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V DRV DECLARES SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK 23 MAR STATEMENT

DRV Foreign Ministry Statement

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1720 GMT 25 Mar 70 B

Text] Hanoi March 25--The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam today issued the following statement on the present patriotic struggle of the Cambodian people:

For many years now, the Khmer people, in order to safeguard their sacred national rights, have engaged in the road charted by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk: national independence, peace, neutrality and territorial integrity within her present borders, solidarity between the Indochinese people who are all struggling against the common enemy--the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen--contributing to the safeguarding of peace in Asia and the world.

While committing aggression against Viet Nam and intervention in Laos, the U.S. imperialists have stopped at no manoeuvre, however vile and wicked, to oppose the correct policy of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. In spite of the encirclement and threats by the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, the Khmer people have waged a tenacious and courageous struggle, foiling all sinister plans of the latter to build a system of military bases stretching from South Viet Nam to Thailand passing through Cambodia and Laos. As a result, the Kingdom of Cambodia has been able to maintain firmly her independence, freedom, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and her prestige has risen ever higher in the international arena.

Since President Nixon took office, the U.S. has put every effort in the realization of the so-called "Vietnamisation of the war" in an attempt to prolong the war in South Viet Nam, escalated the war in Laos, and at the same time intensified its intervention in Cambodia, with a view to making up for its position of ignominious failure in South Viet Nam.

The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group, henchmen of the U.S., has staged a coup d'etat to oppose the Cambodian people, oppose the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people, and are endeavouring to create an anti-Vietnamese psychosis in service of the U.S. scheme to intensify and expand war in Indochina, turn Cambodia into a military base and new-type colony of the U.S., in furtherance of the wicked design of President Nixon of using Asians to fight Asians. The coup makers group in Cambodia have thus betrayed the supreme interests of the Khmer people, opposed the correct policy of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of the Kingdom of Cambodia, sabotaged the intimate friendship and the militant solidarity between the Khmer people, the Vietnamese people and the Lao people, seriously threatening peace and security in this area.

The Khmer people of all strata and all political tendencies have expressed high indignation at the coup d'etat staged by the reactionaries in Cambodia, henchmen of the imperialists. On March 23, in a solemn declaration, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in his capacity as legal Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, declared to dissolve the government of General Lon Nol, the National Assembly and the Royal Council for crimes of high treason.

Samdech has voiced the iron determination to defend the supreme and long-term interests of the Cambodian fatherland, and called up the Khmer people to unite in the National United Front of Kampuchea, to strengthen their solidarity with the Vietnamese people, the Lao people and the other popular and anti-imperialist forces of the brotherly countries, to resolutely rise up in arms against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen.

With regard to the Kingdom of Cambodia, the unswerving policy of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has always been: maintenance and strengthening of the relations of brotherly friendship and good neighbourhood on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the 1954 Geneva agreements on Indochina; strict respect for the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within her present borders; and non-interference on one side in the internal affairs of the other.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam affirms its unshakable support for the policy defined by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, a policy of independence, peace, and neutrality for the Kingdom of Cambodia, solidarity and friendship with the other peoples in Indochina struggling against the U.S. imperialist aggressors; it considers this to be a clear-sighted policy which ensures the national interests of the Khmer people and contributes efficaciously to the maintenance of peace in Indochina and Asia. Facts have shown that to the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples, militant solidarity is an important factor for victory which guarantees to each country genuine independence and freedom and the possibility to develop along the path of its choice.

Proceeding from the principle that the liberation of Cambodia is the work of the Khmer people, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declares its total support for the five-point proclamation of March 23, 1970 of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, [and] firm support for the struggle waged by the Khmer people under the leadership of their Head of State Norodom Sihanouk against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, for the defence of their sacred national rights. In the spirit of mutual respect, solidarity and mutual assistance, the Vietnamese people will wholeheartedly support the just struggle of the Khmer people till final victory.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is firmly convinced that the peace- and freedom-loving governments in the world will accord their most profound sympathy and their vigorous support to the just cause of the Khmer people (now) struggling to defend their national interests and peace in this part of the world.

The Khmer people, endowed with a glorious history and one of the most brilliant civilisations, is also endowed with a tradition of indomitable struggle against U.S. imperialism. The Vietnamese people, who have dealt hard blows to the U.S. imperialists and the Saigon puppets, will firmly persevere in and intensify their war of resistance against the U.S. aggression. They will surely win total victory and will inevitably liberate the South, defend the North and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the country.

The Lao people are winning resounding victories, inflicting a new defeat on the "special war" of the U.S. imperialists. All this constitutes a vigorous support for the fraternal people of Cambodia. The more the U.S. imperialists intensify and expand the war and the more they resort to perfidious manoeuvres to divide the Indo-Chinese peoples, the tighter the Vietnamese, Khmer and Lao peoples will close their ranks and the higher will be their determination to fight and defeat them, and the stronger will be the support accorded by the world people, including the American people, to the surely victorious struggle of the Indochinese peoples. The coup d'etat of March 18, 1970 in Cambodia can in no way save the U.S. imperialists, but will, on the contrary, cause them to sink deeper in the quagmire of a still more disastrous defeat.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam are deeply convinced that all the strata of the Khmer people, responding to the (?sacred) appeal for national salvation launched by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, will heroically surmount all difficulties and persevere in their struggle.

