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PRG MINISTRY SPOKESMAN RAPS U.S.-RVN WAR IN CAMBODIA

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY [Clandestine] in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1556 GMT 17 Apr 73 B

[Text] South Vietnam April 17 LPA--The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of South Vietnam today issued a statement condemning the U.S. and the Saigon administration for stepping up their war of aggression against Cambodia. The statement reads in full as follows:

After the signing of the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam, the Government of the United States has spared no efforts to intensify its brutal war of aggression against Cambodia. For one and a half months now, it has mustered almost all the U.S. Air Force in Southeast Asia, including many B-52 strategic bombers, to carry out round-the-clock extermination bombing against many areas in Cambodia.

After Nguyen Van Thieu's trip to the United States and his meeting with Nixon, the United States sent General Haig, deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Army, to Saigon, Bangkok, Vientiane and Phnom Penh to work out plans for using U.S. "barring" [as received] force in combination with the alliance of their henchmen in the region to materialize the "Nixon doctrine" by "using Indochinese to fight Indochinese" with a view to realizing the U.S. imperialists' neo-colonialism in this region, and first and foremost to save the Lon Nol regime in Cambodia from collapse. After General Haig's trip, the United States has continued airlifting and shipping weapons, munitions and war means to Cambodia from U.S. military bases in Thailand and from South Vietnam in a bid to prop up the Lon Nol junta in its brutal massacre of the Cambodian people. It also cooked up the so called "infiltration" of troops and weapons by "North Vietnam and Vietcong" into Cambodia to cover up its acts of brazen violation and prepare for new serious steps of war escalation.

On April 15, thousands of Saigon troops, under the cover of armored cars and artillery, from Hong Ngu and Tan Chau, eastern Nam Bo, encroached [upon] the areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, crossed the border and advanced deep into the territory of Cambodia. On April 16, the Saigon administration sent more troops and warships, in coordination with Lon Nol troops and U.S. Air Force, to commit heinous crimes against the people living in areas bordering the Vietnam-Cambodia frontier. But the Saigon administration has tried its hardest to deny it. At one time it said: "That is only a guess," and at another time it declared: "Only some platoons crossed the frontier for defense." When Le Trung Hien, spokesman of the Saigon command, rectified that: "There is no operation conducted in Cambodian territory by South Vietnamese troops," Western correspondents present at the scene affirmed that about a regiment of Rangers supported by 25 M-113's has crossed the frontier and the Khmer military commanders in the areas had been informed of this operation.

Obviously, this is a series of premeditated and planned acts by the U.S. and the Saigon administration aimed at violating the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Cambodia, and at the same time illegally encroaching on the areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. These acts seriously violated Article 4 and Article 20 of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and Article 2 of the protocol on ceasefire and are at variance with their commitments in the act of the international conference on Vietnam.

This is also an insolent challenge to the Indochinese peoples and progressive public opinion in the United States and the world over that are struggling to demand that the Paris agreement on Vietnam must be seriously implemented. It has also exposed the obdurate and warlike nature of the U.S. Government and the Saigon administration.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Vietnam severely denounces and calls on world public opinion to strongly condemn the extremely serious acts of violation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam by the U.S. and the Saigon administration, resolutely demand that they end immediately all acts of violation of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and all other interferences in the internal affairs of the Cambodian people and demand that the Saigon army withdraw at once its troops back to their positions and end all illegal encroachments on the areas administrated by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam.

The U.S. Government and the Saigon administration must bear all consequences arising from their acts. The frenzied acts of stepping up the aggressive war in Cambodia can only drive them deeper into the quagmire and cause them heavier setbacks. The "Khmerization of the war" plan of the U.S. imperialists and the Lon Nol traitorous regime will be surely foiled.

The noble cause of the Cambodian people will triumph.

FRONT RADIO WARNS U.S., RVN ON INTERVENING IN CAMBODIA

#### 17 Apr Commentary

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 1400 GMT 17 Apr 73 S

[Commentary: "Do The Americans and the Saigon Puppets Again Intend to Play With Fire?"]

