strafings of many populous areas in Cambodia. Since the trip by the U.S. Army deputy chief of staff to Cambodia, the United States has poured a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and war materiel into Cambodia by airlift from bases in Thailand and by river from South Vietnam to help the Lon Nol clique continue to massacre the Cambodian people.

The U.S. authorities have brazenly declared that the United States would continue to carry out bombing in Cambodia and to transport supplies to the Phnom Penh puppet administration. According to Western reports, the United States has even envisaged sending Saigon puppet troops to Phnom Penh to save its lackeys in Phnom Penh.

This extremely dangerous act of war escalation of the United States in Cambodia grossly encroaches on the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia and violates in an extremely brazen manner the Paris agreement and the act of the international conference on Vietnam. It constitutes an impudent challenge to the Indochinese people and progressive public opinion in the United States and throughout the world.

The fact that the U.S. imperialists have increasingly piled up extremely savage genocidal crimes against the Cambodian people only testifies to the decline and inevitable defeat of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Phnom Penh. It all the more lays bare the obdurate and warlike nature of the U.S. administration which is still scheming to impose U.S. neocolonialism in Cambodia.

The U.S. imperialists' slanders and distorted statements against the DRV and the PRGSRV cannot cover up the U.S. imperialists' dark designs and barbarous crimes in Cambodia. The frantic U.S. act of stepping up its war of aggression in Cambodia will only cause it to be further bogged down and sustain still heavier setbacks in this country.

The Vietnamese people and DRV Government sternly condemn the aforementioned criminal acts of aggression of U.S. imperialism and its lackeys in Phnom Penh, Saigon and Bangkok. They resolutely demand that the United States cease forthwith all its savage bombings of Cambodian territory, stop all acts of intervention in and aggression against Cambodia, scrupulously respect the Cambodian people's fundamental national rights and strictly abide by and seriously implement the Paris agreement and the act of the international conference on Vietnam.

The Vietnamese people, rejoicing in face of the great victories of the fraternal Cambodian people, in particular the victory of the historic visit to the liberated zone of Cambodia by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, are determined to strengthen their solidarity and to wholeheartedly support the just cause of the fraternal Cambodian people and are firmly confident that under the leadership of the National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Cambodian people will certainly achieve glorious victory.

Hanoi, 14 April 1973.

HANOI CITES WESTERN REPORTS ON RVN MOVE INTO CAMBODIA

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1130 GMT 16 Apr 73 S

[Text] According to Western news agencies, on 15 April the Saigon puppet administration, in compliance with U.S. orders, sent thousands of puppet troops to cross the border and penetrate into Cambodian territory in brazen violation of provisions of the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

REUTER on 16 April reported: On 15 April, 3,000 South Vietnamese--that is, Saigon puppet--rangers moved into Cambodian territory to help the puppet Lon Nol troops reopen the supply line to Phnom Penh, which has been besieged.

REUTER on 15 April reported: Today, a South Vietnamese mechanized convoy moved 2 kms deep into Cambodian territory. This is the first time South Vietnamese--that is, Saigon puppet--troops have crossed the Cambodian border since the cease-fire went into effect in Vietnam.

AFP also reported on 15 April: Today, South Vietnamese troops supported by armored cars crossed the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border at a place near the township of Hong Ngu, 150 kms west of Saigon, and clashed with communist troops--meaning the CPNLAF--on Cambodian territory.

AFP also reported that this Saigon aggressor unit encountered the CPNLAF's intense firepower, and was driven back.

According to the same sources, the Americans meanwhile have continued to send B-52's and F-111's to carry out violent raids against the area around Phnom Penh, and especially the area around the township of (Amrong Chau), approximately 20 kms southeast of Phnom Penh, in hopes of saving the Phnom Penh puppet troops from danger.

These sources said despite the fact that the Americans have staged violent B-52 bombing raids for 39 consecutive days, the fighting continued unabated around Phnom Penh and along the Mekong River, and the CPNLAF continued to control the strategic communications lines leading to Phnom Penh, thus driving Phnom Penh into a grave shortage of electricity, water and gasoline.

