

JWJPM

A
FILE / SUBJ.
DATE / SUB-CAT.
9/73

DRV to Resume Supplies to Cambodian Insurgents

On 1 Sep 73 the Agence France Press reported in English that Prince Sihanouk had announced that North Vietnam had resumed its supply of munitions to the Cambodian rebels. Sihanouk said these forces would launch an attack on Phnom Penh during the next dry season between December and May. He denied a statement recently attributed to him in which he was reported to have said that the offensive would be carried out "with direct military support from North Vietnam." He asserted that no NVA or NLF forces would take part directly or indirectly in the Cambodian war of national liberation.

Sihanouk maintained that DRV shipments to the Cambodian rebels were cut off in January because of the Paris Peace Agreement. But after recent meetings in Peking with Le Duan and Pham Van Dong, "We managed to convince them that they were not violating the Peace Agreements since the Americans had already been ignoring Article 20 (nonintervention in Laos and Cambodia) of the Agreement for a long time."

DRV leaders have met with Sihanouk and other NUFC leaders in Peking. It is more probable, however, that they discussed continuing political and military strategies, not only resumption of aid. The Cambodian rebels probably did not have enough ammunition stockpiled in January to last for eight months of heavy fighting. The DRV leaders also may have told the Cambodians of any Soviet attitudes or policies on Indochina.