[Text] Although tens of thousands of tons of U.S. bombs and shells have been massively dropped from B-52's or fired for more than a month, the Cambodianization policy of Nixon, his lackeys, and the Lon Nol puppet clique is being implemented in Cambodia on an ill-fated and extremely tragic battlefield.

In the military field, according to repeated reports by Western news agencies, regardless of the U.S. deployment of all available U.S. aircraft--including all the B-52's in Southeast Asia--to launch destructive raids, the communist [words indistinct]--meaning the Cambodian liberation armed forces--continue to redouble their attacks throughout Cambodia, and the war is now being waged near Phnom Penh's defensive belt with vigorous blockades which are stifling vital land and water communications lines. From the Mekong River--Phnom Penh's throat--to routes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and on the battlefields in Takeo, on the outskirts of Prey Veng, in Neak Luong and Svay Rieng, and elsewhere, the situation of the Lon Nol troops is becoming increasingly desperate.

On the other hand, owing to serious military setbacks, the political situation of the U.S. lackey clique in Phnom Penh is facing increasingly greater dissension. The U.S. lackeys in Phnom Penh are harming and purging each other and are seeking to eliminate each other. They are exposing themselves as fascists and are ruthlessly repressing the people and stifling the press.

The recent bombing of Lon Nol's palace by a patriotic, revolutionary officer has confused the U.S. lackeys in Phnom Penh even more seriously. This tragic situation caused Lon Nol himself and the Phnom Penh puppet national assembly to hold an emergency session and to complain to their U.S. masters about their endangered situation.

Obviously, following bitter setbacks in Vietnam and Laos, the backbone of stubborn and warlike Nixon's Cambodianization policy has been and is being seriously eroded. Nevertheless, like old foxes engaged in losing at gambling, Nixon and the reactionary forces in Phnom Penh have not yet awakened. On the contrary, to breathe new life into the Lon Nol clique, the Americans had to hurriedly establish an airlift to save it from danger.

Moreover, Nixon immediately sent U.S. General Haig to Southeast Asia to discuss schemes and expedients with his inferior lackeys in various countries in this area. Haig especially flew to Saigon and went to Cambodia twice to consolidate the Lon Nol clique's morale and to work out a new large-scale military plan, aimed at intervening in Cambodia and using the Saigon army as a pawn to be the first to take risks, according to BBC on 10 April. According to AFP on 13 April, the Saigon military command spokesman definitely refused to comment on this news, telling newsmen only that "We will inform you, friends, of events when they occur."

In a dispatch from Saigon on 13 April, REUTER also said: Today, 13 April, the U.S. authorities have studied the possibility of using warships and the South Vietnamese army, meaning the Saigon army, to reopen the Mekong River to traffic as far as Phnom Penh. Obviously it was not merely a coincidence that during the time when Nixon and Thieu staged the farce of their meeting in the United States, AFP reported on 9 April that Nixon had managed to take drastic measures to prevent the Lon Nol regime from collapse and that Nixon and Thieu were seriously concerned about the Lon Nol clique's rapidly worsening situation. Also chiming in with the U.S. masters, Saigon radio--Thieu's psychological warfare mouthpiece--[words indistinct] ballyhooed the Saigon puppets' concern and announced on the night of 12 April that Saigon army Chief of General Staff Cao Van Vien suddenly had to cancel his propaganda trip to Taipei and return to Saigon because the military situation in South Vietnam and Cambodia was worsening.

Obviously, on U.S. orders, the Saigon administration has urgently prepared and is urgently preparing for a new military adventure in Cambodia, and a few days ago actually sent its troops to infiltrate Cambodia with a view to intervening brazenly and deep in Cambodian internal affairs, thereby violating Article 20 of the Paris agreement on Vietnam, according to which it has no right to encroach on the sovereignty and security of this country.

Everyone knows that the U.S. Cambodianization policy in Cambodia is collapsing and will certainly collapse completely in the face of the heroic Cambodian armed forces' and people's strong offensive. This is an irresistible law, following the serious and shameful failure of the Vietnamization and Laoization policies. In stubbornly and recklessly running counter to this law through their schemes of preparing for new military adventures in Cambodia, the U.S.-Thieu clique must more than ever remember the appropriate historic lessons of its large-scale military adventure in Cambodia in 1970 and the ensuing battles which seriously panicked tens of thousands of U.S.-Saigon aggressor troops, such as those in Kirirom, Prey Totung, (?Tin Hiyang), Neak Luong, Kompong Trabeck, Chup, Suong, Dambe, Wat Thmey, Krek, Snuol, Chen La 2, and elsewhere.