HANOI CITES U.S. SENATORS' ANXIETY OVER CAMBODIAN SITUATION

Mansfield's Position

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 0345 GMT 15 Apr 73 S

[Text] U.S. Senate Democratic leader Mansfield has expressed concern about a report that Lon Nol has asked the Saigon administration to give direct military assistance aimed at checking the CPNLAF offensive. Mansfield stressed that an intervention in Cambodia by Saigon and Thai troops would be very dangerous and would possibly lead to direct U.S. military interference in Indochina.

Congressional Comments

Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 0330 GMT 15 Apr 73 B

[Excerpts] Nixon's intensified armed intervention in Cambodia is causing uneasiness among U.S. politicians. According to a UPI report, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Fulbright, speaking on 12 April at the U.S. Congress, denounced the United States for using specious and sophistic legal arguments to justify the bombing of Cambodian land.

Fulbright equates this justification with the justification given by the U.S. Government for its continued intervention in Vietnam after the Gulf of Tonkin was repealed.

[Schweiker], chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, who has always supported Nixon's policies, holds that the United States must learn from past lessons and not commit itself to military obligations in Indochina.

Additional Remarks

Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 73 B

[Text] According to Western reports, U.S. Senator John Stennis, chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, on 12 April said that the U.S. must take the lesson of the recent past and not commit itself in Indochina militarily. The senator was referring to U.S. war intensification against Cambodia.

Hugh Scott, leader of Senate Republicans, on the same day expressed regret over the continuing U.S. military support to the Lon Nol regime. He strongly criticized the U.S. B-52 bombings of Cambodia.

Senator Mark Hatfield, republican, was quoted by AP on April 13 as expressing his anxiety that U.S. actions in Cambodia may be repeating the patterns of secret commitments that preceded U.S. entry into Vietnam 10 years ago. He commented: The development in the past days heightened the unpleasant truth that the U.S. is on the verge of more, rather than less, involvement in the continuing Indochina war.

HANOI COMMENTS ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CAMBODIA

Cambodian Airlift Doomed

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1430 GMT 12 Apr 73 B

[Station commentary: "The U.S. Airlift Will Fail To Save the Puppet Lon Nol Regime"]

[Text] According to foreign sources, on 10 April a Berlin-style U.S. airlift was established between Thailand and Phnom Penh, the idea being to supply the puppet Lon Nol regime, which is encircled and seriously threatened in its last den, with U.S. weapons, ammunitions and other war materiel. U.S. Air Force C-130 transports began their flights right after Haig, deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Army and special envoy of U.S. President Nixon, left Thailand for Phnom Penh to carry out his so-called factfinding mission on the present situation in Cambodia.

Western reports also indicate that in his mission to Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Saigon, and Vientiane Haig will discuss with the Thai reactionary rulers the possibility of shipping munitions from Sattahip port to various Cambodian ports, to supply the puppet Lon Nol regime in addition to the airlift. This information is new proof that the Americans are continuing to stubbornly pursue their war of aggression against Cambodia and are becoming more deeply involved in this unjust and unpopular war.

Everybody is well aware that the U.S. imperialists are gradually stepping up their war of aggression against Cambodia. For more than a month now, along with establishing a supply base for U.S. aircraft in Pochantong, directly introducing dozens of the (F4U-24) military aircraft into Cambodia to assist the puppet Lon Nol regime, dispatching

Large numbers of military advisers to Phnom Penh in the guise of civilian personnel, and also using the reactionary clique in Bangkok to ship weapons to their henchmen, the U.S. imperialists have carried out an extremely fierce bombing campaign against the Cambodian people. As of 10 April, U.S. aircraft, including B-52 strategic bombers, have committed crimes for 34 consecutive days and nights in Cambodia.

On the night of 2 April in particular, the U.S. aggressors mobilized their air power to its highest degree in these barbarous attacks. The AP was forced to concede that all available bomber aircraft in Southeast Asia, including B-52 strategic bombers and the swingwing F-111 aircraft, had been mobilized to launch attacks against the Cambodian people in an extensive bombing campaign which probably afforded more strategic protection to the ground forces, that is, the Phnom Penh puppet forces, than they actually needed. AP also quoted reliable sources as saying that the fiercest bombing to date could be compared with the level of B-52 surprise air raids against the Hanoi and Haiphong regions carried out toward the end of 1972.

