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MEASURES TAKEN TO GOVERN CAMBODIA IN STATE OF EMERGENCY

Lon Nol Statement

FILE
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Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1215 GMT 20 Oct 71 D

[Prime Minister Marshal Lon Nol's message to the people--live]

[Text] Respected monks! Beloved compatriots!

The head of state, in his message of 16 October 1971, has informed you of the circumstances which prompted the transformation of the National Assembly and Council of the republic into a Constituent Assembly as of 18 October 1971. The transformation of the two high bodies of the nation will very shortly give our young republic a republican constitution in conformity with the aspirations of our peace- and justice-loving nation. However, because we cannot organize elections to quickly select new representatives, we therefore have adopted on a temporary basis a new but democratic regime which will enable us to stand against all dangers detrimental to the existence of our nation. The head of state has reaffirmed his confidence in my ability by appointing me prime minister of the new government. As for me, to successfully fulfill this new mission I need the confidence of the monks and all my beloved compatriots.

Ever since we ousted the former head of state from his post, we have bravely engaged in following the republican path to build a new society with democracy and freedom. We all unanimously and joyfully proclaimed the Khmer Republic, of which "freedom, equality, fraternity, progress and happiness" is the motto.

Because of our firm solidarity we have been able to survive despite barbarous alien aggression. Thanks to this solidarity, though at that time our army was small and lacked experience, we dared counterattack the aggressive enemy, who believed they could annihilate us in a few days. Eighteen months have passed. We have strengthened our army and transformed it into an efficient and courageous force. We have launched offensives on all fronts to dislodge the enemy and have inflicted serious losses on them. We have been able to defend our independence and neutrality. However, the enemy has not yet been driven out of our territory. Hence, all of us must carry out the war mission until complete victory and also must liberate our compatriots who have been forced to live under the iron yoke of the barbarous Thmil [Viet Cong-North Vietnamese].

To achieve victory we must take necessary steps and preserve national solidarity from all enemy splitting attempts. In this context, I have bitterly noted that recently certain groups and parties have initiated activities intended to sow disorder among our compatriots. Articles in some papers and magazines have started to outrageously defame the prestige of our army and slander many of our officials and intellectuals who have honestly served the nation. Even your youths have not been spared. Many groups and parties have been set up under the cover of private associations and conducted political propaganda aimed at grabbing power. Many of our citizens, especially those living in the city, behave as if they have forgotten that our country is at war and that many of their compatriots have fallen on the fronts.

The government cannot be unconcerned about this demagogic propaganda. Therefore, it will take appropriate measures.

In view of this situation, I appeal to your national conscience to take part in the struggle against the barbarous Thmil within the framework of the general mobilization.

Beloved monks and compatriots! We now reach the turning-point in the history of our fatherland as we have to choose between the following two paths: Whether we keep on playing the game of fruitless democracy-freedom which will inevitably lead us towards a certain fall, or whether we curtail the anarchist democracy for the sake of victory.

The government has decided to follow the path which leads towards victory. Therefore, I appeal to our monks and compatriots to stay united and always to bear in mind the fact that the cruel war imposed on us by the aliens must be our common concern.

Everyone must contribute to the common struggle so that the final victory will be ours. The new government that I represent completely relies upon you, my dear monks and compatriots, to successfully carry out the heavy tasks of our nation.

Long live national solidarity! Long live the Khmer Republic!

Phnom Penh, 20 October 1971.

New Cabinet Announced

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1215 GMT 20 Oct 71 D

[Text] The new cabinet of ministers, according to Kret [decree] No 619 dated 18 October 1971, is as follows:

Marshal Lon Nol-Prime Minister; Sisowath Sirik Matak-delegate prime minister and minister of national defense; Tim Nguon-first deputy prime minister in charge of the prime minister's office and coordination of the ministries of the interior, national security, religious affairs, justice, public works, and rural engineering; Sok Chhong-second deputy prime minister in charge of finance and coordination of finance, post and telecommunications; Hang Thunhak-third deputy prime minister in charge of community development and coordination of public health, labor, social welfare and employment, national education and culture; Koun Wick-minister of state in charge of foreign affairs; Chau Xeng Ua-minister of state in charge of social welfare; Chhorn Sokhom-minister of state in charge of industry and commerce; Long Boret-information minister; Sor Song-agriculture minister; Danh Sang-justice minister; Khy Taing Lim-minister for public works and rural engineering; So Sotta-public health minister; Pan Sothi-national education and culture; Chhieng Kim Suor-post and telecommunications; Gen Thapna Ngin-minister for the interior, national security and religious affairs; Malay Khem-minister for trade and supply.

Council of Ministers Session

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 20 Oct 71 D

[Text] On 18 October 1971 Lt Gen Sirik Matak presided over a special session of the Council of Ministers to discuss appropriate measures to enact the decree which transforms the two houses into a Constituent Assembly. University rector Phuong Ton also attended the meeting.

Government Members Limited

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 21 Oct 71 D

[Text] In accordance with Order No 3 of 18 October 1971, the head of state of the Khmer Republic orders that:

Article 1 - The maximum number of the members of the government will be from 16 to 20, including secretaries of state.

