

V. GENERAL GIAP CONGRATULATES CNLAF COMMANDER ON APPOINTMENT

(Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1437 GMT 11 June 1971)

On the occasion of the appointment of Khieu Samphan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, as Commander in Chief of the Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces, Gen Vo Nguyen Giap has sent a message of congratulations. The message reads in full:

Hanoi, 10 June 1971.

To His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense of the RGNUC and Commander in Chief of the Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces:

On the occasion of your recent appointment as Commander in Chief of the Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces, on behalf of the Vietnamese People's Armed Forces and in my own name, I wish to extend to you my warmest and most cordial greetings.

As sons of a nation with a tradition of indomitable patriotism and undaunted resistance against foreign aggression, the heroic Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces, under the national salvation banner of the National United Front and the RGNUC, headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk as Chairman and Samdech Penn Nouth as Prime Minister respectively, have matured rapidly due to the love and protection of the people and registered resounding feats of arms, scoring extremely great victories.

The successive victories recorded in the past year as well as the new victories scored recently in Kompong Cham and Kratie by the people and National People's Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia constitute effective coordination with and precious support for the armed forces and peoples of Viet-Nam and Laos in the common struggle of the people of the Indochinese countries to chase away the U.S. imperialist aggressors and sweep away the reactionary lackeys in each country, wresting back complete independence and freedom for their own nations. They constitute a positive contribution to the cause of peace and national liberation of the people of Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The Vietnamese people's armed forces are proud of having such an undaunted, valiant, and close comrade in arms as the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces, and are greatly encouraged by the rapid growth and great victories of the fraternal Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces.

We are convinced that, under your leadership and direct command as Commander in Chief, the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces will make rapid progress in all fields, win ever greater victories, advance toward fully defeating the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their stooges--the Saigon clique of hirelings and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique of traitors--completely liberate Cambodia, and achieve full independence and freedom for their country.

Living up to the joint declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference, the Vietnamese people and armed forces pledge to further strengthen their solidarity and fraternal militant friendship and fight shoulder to shoulder with the Cambodian people and National Liberation Armed Forces and with the Laotian people and patriotic armed forces in order to completely defeat together the U.S. aggressors and their hirelings.

On this occasion, I wish to convey through you to all cadres and fighters of the heroic Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces salutations of solidarity and combat victories from all cadres and fighters of the Vietnamese People's Armed Forces and on my own behalf, I wish you good health and glorious victories in your tasks.

Gen Vo Nguyen Giap, Vice Premier and Defense Minister of the DRV.

[Editor's Note: Tran Nam Trung, RVN PRG Defense Minister sent a similar message on June 9, 1971 which was broadcast by Liberation Radio 0933 GMT, June 12, 1971]