

II. 1 Apr 70

C A M B O D I A

055028

CAMBODIA
FILE

H 1
SUBJ.

DATE

SUB-CAT

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW STATEMENTS, COMMUNIQUE

SEATO Application

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 31 Mar 70 D

[Information Ministry statement]

[Text] According to a press agency report from Bangkok, SEATO announced it is ready to consider membership applications of Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

The Information Minister of the salvation government finds it necessary to state that the Salvation Government of Cambodia has never contemplated joining SEATO. Cambodia's attitude remains unchanged and its policy remains one of strict neutrality without participation in any military pact.

Communist Armed Attack

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 31 Mar 70 D

[Undated communique of the salvation government]

[Text] The public is informed that on the afternoon of 31 March, beginning at 1300, a large force of well-armed Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops, estimated at several thousand fighters, forcibly entered the Snuol area in Kratie Province and attacked a unit of the national armed forces 9 kilometers southeast of Snuol and 8 kilometers from the frontier, in Khmer territory. Our unit was outnumbered and sustained losses.

The salvation government denounces before world opinion this grave and deliberate violation of our territorial integrity by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. It has directed the responsible regional commands to take the necessary measures in conjunction with our administrative authorities, people, and youth in order to cope with this serious situation. It urges fellow countrymen to awake to the great danger created to the country by the expansionist Vietnamese. According to the latest news, our surrounded unit managed to break through the enemy and returned to its base.

Communist Surrender

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 70 D

[Undated government communique]

[Text] As a result of the repeated broadcasting of news over the radio by the salvation government, numerous Khmer Reds and Khmer lackeys of the Viet Cong have become enlightened and realized the Viet Cong's abject schemes aimed at occupying Khmer territory.

These men surrendered to our military authorities in Kompong Thom Province on 30 and 31 March, bringing along their arms and munitions. These brothers of ours voiced the regret that they had allowed themselves to be deceived by the Viet Cong. They also expressed firm support for the salvation government and willingness to sacrifice their lives for the nation.

Sirik Matak Circular

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 29 Mar 70 D

[Text] First Deputy Prime Minister Sirik Matak has sent a circular, dated 27 March, to all administrative services of the country. It reads: The era of injustice, oppression, insecurity, [word indistinct] spirit under all forms, and anarchy imposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk's dictatorship and absolutism has ended. We are now entering an era of hope, justice, [word indistinct] spirit, and respect of the law and regulations by all citizens, without exception. (Those who) suffered injustice and (oppression) under Sihanouk's dictatorship can count on (the support) of the government of salvation to regain your rights which have been violated.

Within the framework of the general reorganization of our administration to speed up the progress of the country, the government of salvation-- freed of all partisan spirit--will reward the country's good servants and will not hesitate to use legal procedures to get rid of dishonest elements.

PRINCE SIHANOUK'S CLAIM OF ARMY SUPPORT DENIED

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 1 Apr 70 D

[Text] According to an AFP dispatch from Peking dated 28 March, Prince Norodom Sihanouk's spokesman said that three battalions of the Cambodian army had rallied to the former Chief of State. The salvation government formally denies this mendacious and groundless statement.

In fact, no section of these [words indistinct] among the Khmer forces. All corps and units of the three services are loyal to the salvation government. The government is supported by the people's will, which was legally and constitutionally expressed on 18 March by the unanimous vote of elected representatives of the Khmer people.

SAIGON REPORT ON RIGHT OF PURSUIT PROTESTED

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 2330 GMT 31 Mar 70 D

[Text] According to an AFP dispatch from Saigon dated 28 March, commanders of U.S.-South Vietnamese units operating near the Cambodian frontier were authorized to pursue Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops into Cambodian territory in order to insure the protection and security of their forces.

The salvation government solemnly protests such an authorization because Cambodia, faithful to its policy of strict neutrality, cannot agree that the right of pursuit be exercised on its territory [words indistinct] this policy, thereby encouraging the violation of its frontiers. In opposing the principle of the right to pursuit, the salvation government protests all violations of Khmer territory by foreign troops, no matter whatever camp they may belong to.