Article 2 - The number of under-secretaries of state is limited to 7. On the other hand, if the number of the government members is not up to the figure cited in the Article 1 above the number of under-secretaries of state can be increased to fill the gap in the number of the government members.

Mixed Commission Will Continue

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0700 GMT 21 Oct 71 D

[Text] It is brought to the attention of all members of the broadened mixed commission in charge of drawing up the proposed constitution of the Khmer Republic that Gen Sisowath Sirik Matak, delegate prime minister, has reaffirmed that the commission is expected to continue its assignment until its completion. The work and existence of this commission (? have no connection with) the establishment of the Constituent Assembly. The work of the broadened mixed commission will be submitted for discussion by the Constituent Assembly. Therefore all members of the broadened mixed commission are invited to regularly attend all sessions, Monday through Saturday every week.

HIGH COMMAND SPOKESMAN REPORTS ON MILITARY SITUATION

20 Oct Report

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 20 Oct 71 D

[Text] High Command Spokesman Lt Col Am Rong stated this morning that about 500 families fleeing from the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese have taken refuge in Angtassom, Takeo Province. The refugees stated that the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese set ablaze temples, secondary schools and hospitals at Tram Kak, Prey Ronol, Angthnot, Chamcar Loeu, and Angrokar in the Angtassom region.

The enemy initiated no special activities last night. Our armed forces are continuing offensives everywhere. Patrols and operations are being conducted against the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese aggressors.

21 Oct Report

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0700 GMT 21 Oct 71 D

[Text] High Command Spokesman Lt Col Am Rong's representative, Capt Chhang Song stated this morning that our forces clashed with the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese 3 kilometers east of Santuk Mountain yesterday. On 20 October our troops supported by aircraft routed an estimated 300-strong Viet Cong-North Vietnamese force after 6 hours of heavy fighting. About 100 enemy troops were put out of action, including 20 bodies found on the field. On our side one soldier was killed and five others wounded. Twelve AK-47 assault rifles were captured by our forces.

On the night of 20-21 October our troops clashed with the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese at Ponley in Kompong Chhnang Province and at a point eleven and a half kilometers southwest of Takeo town. Fighting is continuing this morning 21 October.

A truck convoy of 192 trucks and 55 trailers carrying rice and other goods from Battambang arrived in Phnom Penh on 20 October at 2000.

REPORT ON TRUCK CONVOY MOVEMENTS, COMPOSITION, CARGOES

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 19 Oct 71 D

[Text] The ground transport situation on national Route 5 is as follows:

From Phnom Penh to Kompong Chhnang-Battambang on 21 October [as heard]: 117 trucks, 61 trailers, and 25 other trucks intended to transport troops of the 5th Infantry Division, Siem Reap Military Police, and 4th Military Zone. Transported goods: petroleum, gas oil, fuel and other supplies. From Battambang-Pursat-Kompong Chhnang to Phnom Penh on 15 October: 131 trucks, 65 trailers. Transported goods: rice, bran, bean, empty bags and empty bottles.

SIHANOUK WANTS TO TALK WITH NIXON DURING CHINA VISIT

London REUTER in English 1403 GMT 19 Oct 71 X

[Article by James Pringle]

Peking, Oct. 19, REUTER--Prince Norodom Sihanouk, exiled Cambodian head of state, said today he would like to meet President Nixon for a frank discussion of the war in Cambodia. He said such a meeting could take place during the President's forthcoming visit to Peking to see the Chinese leaders.

Sihanouk, in an exclusive interview, warned the U.S. President against expecting to find in Peking any softening of China's attitude towards Cambodia or Indochina as a whole. He said Chinese Premier Chou En-lai--recently told him the ending of the Indochina war took precedence for Peking even over solving the problem of Taiwan.

When they had lunch together in Peking's Summer Palace Oct. 2, China's National Day, Chou told him Taiwan would inevitably be returned to the homeland, but in Indochina people were still dying, Sihanouk said. "According to Premier Chou, who spoke to me on behalf of Chairman Mao, the ending of the war in Indochina is more important and more urgent," Sihanouk said.

The 48-year-old prince was interviewed at his residence in Peking in what was once the French Embassy. He has lived in exile in the Chinese capital since shortly after being ousted from power in March last year. "Of course," Sihanouk added, "we do not want peace without the total ending of American intervention in Indochinese affairs."

Asked if he anticipated any contact with Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's special envoy who arrives tomorrow in Peking, Sihanouk said, "Personally I do not want to see Kissinger. Such a meeting would not be helpful." Sihanouk added, "I want to see Nixon directly. A frank discussion with him would be useful for us."

Sihanouk said he did not plan to be "very unpleasant" if talks with the U.S. President materialized. President Nixon on May 1, 1970 ordered U.S. forces in South Vietnam to cross into Cambodia to attack communist sanctuaries. "There will be no recriminations, no complaints and no protests," said the prince, who sat on a crimson satin sofa in a large reception room at the residence.