To date, with the setting up of the airlift from Thailand to Phnom Penh, the U.S. imperialists have taken another step toward escalation of their war of aggression against Cambodia, and have laid bare further their warlike and stubborn nature. This new act of war by the Americans has smashed to pieces the brazen and slanderous arguments of the Americans and their henchmen, who keep on clamoring that the DRV and PRGSRV have violated the Paris agreement on Vietnam.

However, events taking place in Cambodia have shown that it is the United States which is brazenly violating the letter and spirit of this agreement as well as the act of the international conference on Vietnam, in which the United States solemnly pledged before the world to respect Cambodian independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and neutrality.

The Nixon administration's escalation of the war in Cambodia has caused great concern to the American public. Many influential American senators have voiced criticism of this military escalation. The New York TIMES recently observed that the Nixon administration is setting up a basis for restaging the Vietnam drama in Cambodia, if not the renewed continuation of direct military intervention in South Vietnam.

As a reminder to the Nixon administration, former U.S. Under Secretary of State George Ball called on the United States to learn from the Vietnam war of aggression and stop intervening in other countries' affairs. In an article in the New York TIMES, George Ball wrote: The United States must now reexamine its foreign policy so as not to repeat such mistakes. The Vietnam war symbolizes a bitter failure of the United States and has been a blow to its political prestige and moral influence abroad and to its unity at home. It was a failure because the United States used indescribable barbarity against a small country to realize questionable objectives. The world will not soon forgive us, and we ourselves will not soon forget.

Obviously, the extremely serious new escalation of war by the United States cannot save the inevitable collapse of the Phnom Penh puppet administration, a tool for implementing U.S. neocolonialism in Cambodia. This has been eloquently proven by events in Cambodia.

Although U.S. imperialism has made every effort to supply arms and war materiel to its lackeys to oppose the Cambodian people and in particular has give massive air support, including B-52 Stratofortresses and F-111 swingwing aircraft, the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces still continue to repeatedly attack enemy troops on all fronts, to control strategic communication lines leading to Phnom Penh, including the Mekong River route, and at the same time to strongly threaten the area around Phnom Penh and other places, thus aggravating the predicament of the Phnom Penh puppet administration.

Creating an airlift by U.S. imperialism to assist the Phnom Penh puppet administration as well as any other form of U.S. escalation of the war will have the sole effect of prolonging the agony of the puppet clique in Phnom Penh. It will never be able to reverse the situation which is taking place, a situation increasingly in favor of the Cambodian people, or save from total bankruptcy the U.S. policy of Cambodianization of the war.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Commentary

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 1045 GMT 14 Apr 73 S

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 14 April commentary: "The U.S. Aggressive Face Has Been Exposed Through the Phnom Penh Crisis"]

[Text] For more than a month U.S. aircraft, B-52's in particular, have continuously bombed and strafed, dropping tens of thousands of tons of bombs on the entire territory of Cambodia, in an attempt to save the rotten and exhausted Lon Nol regime. Nonetheless, this (?staggering) and winded republic is still unable to raise its head and stand up. It is weakening militarily, politically and economically.

In the military field fighting continues violently on all fronts around Phnom Penh. Despite the fact the United States has continuously bombed and strafed for the past 36 days, with sorties of aircraft increasing from 40 to 160, and at the present time 220 each day--including about 60-100 sorties of B-52's--the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces still firmly defend their battle positions, attack continuously and drive the Lon Nol army into a perilous position.

Phnom Penh city, the big lair of the Lon Nol army, is tightly surrounded. Grain and (?fuel) are virtually running out, and the shortage of electricity and water continues to be critical. The Lon Nol clique has had to promulgate a state of emergency and then declare that the entire country is in danger. The U.S. lackey army is weakening and becoming disorganized despite strong U.S. air support. It is not only unable to open any clearing operations, but it is also unable to defend the protective battle positions around Phnom Penh. Many antiwar incidents in which operational orders are defied and many uprisings in which Phnom Penh troops desert and join the NUFC ranks are developing in Phnom Penh, Svay Rieng, Kompong Som, Kampot, Takeo, Kompong Cham, Kompong Chhnang, Siem Reap and Battambang.

