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18 MAR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES REPORTED

[Editorial Report--D] Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1235 GMT on 18 March 1970 carried a 2-hour recording of two debates held by the National Assembly earlier on the same day. The first debate--which lasted only a few minutes--dealt with a personal smuggling matter. The second debate was a close session and dealt with the Khmer national political situation. It opened with National Assembly Acting Chairman In Tam inviting Lt Gen Lon Nol to read a communique by the Royal Government. The communique stressed that the activities of Viet Cong agents had created a serious situation and the government was taking immediate countermeasures to insure the country's safety.

Speaking next, Deputy Sim Var stressed the seriousness of the situation caused by the presence of Viet Cong troops on Khmer territory and demanded that the government be given full power to chase them away. Deputy Trinh Hoanh then took the floor to voice his concern over the national situation and explained how constitutional procedures must be followed to give full power to the government and to proclaim a state of emergency in the country. Acting Chairman In Tam then took the floor again and appointed a committee to study constitutional procedures to give the government full power. The deputies continued the debate with Deputy Ung Mung speaking about the seriousness of the current situation. To deal with the situation, the government must be given full power and Khmer military forces must be increased, Ung Mung emphasized.

Speaking next Deputy Douc Rasy accused the Viet Cong and Viet Minh of planning to occupy Khmer territory after their war with the United States ends. He also called for the application of the Article 15 of the Constitution to give full power to the government. Deputy Ouch Ek then took the floor and dealt with the Viet Cong activities on Khmer territory, which, according to him, were the cause of the recent demonstrations. He also demanded full power for the government. Deputy Danh Sang spoke about the constitutional procedures to be followed to give full power to the government, and called for the strengthening of the Khmer military forces. Deputy Thach Chan recalled the recent anti-Viet Cong, anti-Viet Minh demonstrations and accused the Vietnamese of committing brutalities against the Cambodian people. He also demanded full power for the government and the proclamation of a state of emergency as a measure to help the government of national salvation cope with the current national problems.

Speaking next, Acting Chairman In Tam asked for an intermission to draft a resolution to this effect. When the draft was ready, it was read by Deputy Trinh Hoanh and unanimously approved by the National Assembly. The resolution stated that because of the occupation of Khmer territory by the Viet Cong troops and because of the activities of certain traitors who have sold out the country to the Viet Cong, a state of emergency was proclaimed and the Lon Nol government of national salvation was given full power in conformity with the Article 15 of the constitution.

Acting Chairman In Tam took the floor again to speak about the recent anti-Viet Cong demonstrations and stressed the tasks of the National Assembly and the government. He also disclosed that during a recent meeting with Her Majesty the Queen, she expressed her displeasure over the demonstrations, and that Prince Sihanouk himself had accused the National Assembly and the present government of treason against the nation.

Deputy Trinh Hoanh then took the floor and denounced Prince Sihanouk for protecting the Viet Cong and acting in complicity with foreigners. He called Sihanouk a dictator and accused him of giving protection to the smuggling activities of his wife and her family, and to dishonest officials and businessmen to please his wife and his mother-in-law, who had made a fortune selling positions in the administration. He accused the Prince of causing hardships for the people by opening the casino to serve his personal interests and his family's interests, of constantly changing his views to the point of creating a credibility gap among the people, of demagoguery, of executing a large number of peasants without trials, of wasting national funds, of blindly following his wife's advice, of disrespect for the people's opinion, and of violating the constitution. Trinh Hoanh also stressed the necessity "of getting rid of the Sihanouk yoke" and proposed a vote to withdraw confidence from the Prince.

Speaking next, Deputy Our Lay In accused Sihanouk of repeatedly insulting him despite the fact that he had been a friend of Prince "since childhood." He recalled that Sihanouk gave excessive prizes to beautiful girls during the past international film festival while the people were starving. He also said he approved of Trinh Hoanh's proposal to relieve Prince Sihanouk as chief of state.

Deputy Prom Senh then took the floor and voiced approval for Trinh Hoanh's proposal. He accused Sihanouk of humiliating the deputies and deceiving the Khmer people. He demanded the withdrawing of confidence from the Prince because, according to him, Sihanouk "is the only one who would sell his country."

Deputy Ouch Ek charged that "Sihanouk is walking the wrong way," and demanded that the Prince step aside to let other people serve the country. He accused the Prince of killing a large number of persons because "his brother-in-law was a police commissar," but did not elaborate on this charge. He accused the Prince of supplying arms and ammunition to the Viet Cong to kill the Khmer people. He revealed that at present there are tens of arms and ~~ammunition which still have not been sent to the~~ Viet Cong yet. Finally he declared that he has withdrawn his confidence from Sihanouk.

Mr Phuong San, a member of the Council of the Kingdom, then took the floor and inquired about the constitutional procedures which have made Sihanouk chief of state. Acting Chairman In Tam told him that the Prince had not been voted into office but had been made chief of state by demonstrators during the time Mr Choup Hell was president of the National Assembly and Mr Pho Proeung president of the Council of Ministers. Mr Phuong San then asked more questions about how Sihanouk was made chief of state, to which In Tam gave further explanations. Satisfied, Phuong San declared that he agreed with the decision to withdraw confidence from the Prince. Deputy Koam Reth took the floor to voice his views, which were similar to those expressed by his colleagues. He also said he did not want to place his confidence in the Prince anymore.

Acting President In Tam then called for a vote of confidence on Prince Sihanouk to decide the issue. The 92 members of the two houses present then unanimously voted against Sihanouk. Acting President In Tam took the floor and declared that Prince Sihanouk "must vacate his post as chief of state of Cambodia as of today." The session concluded after In Tam's declaration.