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C A M B O D I A

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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES VIET CONG INFILTRATION

[Editorial Report--D] Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0300 GMT on 4 February carried an 8 hour live relay of a National Assembly debate, during which new government members were presented and a vote of confidence taken.

After the reading of the list of names of new government members--Yem Sambaur, Prom Thos, Un Tramuch, Chau Xeng Ua, Tourn Lang, and Hou Hong--various National Assembly deputies voice support for the nomination of the six. Deputy In Tam, in voicing his support, said that Lon Nol's government has been rather successful, as shown by the report presented 12-13 January on its accomplishments thus far. In Tam praised the salvation government's courage and adherence to the constitution, but criticized the police and justice branch.

He said: "I am worried about the work of the national police. Whenever a dispute arises between private Khmer journalist representatives and certain deputies or the government, the case (?is classified as) one of subversion and the police not only fail to carry out its tasks correctly, but don't even make a report on it. Thus, the National Assembly, which usually acts properly, mistakenly takes repressive measures against some 10 journalists--all because of the failure of the national police to submit a political report to the government so the latter might keep public opinion informed of the matter [words indistinct].

"As for the judiciary branch, its work has not yielded any noticeable results although it is said to have striven to fulfill its tasks. An example is the fact that many detained persons have not yet been tried and sentenced. We take this opportunity to request the government to consider these matters and settle them as soon as possible. I say this not out of spite or vengeance against anybody, but because I realize that those who do wrong really harm the nation." In conclusion In Tam voiced support for the government plan to suppress smuggling and gambling.

Dealing with the government's pledge in August, at the time of its investiture, to boost agriculture, Prime Minister ad interim Sirik Matak said that the government has promised the National Assembly that it would help cultivate 100,000 hectares of rubber and cocoa plantations. He added that the Public Health Department, though not faced with any particular difficulty, needs a specialist such as Hou Hong. Then he said: "The present government is one of solidarity in which all members are equally responsible for the execution of its tasks. We are all responsible before the National Assembly for any faulty acts committed by even a few members of our government."

Deputy (Ok Soeum) then dealt with the vote of confidence, pointing out that the names and documents concerning the new government members should have been published at least 24 hours prior to the vote so that the deputies would have time to think about them. Then he criticized what he called corrupt practices involved in the distribution of Prince Sihanouk's gifts to the poor and sick in Oddar Meanchey. Prince Sirik Matak denied the charge, saying that the gifts were correctly distributed. He urged deputies to directly contact the government whenever a problem arises which requires a solution, instead of writing to Prince Sihanouk, because not only is this procedure slow, but the government is informed of the problem only after difficulties have time to develop.

Deputy (Kang Meas Hong) then asked the new secretary of state for labor and social welfare to speed up construction of dams and irrigation canals as well as payment of allowances to the self-defense forces, which have proven effective in repressing rebels. He also expressed confidence in the other new government members.

After more expressions of support by several deputies, Deputy Pinn Yoeun read the voting procedure, which stipulated that a vote of confidence must be a least 40 yeas to be valid, and read the names of the new government members. The vote of confidence was then taken, resulting in a favorable majority for all new members of the government.

The debate then resumed, with Deputy Oeur Traluch coming to the floor to speak of foreign infiltration. He said: "After investigating, I find that the situation along our border areas has been aggravated due to our foreign friends who, although they have declared that they sincerely support us, have deliberately carried out activities on our territory and gradually gnawed away our national territory. An example of this is the fact that the Viet Cong--though claiming to be our trustworthy friends and having recognized our present frontiers--have sent in 40,000 to 60,000 troops, which have installed themselves in our territory in Ratanakiri. After occupying two-thirds of this province, they have provoked aggression in other areas such as Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kampot, Takeo, and Kandal."

Deputy Oeur Traluch continued: "After establishing thousands of troops in Ratanakiri the Viet Cong have even sent units into border villages. Usually, they send a few soldiers to open fire on South Vietnamese forces from Khmer territory, despite their statement that they want only peace for the Khmer population. In return, the South Vietnamese forces fire hundreds of artillery rounds on Khmer territory. The few Viet Cong then run away, leaving the Khmer people--men, women, and children--to suffer. Sometimes the Viet Cong shell a U.S. post on the South Vietnamese frontier and the Americans retaliate by immediately firing on the Khmer defense forces or villages, because they thought Khmer forces had opened fire. Thus, the Viet Cong provoke the Americans--their enemy--to shell and bomb our Khmer militarymen, who are not always strong enough to resist such attacks, who must abandon their border post and retreat 10 kilometers into the interior. When the Viet Cong find an abandoned post they occupy it to facilitate further movement."

Referring to a task initiated a few years ago by the government, he said: "Rifles were distributed to the self-defense and militia forces led by armymen and policemen. These forces have effectively defended our frontiers, prevented the Viet Cong from crossing certain border areas, and thwarted threats by South Vietnamese forces. At present, however, these men have no rifles at all, so the Viet Cong take this opportunity to freely attack our territory. For example, in Ratanakiri the Viet Cong have even grown pineapples, cocoa, and areca palm trees and built houses and roads as though it were their own country. They have won the sympathy and respect of the Khmer Leu [tribes]. Moreover, some Khmer of the central region have been misled into joining them, a move detrimental to the nation. In Svay Rieng they can buy rice by paying only half of what we have to pay here. In certain areas, they barter gold for rice and whenever Khmer peasants in border villages are ill or wounded, Viet Cong nurses are seen coming to give them medical treatment."

