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CAMBODIA

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V I E T C O N G   N O T E S   O N   C A M B O D I A

May-June 1970

((The pages preceding this extract translation, which begins in the middle of page 72 of the Original Text (O.T.), contain information on a lesson plan for the study of an unspecified resolution (possibly Resolution 18 of the Politburo, Lao Dong Party). This resolution provides details on VC/NVA victories, friendly failures, deficiencies, schemes, and capabilities, strategy of the Lao Dong Party, and VC/NVA missions for 1970. For further information, see IIR No. 6 028 Q 31 70, dated 1 Jul 70, in which this resolution was reported.))

Evening, 31 May 70.

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#### I. INFORMATION ABOUT CAMBODIA.

Characteristics of the area: 181,000 square kilometers with 19 provinces and a population of 7,000,000 people.

Seven frontier provinces: M<sup>o</sup> Vet, Soái ((Svay)) Rieng, Kompong Cham, Ranakisi, Krasic, Công Nông Siri, and Takeo.

Boundary: 1,000 kilometers. Cambodia and we ((meaning VN)) have a common frontier, 700 kilometers long and stretching from Kontum Province to Hà Tiên Province. (M<sup>o</sup> Vet, Province is adjacent to Tây Ninh Province ((SW)).)

Two big cities: Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville.

Geographical features: Nineteen ((possibly)) provinces, including 120 districts and 1,118 villages. The population amounts to over 7,300,000 inhabitants, including more than one million Vietnamese and Chinese residents. The cities are mostly inhabited by the 400,000 Chinese and 600,000 Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. Their ratio is so large that there is little festivity in the cities on the traditional Cambodian New Year Day which is celebrated by the five or six million rural Cambodians.

Phnom Penh has 600,000 inhabitants.

Cambodia has three large rivers, one of which is the Cu<sup>2</sup> Long ((Mekong)) River. Her land routes include Routes 22, 13, and 1. Fifty percent of her area consist of forests and 37% of cultivated land. Her resources are rice, rubber, and fish. Her annual rice crop output amounts to 2,700,000 metric tons, which is equivalent to 500 kilograms per capita.

Political features: The Cambodian people have a 600-year tradition of resisting invasions. They suffered under French domination for 90 years. The anti-Japanese movement of the Cambodian workers came into existence in 1940. It grew steadily, then joined the Indochina ((possibly the Indochinese Communist)) Party in the fight against to French ((colonialism)). Then on 9 Nov 53, Cambodia proclaimed her independence, severed her relations with the US, and refused its foreign aid (calling it poison). Since then, Cambodia has

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received assistance from our faction. In 1965, Cambodia resolutely ended her diplomatic relations with the US. This country has enjoyed 15 years of peace and neutrality.

Cambodia has given us some support (but only once in a while). On one hand, the Cambodians counter the US, on the other hand they distrust us (they say that the US has been defeated by us, which makes them worried about their future with regard to our intentions). (Phnom Penh has assisted us in our production of clothing, equipment, and medicine and in our medical treatment.)

After the French were defeated at DBF ((Điện Biên Phủ)), Cambodia joined in a three-country ((possibly VN, Laos, and Cambodia)) declaration in 1954, which pledged mutual territorial respect for each other. Fifteen years have gone by since then. This state of affairs went against the wishes of the US and made it angry because it intended to control all of the Indochinese territory.

Cambodia is in an important strategic position. One provides access to Thailand and to the Philippines. That is the reason why the US immediately tried to undermine the Geneva Agreements, even while the signatures on them were still wet.

## II. PROOF OF THE US SCHEMES.

(Read from slow broadcasting emissions ((sic))).

From 1962 to 1969, the US conducted 1,128 raids ((on Cambodian territory)), including toxic spray missions, and killed thousands of civilians. It overran the ((Cambodian)) Joradi military post. It sent its troops to Paqu Fret. It destroyed the rubber plantations with defoliantes.

In certain areas, 600,000 hectares of rubber plantations were destroyed.

Developments of the ((Cambodian)) coup d'etat.

### A. Activities of the Extreme Rightists.

At first, the US planned to plot a coup and depose of Sihanouk upon his return (but Sihanouk extended his stay ((in France)) for medical treatment). It feared letting this most opportune moment pass, so the CIA had to start the coup earlier than it had planned. First of all, it gave advice to Lon Nol. (Lon Nol was trusted by Sihanouk. In late 1967, the US sent him \$6,000,000 to buy him off, but he reported this fact to Sihanouk. That consolidated the latter's confidence in him. In 1959 ((sic)), we contacted him. These events made Sihanouk trust him and nominate him to be Vice-Premier and Minister of Defense). Sihanouk also thought that Lon Nol had certain powers.

The Cambodian Government started with a declaration accusing VN of invading Cambodia. Sihanouk made an appeal to the population, telling them that their fatherland was on the brink of great danger (October, November, December).