In the political field, these hot battles made the vigorous public throughout the world, including the U.S. people, launch a stormy movement to condemn the U.S.-Saigon puppets and to demand that their hands be stayed. Consequently, treading in the U.S.-Saigon troops' footsteps of tragic failure, the military adventure aimed at invading Cambodia at that time became, historically, a most shameful stain.

As the intimate, neighboring friends of the Cambodian people--who have together with us shared the same joy, sadness and difficulties and who are together with us in the same combat trench to counter U.S. aggression--the South Vietnamese people more than ever unreservedly support the Cambodian people's just fight and stand, which Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the NUFC, and the RGNVC repeatedly outlined in the 23 March 1970 five-point declaration and the 26 and 28 January 1973 statements. The South Vietnamese people firmly demand that the United States end and renounce its scheme to intervene in and invade Cambodia, respect the fundamental national rights and the internal affairs of Cambodia, and let the Cambodian people themselves settle their own internal affairs. This is the best way to have true peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

If the U.S. imperialists remain stubborn and bellicose and recklessly send the Saigon puppet troops or any other mercenary soldiers to embark on a new military adventure in Cambodia, it is certain that the United States will invite incalculable consequences upon itself. As a Western radio station commented on the night of 7 April: With its new, large-scale military plan aimed at involving itself in Cambodia, the United States might again be bogged down in a more desperate situation, and all the U.S. commitments to Lon Nol will certainly lead the United States to another disaster.

As for the Saigon administration--if it wants to follow U.S. orders and resigns itself to serving as a pawn--as far as Cambodia is concerned it is necessary to remind it to look back in order to see again the tragic, dark shadows of its previous adventures in southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia, so it can with this reminder correct itself.

#### Further Remarks

Liberation Radio [Clandestine] in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0930 GMT 17 Apr 73 S

[Editor's notebook: "The Mayflies Again Dash Toward the Flame"]

[Text] Dishonest robbers are accustomed to concealing their deeds, just like cats that bury their feces underground. The Saigon and Washington VIP's have acted in the same way. They have several times stated or sworn in an extremely sincere manner that they never had any intention of sending Saigon troops to infiltrate into Cambodia. However, this is a slippery oath.

They have sent Saigon troops to Cambodia to conduct a military operation whose scale can be ranked first or second after their violations of the Paris agreement in the past 2 and 1/2 months.

Many Western newsmen and cameramen caught in the act this aggressive operation by the Saigon puppet troops. They reported that at least one Saigon Ranger regiment, with about 25 M-113 vehicles, had crossed the border in Chan Doc Province of South Vietnam to penetrate into Takeo Province of Cambodia. At least one Cambodian village was completely destroyed by the operation, according to AFP on 16 April.

They also reported that Saigon troops crossed the Cambodian border after 13 April and were still present in this area on the night of 15 April, according to Radio Manila on 16 April.

In addition, Phnom Penh military circles--that is, the Lon Nol clique--have also denounced their Saigon friends when acknowledging this operation. To prevent the public from criticizing them for asking help or concocting a certain plot, they made it clear that this operation was conducted by the Saigon troops without the participation of the Lon Nol government's army units, according to AFP on 16 April.

It is crystal clear that the Saigon VIP's and President Thieu, their leader, are professional war contractors for the United States. They have urged the Saigon troops to stage nibbling operations against the liberated areas under PRG/RSV control and have just committed the crime of sending Saigon troops to invade Cambodia and savagely massacre Cambodians.

Following the U.S. Air Force's savage bombing campaign over the past 40 days, this large-scale aggressive operation reveals that the Saigon and Washington rulers have brazenly trampled upon the Paris agreement on Vietnam and violated their solemn pledge to respect Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They have taken serious escalation steps in the past 2 and 1/2 months by violating the Paris agreement and sabotaging peace in Vietnam and Laos while impeding settlement of the Cambodia problem in accordance with the Cambodians' just desires.