Oeur Traluch added the Viet Cong have even been active in Phnom Penh, where they educate their partisans in private schools and Chinese shops and even contact taxi drivers and bribe them, all of which is interference in Cambodian domestic affairs. Sometimes, he said, they use women to obtain information about our armed forces from high Khmer army officers. He said that almost all Vietnamese residents in Cambodia sympathize with the Viet Cong and pay membership fees to them. Khmer traders crossing areas occupied by the Viet Cong have to pay taxes. Thus, the Viet Cong consider Khmer territory as their own. Oeur Traluch urged the government to take immediate measures to expel the Viet Cong from Khmer territory and appealed to the Khmer people to support the government mopping-up operations in border areas.

Prince Sirik Matak then said: "Since its establishment the government has been concerned with this problem," which no National Assembly has dared raise, even though the problem is one of long standing. He said that "our forces have retrieved several areas the Viet Cong have occupied since December 1969, and are continuing their operations," and promised the National Assembly that "not an inch of Khmer territory will be allowed to be lost." He said that his government will heed all deputies' questions and suggestions and that it is intensifying the repression of smuggling and gambling throughout the kingdom. He invited deputies to visit Ratanakiri to examine and solve the important problems there.

Many deputies voiced similar views on these afore-mentioned problems before chairman of the assembly session Keo San declared the session closed, thanked government members and deputies for their suggestions on how to solve national problems, expressed the belief that the debate would help the people understand the deputies' role, and urged the national salvation government to heed the problems raised and suggestions made and to act accordingly to insure the future of Cambodia and the happiness of its people.

#### MINISTRY SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO U.S. EMBASSY

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 20 Feb 70 D

[Text] On 19 February the Cambodian Foreign Ministry sent a note to the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh which said that on 8 February at about 1500 three U.S.-South Vietnamese helicopters violated Cambodian airspace and fired rockets, killing two employees of the Kratie Plantation Society who were riding on a motorcycle on National Highway 7, 5,000 meters from the border, in Snuol district, Kratie Province, damaging the vehicle, and [words indistinct]. That same day at about 1600 another U.S.-South Vietnamese helicopter violated Cambodian airspace and fired rockets on a public works truck traveling the Mimot-snuol route, in Tioulong commune, Mimot district, Phkar Romchek subprovince, killing the driver.

The Cambodian Government strongly and indignantly protests these acts of aggression committed deliberately by the U.S.-South Vietnamese forces, and demands that the U.S. Government immediately step up measures to indemnify the victims, compensate them for the damage, and prevent further similar acts.

#### BRIEFS

SIM VAR COMPENSATION--A Ministry of Finance proclamation dated 9 December 1969 authorizes the payment of 1,617,188 riel in compensation to Sim Var, political editor of KHMER EKAREACH. This sum represents one half of the estimated material damage suffered by the KHMER EKAREACH printing office during the incident on 25 June 1967. (Phnom Penh JOURNAL OFFICIEL DU CAMBODGE French 27 December 69 X)

## NLHX CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUES COMMUNIQUE, STATEMENT

20 Feb Communique

Radio Pathet Lao (Clandestine) in Lao to Laos 0415 GMT 23 Feb 70 D

[Twenty February NLHX Central Committee communique]

[Text] In addition to the ground attacks launched by Vang Pao's special forces, Thai reactionary troops, and other rightist soldiers, the U.S. imperialists have mobilized all kinds of aircraft to bomb and strafe temples, houses, paddy fields, crops, and livestock in Xieng Khouang Province. Wherever enemy troops have entered, they have implemented their three complete policy--burn all, destroy all, and kill all. All 360 temples in Xieng Khouang Province have been burned and destroyed. Tens of thousands of Buddha images, including more than 3,000 2- and 3-kilogram ones made of copper, glass, (?lead), wood, have been destroyed. Thousands of cabinets containing Buddhist scriptures have been damaged. Moreover, 50 Buddhist monks and novices have been killed by the U.S. bombs and bullets. In the enemy's illegal operation against the Plaine des Jarres-Xieng Khouang area, tens of thousands of Buddhists, including a large number of monks and novices, have been driven into concentration camps. Some of those Buddhist monks and novices have been forced to leave the monkhood and serve in their armed forces. The others have been assaulted, tortured, and detained.

The above-mentioned barbarous and inhuman crimes openly violate the 1962 Geneva agreement in Laos, trample on the basic rights of the Laotian people, and undermine the traditions of Laos. Buddhism is widely practiced by the people of Laos and sacred to them. The above-mentioned brutal crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings cannot shake the determined combat spirit of the Laotian people and Buddhists. They have only increased the Laotian people's and Buddhists' indignation and strengthened their determination to fight and defeat the enemy. The large-scale U.S. bombardments and the mobilization of Vang Pao's bandit troops, Thai mercenaries, and rightist puppet soldiers to undermine Buddhism, destroy Buddhist temples, and commit war crimes against the people clearly show that they are men without souls. They are like wild animals.

The NLHX Central Committee spokesman is authorized to expose and strongly and solemnly denounce the above-mentioned war crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings to public opinion both at home and abroad. The NLHX Central Committee spokesman urgently calls on all Laotian people and Buddhists throughout the country to heighten their vigilance and be prepared to fight in all forms against the enemy in order to protect Buddhism, and be determined to demand that the enemy end all its acts which may affect Buddhism in Laos. The NLHX Central Committee spokesman hereby solemnly warns the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings that if they stubbornly continue to act against Buddhism and commit crimes against the Buddhist monks and novices, destiny will overtake them someday. This is in accordance with the Buddhist teaching which says whoever does evil reaps evil.

For example, the U.S. imperialists and their satellites, who launched the so-called Kukieta campaign against the Plaine des Jarres-Xieng Khouang, have been suitably punished by the armed forces and patriots of Xieng Khouang Province. More than 5,000 enemy have been put out of action and dozens of U.S. warplanes downed or destroyed on the ground in this province.