March: Lon Nol instigated destructive riots against the ((possibly NVN)) embassy, Trade Office, and Information Hall. He terrorized the Vietnamese residents. Since the riots began, many US intelligence agents have been seen in Phnom Penh. The US staged a desertion to Cambodia of three US servicemen as an excuse for dispatching their ships to Cambodian ports in pursuit operations. It sent its warship Columbia to carry out this pursuit mission (in reality, 1,000 troops equipped with M-16 rifles ((were sent to help Lon Nol)). They provided weapons to the ((Cambodian)) police forces).

Forty-eight hours after the coup d'etat, the US sent its 7th Fleet to the Gulf of Thailand to support Lon Nol.

The coup took place on 18 Mar in the form of a vote of confidence which denounced Sihanouk as a traitor. (Military pressure was used. The National Assembly was surrounded by tanks).

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He ((possibly Lon Nol)) issued curfew orders, erected obstacles, and established contact with foreign countries. Later, the US made a proposal ((possibly to send troops to Cambodia)), and was accepted immediately ((possibly the proposal was accepted immediately by Cambodia)). Saigon was aware of this, as was the press, one and a half hours later.

Thailand was also happy at that time, thinking that it ((US aid to Cambodia)) would improve the situation in South Vietnam.

Activities conducted after the coup d'etat: Pro-Sihanouk elements were terrorized, reserve soldiers were mobilized, and individuals formerly imprisoned (Three Cambodians) by Sihanouk were released and employed as key

He ((possibly Lon Nol)) made appeals to Son Ngoc Thanh and Say Sari ((possibly Sam Sari)) to coordinate ((with the new Government)).

The next step was to falsely accuse friendly troops of having attacked six provinces on the ((Vietnam-Cambodia)) border and then to instigate the people in SVN to stage demonstrations.

On 31 Mar 70, he ((possibly Lon Nol)) conducted a meeting, urging the Chairman of the ((previous)) Geneva Conference (who had just left Cambodia) to assume control of his country.

The session ((of the National Assembly)) also urged the United Nations to send a delegation to Cambodia for the same purpose and to expel friendly troops ((from Cambodia)).

The Cambodia people opposed this act and condemned it. Not being supported and faced with an unstable situation, they ((the new Cambodian rulers)) cried out for help and relied on the United Nations for assistance and on the US for foreign aid.

On 27 Mar 70, in response to their request, Saigon dispatched three D ((infantry battalions)) and one battle group with aircraft and guns to Cambodia.

On 1 Apr 70, McClosky, a spokesman for the White House, stated that the US will continue to recognize the neutrality of Cambodia. However, this did not affect its rights of pursuing VC troops.

Later, the US aid delegation returned to Cambodia. It became known that the economic aid ((for Cambodia)) amounted to two and a half million US dollars.

It ((possibly the US)) then instigated the heads of state in Southeast Asia to convene a conference in Djakarta (to make a resolution on Cambodia).

Realizing that such a situation was disadvantageous for the US a European journalist began ridiculing ... ((sic)). As a result of this, President Nixon announced the sending of US troops into Cambodia.

((Because of this, the following three solutions were proposed)):

Leave Cambodia alone.

Give ((to Cambodia)) financial and equipment aid.

Send US troops ((to Cambodia)) (without consulting Congress).

The US planned to send US troops to Cambodia to search for the VC headquarters.

Troops sent by the US: F25 ((25th US Infantry Division)).

F4 ((4th US Infantry Division)), the 11th ((US Armored Cavalry Regiment)), and the 1st ((US Air Cavalry)), F5 ((5th RVNAF Infantry Division)) the 9th ((RVNAF Division)), and the 22nd ((RVNAF Division)).

The total strength, including ((RVNAF)) marines and the ((RVNAF)) airborne brigade, was about 100,000 men. They were supported by tanks in their operations.

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The enemy is planning to transform Cambodia into a colony and build military bases there.

Sihanouk's activities: Faced with such a state of affairs and commenting on the ill fate that had befallen his country, Sihanouk said ... ((sic)) and proclaimed five points:

- Dissolve the Lon Nol National Assembly.

- Appeal to the people to ignore the "document" ((possibly meaning the document pertaining to the formation of the Lon Nol Government)).

- Establish a "unified" government ((possibly meaning coalition government)) and hold a conference to negotiate ((differences between Vietnam and Cambodia)).

- Activate the armed forces.

- Call on the Cambodian people at home and abroad to stand up to form a national unity front and a national reunification front ((to be presided over by)) (Sihanouk) and the following fronts:

- National liberation front.

- Anti-American front.

- Front for the building of a progressive nation.

- Take steps to initiate CT ((possibly guerrilla warfare)) in the country.

- Appeal to the countries of the world to provide support ((for the Cambodian people's struggle)).

- Denounce US crimes and plots.

- Demand that freedom be restored to Cambodia.

