

II. 22 May 70

C A M B O D I A

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/ COMMUNIQUE DEFENDS APPEAL FOR MILITARY AID

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 21 May 70 D

[Communique of the salvation government]

[Text] In an article published by PRAVDA on 10 May, (Igor Balayev) groundlessly stated that the U.S. aggression in Cambodia has made the Southeast Asian situation more tense. This is untrue as far as Cambodia is concerned. We wish to point out the following:

1--It is the Viet Cong and Viet Minh that are the aggressors in Cambodia. People have begun to realize that under the rule of Sihanouk--the former chief of state of Cambodia who was legally ousted on 18 March--Cambodian peace and neutrality were a sham because Sihanouk allowed the Viet Cong to establish military bases on Khmer territory. For more than 3 years Sihanouk's Cambodia provided the Viet Cong with all sorts of supplies--arms, munitions, medicines, food, equipment [words indistinct]. This harmed the Cambodian economy and especially its trade balance. Moreover, our peaceful people in border areas were victims of the Viet Cong's barbarous acts. Therefore our people staged anti-Viet Cong demonstrations in Sway Rieng on 8 March and in Phnom Penh on 11 March to request the Viet Cong and Viet Minh forces to withdraw from Khmer territory and to respect Cambodian territorial integrity in accordance with the firm pledges of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese governments. Despite these pledges the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops launched guerrilla attacks against us and committed savage acts against our civilian population. These events have occurred since 26 March. Though the Cambodian Government has issued appeals for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese have continued aggression against us in violation of international law--especially the U.N. Charter--the 1954 Geneva agreements, and the 1955 Bandung conference principles.

2--Being a victim of aggression, Cambodia must defend itself. In conformity with its policy of independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity, Cambodia has been forced to use arms to defend itself against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese aggression, since its proposal for a peaceful settlement of the conflict has proved in vain. To insure its survival against an enemy who is well trained militarily and whose strength and armament are superior, Cambodia has the right to ask friendly countries for help. In addition, [words indistinct] dated 4 November 1967 on Cambodian neutrality and in accordance with the (?main principles) of the 1954 Geneva conference, Cambodia is entitled to appeal to the great powers for help whenever it falls victim of aggression. It was in conformity with these rights that the salvation government, led by His Excellency Lon Nol, issued a communique on 14 April calling on all friendly countries regardless of ideology to provide equipment, arms, and economic aid on an unconditional basis. Many countries which are true friends of Cambodia have answered this urgent appeal of our country. As for the socialist countries, a number of them who are not true friends have either cooperated with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese or shown a pro-Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attitude. Under these circumstances certain countries which, though fully aware of neutral Cambodia's situation as a victim of aggression, have unjustly shown themselves unsympathetic to Cambodia. This is because they have already sided with the other camp.

3--The United States has not launched aggression on our country. Due to the intervention of U.S.-South Vietnamese forces at the frontier and in certain areas where the Viet Cong

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troops bases existed, the aggressive acts of the Viet Cong and Viet Minh against Cambodia have been completely thwarted in certain regions. In less than two weeks, the U.S. forces have discovered and destroyed important depots of the Viet Cong on Khmer territory. These depots were situated in secret underground bunkers which the Viet Cong built at the time the traitor Sihanouk was still in power. According to the latest information given by the Americans, they had discovered more than 7,000 individual arms, 1,000 mortars and field pieces, over 8 million cartridges, grenades, and gun shells, and more than 2,000 tons of rice. We are deeply moved by these figures, which prove that with Sihanouk's connivance the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese concealed on Khmer territory huge quantities of arms in order to transform peaceful and inadequately armed Cambodia into their satellite, to use these bases to attack the neighboring countries, to push Cambodia toward the Red camp against Cambodia's will, and to drive Cambodia into war although Cambodia is neutral. In view of these facts, people of good will will clearly realize that it is not the United State but the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese--with their protectors standing behind--who have committed aggression against Cambodia. The Viet Cong and Viet Minh communists are the only aggressors against Cambodia; it is they who are creating political trouble in Southeast Asia. If they stop their criminal acts peace will surely be restored in our country. The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong are revealing themselves as imperialists and expansionists.