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ANNOUNCED

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1515 GMT 31 Mar 70 D

[Text] The following is an announcement by the Sangkum Reastr Niyum Central Committee, the National Salvation Committee, and the two houses of Parliaments:

With the agreement of the two houses of Parliament, the government of salvation has decided to release more than 400 political prisoners detained during Sihanouk's dictatorship. The prisoners will be released at a ceremony to be held at the National Assembly office at about 0900 on 2 April. All National Assembly members will be present. All families of the prisoners are invited to attend, to welcome back their relatives.

SIHANOUK CABLES DENOUNCE LON NOL GOVERNMENT

Message to Students in USSR

Peking NCNA International Service in English 2248 GMT 31 Mar 70 B

[Text] Peking, March 31 (HSINHUA)--Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, recently cabled thanks to Youk Chantha and 14 other Cambodian students in the Soviet Union through Chea Sam, Cambodian ambassador in Moscow. The cable expressed cordial thanks for the message sent by Youk Chantha and the other Cambodian students in the Soviet Union on March 29 supporting Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and vehemently denouncing the Cambodian coup authorities.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, said in the cable: "Your historic message gives the greatest encouragement to me, to our national united front and to our entire Khmer people. I congratulate you sincerely for your clear-sighted patriotism."

"At present," the cable added, "our people, united as one, are upholding the banner of liberation struggle and will eliminate from our country once and for all U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, the corrupt ultra-rich bourgeoisie and oppressors of the people, and establish once and for all in Cambodia a power of the patriotic and progressive people and youth. It is because they are aware of this vital struggle for the future of our people and our motherland that a great number of patriotic young people in Kompong Cham have shed their blood and gloriously given their lives for the sacred cause of the Khmer people in the face of ruthless strafing from inside armoured vehicles by the despicable murderers sent by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak. This atrocious crime shall not remain unpunished. Our youth, peasants, workers, plantation employees as well as the initial members of our national liberation army composed of socialist fighters on the one hand and progressive nationalist fighters on the other, have already started a large campaign to punish the traitors and their mercenaries and for national liberation without forgetting, at the same time, our solidarity with the fraternal people of Vietnam and Laos who are struggling for the liberation of their respective countries and for the liberation of our Indo-China from the clutches of the U.S. imperialists."

In conclusion, the cable said: "I count on you to urge all your comrades and our compatriots abroad to follow your noble example without delay and unequivocally support the F.U.N.K. and the armed struggle of our people and youth in our beloved motherland."

Messages to Conferences

Peking NCNA International Service in English 2141 31 Mar 70 B

[Text] Peking, March 31 (HSINHUA)--Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, legal head of state of Cambodia, sent on March 30 identical messages to the Stockholm conference in support of Vietnam and the preparatory conference of the non-aligned countries in Dar-es-Salaam. Full text follows:

I extend to you my greetings and those of the Khmer people. I draw your kind attention to the tragic situation of my country. The treacherous government and parliament of Phnom Penh, taking advantage of my prolonged stay in France for health reasons illegally deposed me for "crimes of high treason" which I had not committed and without asking me

beforehand to give my defence before the people. But my personal destiny has only little importance in comparison with the destiny of the Cambodian people and that of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples both of whom have been living until now in good friendship and in peace with my compatriots. The Lon Nol government denounces my so-called "tyranny" and proclaims its "love for democracy and people." But the first measure taken after its coup d'etat was to suspend indefinitely the application of the constitution, to deprive the citizens of all freedoms guaranteed in the constitution, to proclaim the motherland "in danger" and to trample on the motherland under the rule of an inhuman martial law which has already cost the lives of many Cambodians, Vietnamese and Chinese who have committed no more than the "crime" of demanding peacefully my return to Cambodia to restore peace and harmony among all.

This government pretends to be the defender of "genuine neutrality." However, it does not hesitate to carry on, in open cooperation with the U.S.-Saigon ground forces and the U.S. Air Force, military operations against the patriotic Vietnamese forces who are struggling heroically and in difficult conditions to liberate South Vietnam from the oppression of the U.S. imperialists and neo-colonialists and their lackeys. In addition, the U.S. bellicose elements and Thieu-Ky clique have just informed the world brazenly that from now on they will have the right to send at any moment their armed forces to the interior of Cambodia and to bombard any part of the national territory of my motherland.