- Create conditions to attack and harass the enemy. Open a new chapter in the history of struggles of the Cambodian people. This is in keeping with the situation now facing the three countries of Indochina ((possibly meaning Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam)).

- The representatives of the Socialist-bloc countries meeting in Warsaw issued a declaration ((possibly supporting the Cambodia people's struggle)).

- Representatives of 18 ((Communist)) parties of European capitalist nations also held a meeting ((to voice their support of the Cambodian people's struggle)).

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On 20 May ((possibly 1970)), Chairman Mao Tse Tung made a declaration.

US students and citizens have engaged in a long, drawn-out struggle ((against the US Government)).

School activities were stopped in 818 US universities on 4 Apr, 4 May, and 8 May ((70)).

Two hundred thousand people joined in a demonstration staged around the offices of Congress in Washington.

Influential personalities in the US and half of the US Congress (including Emmon Malsk ((possibly Edmund Muskie)) of the Democratic Party) voiced opinions ((possibly their protest against the US intervention in Cambodia)).

Sixteen capitalist countries also manifested their opposition ((possibly to US intervention in Cambodia)) by ransacking ((US)) embassies ((in these nations)).

An ((anti-US)) 250,000 man demonstration was staged in Paris, France.

#### Evolution of the Cambodian Uprising

Before the coup d'état took place, many people were dubious that a coup was imminent.

Following the coup, all of the people across the country rose up ((revolted)). As of the end of Mar 70, the people of 17 provinces ((out of a total)) (of 21) ((sic)) had revolted against the perpetrators of the coup. They declared that they would struggle to topple the latter by staging demonstrations and conducting sabotage activities. When Sihanouk made his declaration ((appeal to the people)), they used loudspeakers to conduct propaganda to the effect that he would return ((two words illegible)) to make a show of force with an army to reclaim control of the government.

Beginning at the end of Mar 70, many successive protest demonstrations took place everywhere.

The demonstrators were massacred. Vietnamese residents, falsely accused of being the instigators of these demonstrations, were also slaughtered.

The army ((Cambodian)) did not concur with the coup. One-third of the 35,000 man ((army)) opposed the coup and declared its support for Sihanouk.

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We put out of action 24,000 enemy soldiers (3,500 ((one word illegible))), ((including)) 2,000 US troops, destroyed 28d ((battalions)), and seized over 10,000 weapons and 6,000 tons of ammunition.

From 10 to 14 May 70, in Kompong Cham and Soay ((Svay)) Rieng Provinces, we killed approximately 1,800 enemy soldiers, including 700 US troops, destroyed four Puppert airborne battalions and 150 vehicles, and shot down 17 aircraft. In addition, two houses of Thang 4 and Thang 5 ((possibly a Cambodian major and a lieutenant colonel)) were blown up in Kompong Cham and Karkisi ((sic)).

Two thousand enemy soldiers surrendered or were captured and 4,500 others were put out of action.

From 1 to 15 May 70, in Mondulkiri ((sic)), Kachie ((possibly Kratie)) ((two words illegible)), we killed 8,000 enemy soldiers.

Nine enemy battalions were heavily damaged, and 6,000 weapons were captured.

A number of areas, 100 hamlets, 40 districts, and 1,000,000 people were liberated. Both political and military forces were rapidly developed. At the same time, we conducted negotiations to establish a united government in which there would be three ministers selected from among the popular organizations. We will establish the Front ((possibly National Liberation Front)) and the Politburo.

We will convene a high-level conference of the Indochinese countries.

#### Assessment of the situation:

The coup d'état in Cambodia was engineered by the US. This fact has revealed the aggressive scheme of the US which is attempting to ... ((sic)) and has reflected the dissension within the ruling clique which is now "wriggling and squirming" in their inextricable deadlock.

It ((the US)) is encountering fierce opposition everywhere which is Nixon's most difficult and puzzling problem.

The Cambodian Revolution is entering a new phase which is a most favorable condition for the Cambodians to bring the Revolution another step forward.

From a vacillating neutralist regime, Cambodia now can follow a steady policy.

When the enemy is defeated, she ((Cambodia)) will become a democratic and independent country and proceed toward socialism. (Assessment of this point is not given) ((sic)).

#### Our viewpoint:

Maintain and strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries ((NVN and Cambodia)) in accordance with the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

#### Anticipation of the situation:

Nixon stated that at the end of Jun 70 the US would withdraw its forces from Cambodia.

((The page subsequent to the extract translation, which ends in the lower third of Page 76 of the O.T., contains notes on a conference held on 1 Jun 70 by unspecified persons at an unspecified location. The purpose of this conference was to review results, discuss upcoming activities, learn from the example of Uncle Ho (Chi Minh), and read a letter by Vo Nguyen Giap which related the achievements of Uncle Ho).<sup>3</sup>

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----- END OF TRANSLATION -----