Moreover, the fact that the United States has resorted to genocidal airstrikes and used the brutal Saigon troops to save the Lon Nol clique reveals even more clearly that the clique is now in an extremely critical and dangerous situation.

The Cambodian people's revolutionary flames are fiercely burning around Phnom Penh and lashing the faces of the U.S. lackeys, who are no longer able to continue their U.S. masters' Cambodianized war. The U.S. bombs and the Saigon puppet troops' bayonets can only possibly help postpone the death throes of the Lon Nol puppet clique, but they cannot help it stand firm. Meanwhile, the United States and Saigon puppet troops also cannot avoid getting bogged down and failing.

The concealment and denial by the United States and Saigon administration of their incursion into Cambodia proves that they are afraid of the world public's condemnation and the Cambodian people's hatred and insults.

The fact that they have acted slyly while seeking to avoid criticism and to flee also proves they are afraid of the heavy punitive blows from the Cambodian armed forces and people. Of course, they still remember the bloody punitive blows at Snoul, Dam Be, and (Wat Khmei), which the history of their military setbacks recorded with immortal pictures showing puppet troops clinging to the skids of helicopters, beating a retreat, fleeing with armored vehicles left behind, falling dead one after another, and so forth. And of course they also remember that at that time the Cambodian revolution was not so strong as it is now. Now the Cambodian revolutionary forces have matured and become many times stronger than previously. Their reckless act will only turn them into mayflies.

## RVN SPOKESMAN REITERATES DENIAL ON CAMBODIAN OPERATION

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in English 18 Apr 73 Evening Edition S

[Text] Saigon, April 18 (VP)--Military spokesman Lt Col Le Trung Hien Wednesday said no operation was launched by the Republic of Vietnam armed forces into the territory of the Khmer Republic.

A foreign news agency previously reported the RVN forces launched a border-crossing operation to lift the communists' pressure on base Tong Le Chan, 14 kms southwest of An Loc and about 8 kms from the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. The base has been under the communist siege for nearly two months.

It Col Hien had declared if negotiations on the Tong Le Chan issue came to no results the RVN would find all means to rescue the Ranger battalion defending the base.

## RVN DEPUTY PREMIER ASKS FRANCE FOR ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AID

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Apr 73 S

[Text] Yesterday morning French Premier Pierre Messmer received RVN Deputy Premier Nguyen Luu Vien, head of the RVN delegation to the two-party conference now underway at La Celle-Saint-Cloud.

Deputy Premier Nguyen Luu Vien stated that following the decision of the French and RVN governments to reestablish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, he had come to thank the French Government for all the facilities accorded the RVN at the two-party conference.

The RVN deputy premier added that the French premier and he had dealt with reconstruction of the RVN, and that he had asked the French Government to give the RVN technical and economic assistance, based on French experience, and especially in view of the friendship and close relations existing between the two countries in the past.

Deputy Premier Nguyen Luu Vien added that the mutual understanding between the two countries would be useful for French participation in rebuilding South Vietnam, not only in the economic field but also in the cultural field, in which France has maintained a good position.

## RVN SPOKESMAN COUNTERS CHARGES CONCERNING PRISONER RETURN

Saigon VIETNAM PRESS in Vietnamese 17 Apr 73 Evening Edition S

[Text] Saigon, 17 April (VP)--RVN Foreign Ministry spokesman Pham Dang Sum this morning rejected all slanderous accusations against the RVN Government concerning the delay in the return of civilian prisoners to the other side.

Mr Pham Dang Sum said the RVN Government is ready to return to the other side 5,081 civilian prisoners--who had worked for the communists and who were convicted by the court of acts of sabotage, terrorism, or disturbance of public order and security--as soon as the other side agrees to return to the RVN 67,501 civilians it is detaining.

The RVN Foreign Ministry said the nearly 70,000 RVN civilians being detained by the other side consist of 16,754 cadres--including civil servants, village hamlet officials, and civil self-defense corpsmen--and 50,747 ordinary civilians.