The just cause of the Khmer people will win glorious victory!

✓ Newspaper Editorials

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0628 GMT 26 Mar 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA Mar 26--The Hanoi dailies NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today editorially voiced the Vietnamese people's full support for the Cambodian people's just struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

NHAN DAN, after recalling the gist of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's proclamation of March 23, quoted a statement issued by the D.R.V.N. Government on March 25 as saying "in the spirit of mutual respect, solidarity and mutual assistance, the Vietnamese people will wholeheartedly and unreservedly support the Khmer people in their just struggle till final victory."

The paper said: "The March 18 coup d'etat was the gravest crime committed by the U.S. imperialists against the Cambodian people, and also a plot against the Vietnamese and Lao peoples. For over a decade now, the U.S. has used cruel and crafty moves to force Cambodia into its sway in service of its policy of aggression in Indochina. But those hostile acts have all failed bitterly. Under the leadership of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Khmer people have persisted in the struggle to defend their national independence and sovereignty, uphold their policy of peace and neutrality and strengthen the solidarity and mutual support among the Indochinese peoples in the struggle against the common enemy-- U.S. imperialism. That correct line has helped Cambodia safeguard her independence and peace and build the country, making an important contribution to the struggle against the U.S. scheme of aggression and war expansion in Indochina."

The paper continued: "U.S. President Nixon is resorting to perfidious manoeuvres in his hostile policy against Cambodia. The coup d'etat which the U.S. imperialists recently carried out through the agency of the Lon Nol-Matak group, was aimed at abolishing Cambodia's policy of independence, peace and neutrality, furthering the U.S. plan to prolong and expand the war in Indochina and turn Cambodia into a neo-colony, military base and springboard for the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam and Laos." That manoeuvre is a clear manifestation of the Nixon doctrine to make Asians fight Asians and in this case, to make Indochinese fight Indochinese. The March 18 coup in Cambodia proves that the U.S. imperialists remain very stubborn in pursuing their war of aggression in spite of their heavy setbacks in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. That coup poses a serious menace to peace and security in Indochina and South-East Asia.

"The U.S. role in the coup is manifest through the frenzied campaign of slanders against Viet Nam unleashed by its henchmen before and after the coup. The latter wanted to sow discord and enmity between the Vietnamese and Khmer peoples and cover up the subversive and aggressive acts of the Nixon administration, but decidedly they can never realize their dark design. The Khmer people are well aware that their dangerous enemy are precisely the U.S. imperialists and the traitors to the country.

"The friendship and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples as well as among the Indochinese peoples is indestructible. That friendship and militant solidarity which have stood many trials, especially during the years of fighting against the U.S. imperialists, have constantly consolidated and strengthened. That is a great source of strength and one of the main factors for the brilliant victories of the Indochinese peoples.

"The Vietnamese peoples are deeply grateful to Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer people for their warm support to fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. For our part, we unswervingly support the policy of independence, peace and neutrality of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer people, constantly strengthen our relations of fraternal friendship and good neighbourhood with Cambodia on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence and the 1954 Geneva agreements on Indochina, strictly respect the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia within her present frontiers, and maintain the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

"The U.S. imperialists are very cruel and wicked. But in Indochina, they are in a weakening and losing posture. The Vietnamese people, in their position of strategic offensive, continue to obtain ever greater victories and will certainly win complete victory in their war of resistance against U.S. aggression. The Lao people have delivered hard blows at the U.S. aggressors and their flunkies and are vigorously developing their patriotic struggle.

"The counter-revolutionary coup d'etat of March 18 May cause temporary difficulties to the Khmer people, but decidedly it can in no way prevent Cambodia from advancing. The struggle of the Khmer people, as Head of State Norodom Sihanouk made clear in his proclamation, manifests the tradition of dauntlessness and heroism of the Khmer people and their determination to fight to defend their national rights and to continue to side with the Vietnamese and Lao peoples in the great struggle aimed at completely foiling all aggressive plans of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, in the interests of the Indochinese peoples and peace in South-East Asia and the world.

"We are firmly convinced as was affirmed in the DRVN Government's statement of March 25, that in response to Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk's sacred appeal for national salvation, the Khmer people will courageously surmount all difficulties and hardships, persevere in their struggle against the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique and the U.S. imperialists, for independence and freedom, and bring their just cause to glorious victory."

For its part, the daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN said: "The five-point proclamation of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk will certainly have the effect of rallying broad sections of the Khmer people and enjoy strong sympathy and great support from the whole progressive mankind. The Cambodian people, with their tradition of patriotic and indomitable struggle, will certainly defeat the henchmen of the U.S. imperialists and frustrate all the latter's aggressive plans and carry their just struggle through to final victory."