

SIHANOUK URGES ASEAN MEMBERS, JAPAN TO LEAVE 'U.S. CAMP'

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[Text] Peking, May 11 (AFP)--Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia said here today that relations between the new authorities in Phnom Penh on the one hand and Japan and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on the other will be normalised only when the latter leave the "American imperialist camp." In a telegram addressed to the director of the Cambodian-Japanese Friendship Association, the text of which was published here, Prince Sihanouk said "a wide and deep ditch" separated the two sides. It would be filled in "only when these countries have stopped being pro-imperialist and have become truly Third-World, if not nonaligned countries."

"This is why relations cannot yet be normalised between my country, which has just been liberated, and Japan and the members of ASEAN (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand)."

Writing in the name of the Royal Government of Cambodian National Union (RGNUC), the National United Front of Cambodia (NUFC) and the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces (CPNLAF), Prince Sihanouk said he hoped to see Japan linked with patriotic and revolutionary movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Prince Sihanouk said he did not want to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, but would like to see Japan "officially adopt new policies closer to its long-term interests, based on solidarity with all the patriotic and revolutionary movements." Japan's place, he said, "ought to be with its revolutionary brothers in Cambodia, Vietnam and the rest of the world, not with American imperialists."

He said the RGNUC could not have "authentic, friendly and trusting" relations with governments that had recognised it if they remained pro-imperialist. He said he regretted that the Japanese Government had sided with the "aggressors and their lackeys in Lon Nol's clique" during the Cambodian war.