

PRG
4/2/70

1. Q. (Sedbon -- Reuters) We would like to know what your delegation thinks of the proposal made by France last night?

A. As I just said, the deep origin and the direct cause of the extremely serious situation now existing in Indo-China resides in the warmongering policy of the Nixon Administration. Not only does that Administration refuse to put an end to its aggression in South Viet-Nam, but it is also spreading the war to Viet-Nam's neighboring countries -- Laos and Cambodia. This is why, in order to find a correct solution to this serious situation, there is no other way than for the US to put an immediate end to its war of aggression in South Viet-Nam, withdraw all US troops and those of the foreign countries in the American camp from South Viet-Nam, immediately stop its special war in Laos, and put an end to its acts of intervention and aggression against the independence, sovereignty and the neutrality of Cambodia. The US must truly respect the national rights of the people of Indo-China and let the Indochinese people settle their own affairs themselves, without any foreign interference. Yesterday, the French Government expressed its concern regarding the present situation in Indo-China and its desire to see peace restored in the Indochinese countries. We hope the French Government may contribute to the eliminating of the cause of the tension in Indo-China, such cause residing precisely in the policy of intervention and overt aggression of the US. Regarding South Viet-Nam, we hope the French Government may implement the policy advocated by General de Gaulle in his Phnom Penh speech. This is a policy consistent with the interest of France as well. Regarding Cambodia, the putschist, Lon Nol/ Sirik Matak group is in the process of destroying the independence and neutrality of the country in order to turn it into an

American neocolony and military base, so as to serve the US in its designs to spread the war of aggression to all of Indo-China. Under such conditions, we believe the true interest of France would reside in supporting the policy of genuine independence and neutrality advocated by the Chief of State of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk.

Regarding the population and the PRG of South Viet-Nam, our position has been known for a long time. More than anyone else, we aspire to peace, but it must be genuine peace in independence and freedom. Our Ten Point overall solution, which was advanced close to a year ago now, provides the basis for a correct, logical, and reasonable settlement of the South Vietnamese problem, in contribution to restoring peace in Indo-China. We firmly support the Five Point position of the Lao Patriotic Front aimed at correctly solving the problem in Laos. We firmly support the proclamation of national salvation made on March 21 by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State of Cambodia. If the US refuses to listen to the voice of reason and continues to prolong and intensify its war of aggression in South Viet-Nam, the South Vietnamese population is resolved to fight until it achieves its sacred goals. If the US continues to spread its war of aggression to the countries of Indo-China, the Vietnamese people are determined to stand together with the peoples of Cambodia and Laos to defend their independence and their freedom. The US must bear the full responsibility for the consequences of its underhanded actions.

2. Q. (Fenton, Baltimore Sun) This is a rather subtle answer to the French proposal. In clear terms, does that mean that you are going to study the question, that there will be a more specific answer later on?

A. We, of course, study all statements dealing with the situation in Viet-Nam, wherever those statements come from. If we have something else to inform you about, we will let you know at the appropriate time.

3. Q. (Delarue, France-Soir) You are not saying whether you are in favor of a neutral South Viet-Nam.

A. As you probably know already, for ten years, since the founding of the NLF, we have been advocating the building of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral, and prosperous South Viet-Nam, moving toward the peaceful reunification of Viet-Nam. This just policy is fully supported by the DRV government and by our compatriots in North Viet-Nam.

4. Q. (Giniger, New York Times) Do you think that France's policy at the present time is different than the one advocated in the past by General de Gaulle?

A: As you know, the French Government has stated on several occasions, and French officials also have told us repeatedly, that it remains faithful to the policy advocated by General de Gaulle in his Phnom Penh speech. Let me also recall that this policy is in keeping first of all with the interest of France in South Viet-Nam and Indochina.

5.Q.(Renard, Figaro) I was struck by what you said earlier in that your delegation refers to two Chiefs of State who now seem to belong to the past: General de Gaulle and Prince Sihanouk. Do you not think that this may affect the future of your struggle?

A. I spoke of General de Gaulle, because General de Gaulle advocated a policy to which the present French Government has said that it remains faithful. I spoke of the Chief of State of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, because Prince Sihanouk is the legal Chief of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia. There is no other Chief of State in Cambodia.

6. Q. (Valery -- New York Daily News) From what you said earlier, are we to infer that you regard the statement made yesterday by the French Government as in keeping or not in keeping with the spirit of the Phnom Penh speech?

A. My statement, I believe, is rather long. I will ask you to read it again carefully and I believe that you will understand what we mean by it.

7. Q. (Randal -- Washington Post) Could it be said that your remarks reflect a certain lack of warmth toward the proposal made yesterday by the French Government, that is to say, that behind all the subtleties there is always a question of temperature involved?

A. Spring is just started and you saw that it snowed yesterday. As to what the weather will be today, I have not yet heard the weather report.

8. Q. (Cohler -- Westinghouse) Do you believe that a conference with wider participation would be better able to discuss about the fate of Indo-China and peace there, since this conference, by your own admittal, remains deadlocked?

A. The answer I gave earlier also partially answers your question. Let me add this: At the present time we take part in the Paris conference on Viet-Nam with the desire to reach a correct settlement of the South Vietnamese problem, so as to bring peace to South Viet-Nam on the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the South Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese population, and on the basis of our Ten Point overall solution. The overall solution is a contribution by the South Vietnamese population to the cause of peace, independence, and security in the countries in Indo-China. We always highly appreciate any effort by any government that wants to contribute to such a settlement.

9. Q. (Renard, Figaro) I'm not addressing this question to the PRG spokesman, but ^{to} the former Director of Liberation Radio. Could you tell us why, for the first time, the NLF Radio commented so rapidly after large-scale operations were started in the night of Tuesday to Wednesday in South Viet-Nam? Mr. Carage also has another question...

A. I will first answer Mr. Renard's question, since we will have time. Concerning the activities of the Liberation Radio, as you know, the Liberation Radio is the official voice of the PRG. This is why obviously any activity dealing with the resistance against the American aggression for national salvation waged by the South Vietnamese population under the leadership of the PRG is reflected by the Liberation Radio. Personally, I'm happy to see the progress achieved by the Liberation Radio in providing news quickly and to see that it is listened to both by our compatriots at home and by our friends abroad.

10. Q. (Carage, Figaro) General Lon Nol spoke of a clash between his troops and those of the PRG. What are your feelings regarding that report?

A. For many years now, as you know, as soon as there are persons anywhere around the world to oppose the policy of intervention and aggression of the US and its agents, it has been a habit for American propaganda immediately to charge the Viet Cong. Even the demonstrations by millions of Americans in the US itself against the policy of aggression of the US have been immediately described as being under Viet Cong remote control. These are just fallacious allegations advanced by the Lon Nol/Sirik Matak group to conceal the Khmer peoples' increasing opposition to the coup d'etat undertaken by the group. AFP has affirmed in a dispatch a few days ago that those demonstrators were Khmer people who opposed the coup and support Prince Sihanouk.

Le Monde, in today's issue, even wrote -- and I quote -- that

"the riots of the past eight days have mainly been the doing of Cambodians and not of Vietnamese as claimed by the government."

11. Q. (Remard, Figaro) Just a technical question. Since one tends to be confused by all this vocabulary, I would like to know whether the Lon Nol group ^{that} which, I believe, you called a putschist group, can be called, in quoting you, and can we also use the term "rightist clique" which, I believe, is used by the New China Agency? Can we also use the term "puppet"?

A. You can use all the terms we have used.

12. Q. (Renard) You did not use the term "puppet," I believe. I was not here last week.

A. I will ask you to refer to our statements of last week.