

CAMBODIA

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GOVERNMENT DENIES ORDERING DEMONSTRATORS MASSACRED

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 16 Apr 70 D

[Information Ministry denial]

[Text] Using vehement and slanderous terms in a message sent from Peking to international organizations, former Cambodian chief of state Norodom Sihanouk accused the salvation government of ordering its infantry and armor to murder, between 18 and 31 March, 300 fellow countrymen, including youth, women, old persons, and children, who, the message claimed, had peacefully demonstrated against the new regime.

The Information Ministry categorically denies this calumny. These demonstrations, which Prince Sihanouk claimed were peaceful, were instigated by Viet Cong agents, who managed to include in their ranks peasants who support the Lon Nol government by duping them into believing that the purpose of the demonstrations was to demand that sanctions be taken against Sihanouk. Threats were later used to force the peasants to (?shout) what was contrary to what they had been (?initially told).

MILITARY SPOKESMAN HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 17 Apr 70 D

[Text] At his daily press conference this morning, the military spokesman said that the Khmer post of (Dam Dei), Mimot district, Kompung Cham Province, was burned on 15 April by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops.

On 16 April the (Khsat Barai) self-defense post in Kratie Province was attacked by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops. The Khmer defenders suffered slight losses. That same day, Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces opened fire on Khmer naval boats anchored in (Kaam Samnar), Prey Veng Province, about 8 kilometers from the frontier, causing [word indistinct] losses to the Cambodians. On the same day the Khmer army and Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces clashed for 10 minutes near Neak Loeung, but no casualties were reported. Also on 16 April, several hundred Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops attacked the Khmer post of Phnom Den and the [word indistinct] market, in Takeo Province. The customs office and a home were burned.

Answering journalists' questions about the scores of dead bodies floating in the Mekong, the military spokesman said that on the night of 11 April a Chinese passenger boat accidentally sank in the Mekong, killing about 50 persons, including women, children, and old people. In reply to another question on the situation following the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attacks against (?the forces) of Cambodia, the spokesman said that there are about 54,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops stationed illegally on Khmer territory from (Cavaraing), northeast of Ratanakiri, to the Khmer maritime province of Kampot. He added that the overall situation in the country is now stable.