In the political field, following the bombing of Lon Nol's palace, a hectic scramble for power has been taking place very intensively among the U.S. lackeys. Lon Nol has exerted efforts to arrest, purge and terrorize his opponents and people suspected of opposing him.

Lon Nol's economy--which has already been weakened--is entering an ever more critical and profound crisis and is unable to meet even the most essential demands of the city people--from rice and fuel to electricity and water. Prices have increased by four or five times within a few days. Illegal speculation has erupted, and many foreign residents have had to leave Phnom Penh temporarily for other countries.

The general crisis and the agony of the Lon Nol regime have exposed in the clearest manner the failure of the United States in its scheme to use military maneuvers to maintain its lackeys in Cambodia. U.S. Senator Mansfield has confirmed the truth that, even with assistance from the outside--meaning the United States--the Lon Nol government will be (?lost) or not have any chance for survival, according to AP on 12 April. He advised Nixon to intensify [words indistinct] and try some way to end the protracted, difficult and unnecessary war and said that the time is already late, according to UPI on 2 April.

However, the White House and the Pentagon do not have the clear sightedness of Mr Mansfield. They are still blindly plunging along the path of further intensifying the war of aggression, which is being defeated. Faced with the perilous situation of Phnom Penh, Nixon sent General Haig, U.S. adviser for national security affairs, to Cambodia. During his emergency trip from 5 to 12 April Haig met Vogt, commander in chief of the U.S. 7th Air Force, to entrust the U.S. Air Force with the duty to intervene in Cambodia. He also met Lon Nol to reassure the latter and discuss countermeasures, and he met the Saigon and Bangkok lackeys to urge them to find a way to rescue the Lon Nol regime.

One immediately notes that shortly after Haig had left Phnom Penh the U.S. Air Force in Thailand established an airlift to supply fuel and weapons to the Lon Nol troops, and according to U.S. reports, this airlift will continue operating until the Mekong River is completely reopened to traffic.

A U.S. dispatch from Saigon also disclosed that after meeting with Haig, the Saigon administration is studying the possibility of using South Vietnamese warships and troops to reopen the communications line linking [words indistinct] and Phnom Penh to traffic, considering it a vital axis for defending South Vietnam's security, according to Reuter on 13 April.

In Vientiane, a special envoy of Lon Nol also secretly met with the Vientiane administration in a 4-day discussion to express concern about the supply activities across Laos for the Cambodian revolutionary armed forces, according to Reuter.

In Washington Nixon convened the U.S. National Security Council to listen to Haig's report on the Cambodian situation upon his return. The U.S. ruling circles have repeatedly spread rumors falsely accusing North Vietnam of operating in Cambodia and vigorously strengthening its forces in South Vietnam, and they vaguely expressed Nixon's decision to carry out measures to help the Lon Nol government resist the communists' offensive and cope with Hanoi's actions, according to Reuter on 12 April.

These events clearly show that the United States itself has further aggravated Lon Nol's crisis. From the use of B-52's to the U.S. airlift, and from Haig's trip to the activities of the U.S. lackey cliques in Saigon, Bangkok and Vientiane and the Washington meeting, the United States is intensifying its military involvement deeper and deeper in Cambodia.

Everyone clearly realizes that the United States is invading Cambodia and that the United States itself is brazenly violating Article 20 of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and what it agreed to in the act of the international conference on Vietnam, which is to pledge to respect the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia.

But the warlike arguments and the aggressive actions of the United States cannot intimidate the peoples of the Indochinese countries. In Vietnam and Laos the United States has repeatedly learned a lesson of bitter failure: The U.S. Air Force, whether tactical or strategic, has been unable to subdue a people determined to fight for their independence and freedom. The present U.S. air war escalation in Cambodia certainly cannot prevent the inevitable collapse of a country-betraying and people-harming regime, a political corpse which has been cast aside by history. In waging a destructive, cruel war the United States has only invited upon itself the indignation of the Cambodian people and the other Indochinese peoples and has been vehemently condemned by public opinion.