The Lon Nol clique on its part has put me to public prosecution, accusing me of "selling out my country" to China and to Vietnam, whereas I, as faithful exponent of the will of my people, have only defended our friendship with these two neighbours and also, I admit with pride, to have given Cambodia's all possible help and support to Vietnam which is fighting. This is because we are an anti-imperialist people, because we are people of Indo-China and because we have the right to be recognized by socialist Vietnam which has solemnly and many times assured our nation of her recognition and her complete and unfailing respect for our independence and our territorial integrity.

The Lon Nol clique has just taken an official attitude of hostility against Vietnam and even the People's Republic of China which the clique brands as "enemies" of Cambodia in its press and radio. Such a policy shows itself to be not only the sign of despicable treason to the cause of anti-imperialist peoples but also the source of very dangerous development of the already explosive situation in our Southeast Asia. Peace-loving peoples must be conscious of this. That is why I would like to ask all the peoples who have sent delegates to this noble conference to do all in their power so that their governments cease or avoid to cooperate with the fascist, anti-popular and pro-imperialist Lon Nol Government because to recognize this government or cooperate with it in whatever respect means to betray the people of Indo-China in their struggle for the liberation of their respective countries, means to obstruct seriously the struggle of other oppressed peoples of the third world against imperialism, neo-colonialism and fascism; it means to vote for war and misery, against peace, justice, freedom and progress of mankind.

I wish your conference all the success it merits. I wish it above all to attain the lofty and essential aims it has set itself. Peking, March 30, 1970.

SIHANOUK RETAINS LOYALTY OF CAMBODIAN ENVOY TO UAR

Signapore AFP in English 1635 GMT 29 Mar 70 B (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Cairo, March 29 (AFP)--The Cambodian ambassador here, Sarin Shaak, who supports Prince Norodom Sihanouk, is to leave Cairo tomorrow for Paris, where he would have the widest possible contacts with Asian and European diplomats and Cambodians living there, sources close to the embassy said here today.

Last Thursday, Mr. Shaak proclaimed his loyalty towards Prince Sihanouk. He is expected to return from Paris on Wednesday or Thursday "and probably only via Cairo en route for Peking," said the sources. Mr. Shaak was formerly minister counsellor in Paris for four years.

Meanwhile, the brass plaque outside the embassy has not yet been lifted but for the past two days the embassy has been sending correspondence under a letter heading of the "Democratic Embassy of Cambodia."

In an interview with the Egyptian semi-official daily EL AHRAH, Mr. Shaak, who told Egyptian authorities on Thursday of his position regarding the Prince, said he still considered himself "ambassador of the Cambodian Government headed legally by Prince Sihanouk,"

Cairo authorities have not yet made any announcement about their position concerning the embassy or recent events in Cambodia. Observers noted yesterday that at a political rally Egyptian Vice-President Anwar Sadat accused the American Central Intelligence Agency of being behind the coup d'etat.

CAMBODIA WILL NOT SEEK AID TO EVICT TROOPS

Singapore AFP in English 0600 GMT 29 Mar 70 B (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Excerpts] Signapore, Mar 29 (AFP)--Cambodia will not seek the assistance of any foreign country to evict North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops in the country, Cambodian charge d'affaires here, Mr Thach Ohlem said today. Mr Phiem told a press conference that his country wanted this problem to be settled by peaceful means and that is why his government has requested that the three-nation International Control Commission be reactivated. Asked whether Cambodia would seek SEATO aid offered by its Secretary General Jesus Vargas, Mr Phiem said: "We prefer the blue helmets." (United Nations Forces). The charge d'affaires said the entire staff of the Cambodian Embassy here have sworn loyalty to the Lon Nol Government.

Asked whether the Singapore Government, whose leaders were very friendly to Prince Sihanouk, had recognized the Cambodian government of Lon Nol, Mr Phiem did not give a direct answer. He said he has communicated the developments in his country to the Foreign Minister here. "They told me that what happens in Cambodia is an internal affair and the Singapore Government is keen to maintain good relations with whoever is in power in Cambodia." Asked about a claim made in Peking yesterday that three Cambodian battalions have rallied to Prince Sihanouk, Mr Phiem referred to another report that some 3,000 heavily armed Vietcong troops had driven up to 10 miles into Cambodian territory. "Those must be the three so-called Cambodian battalions," he said.

He reiterated that Prince Sihanouk and his wife had spirited away large sums of money abroad and said the princess was "lying" when she claimed she was broke. "They have enough money to enable them live in foreign countries for a long long time," he added.