

654924

15 May Communique

[Military high command communique]

At about 2100 on 14 May Stung Treng town was attacked by a large Viet Cong-North Vietnamese force after being hit by heavy harassing fire. Despite stiff resistance put up by our defenders, who temporarily silenced the enemy fire several times, the enemy kept storming our positions [words indistinct]. The fighting was continuing, according to latest reports.

In Kompong Cham Khmer patrols engaged a band of 30 well-armed Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers near (O Chak). Our heavy fire forced the enemy to withdraw in disorder, leaving behind three dead and two Chinese-made submachineguns. Several other enemy dead or wounded were carried away. No losses were reported on our side.

In Kirirom Khmer defense forces engaged a group of about 30 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers at Chabak. Hampered by difficult terrain, the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese imperialists maneuvered to avoid fighting but were caught by our troops and suffered heavy losses. Three enemy dead along with three Chinese-made submachineguns and more than 100 rounds of ammunition were found.

Several other dead or wounded enemy soldiers were carried away by their retreating comrades. We suffered one slightly wounded soldier.

In Kampot, early on the morning of 14 May our center of resistance was strongly attacked by Viet Cong-North Vietnamese elements, who were forced to withdraw by our heavy fire after 3 hours of fighting. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. Seventeen enemy dead along with five Chinese-made submachine guns and more than 100 grenades were found. Several other dead or wounded enemy soldiers were carried away by their comrades.

Our forces have thus once again put up strong resistance to the enemy. Supported by our partisans, officials, villagers, and youths, and animated by patriotism, our soldiers are more determined than ever to fight to the last bullet to defend their fatherland and administer new defeats to the imperialist aggressors.

In Svay Rieng, a mopping-up operation conducted by our forces, supported by the people, officials, and youths, about 3 kilometers north of Svay Rieng on 14 May ran up against strong enemy resistance. Blasted by our heavy fire, the enemy was forced to withdraw, leaving behind several dead.
[sentence indistinct]

Here is the latest news: A ferry between Kompong Cham and Tonle Bet was sunk by a plastic charge rigged by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. A metal bridge in Kompong Chrey was also destroyed. In Samrong Thom, Kandal Province, a foreign journalist was wounded by an enemy mine.

Determined to carry out their policy of destruction of our economic infrastructure, the imperialist aggressors have once again shamelessly sabotaged our achievements.

✓ 17 May Communique

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0030 GMT 17 May 70 D

[Military High Command Communique]

[Text] During the past 24 hours enemy activities have noticeably increased in the northern and southern province. In Ratanakiri Province, at about 0300 on 5 May about 200 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attempted to occupy the center of Bo Keo. Battered by our defense forces composed of soldiers, partisans, officials, youths, and villagers, the enemy was forced to withdraw at about 600 leaving behind three dead along with two Chinese-made submachineguns and a dozen grenades. Several other enemy dead or wounded were carried away by their retreated comrades. On our side, a Khmer woman and an infant were killed.

In Kompong Cham at about 0200 on 16 May Kompong Cham town was attacked by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese elements which had infiltrated into the town for some days. The imperialists ran up against stiff resistance from our defense forces, who captured an enemy soldier. Latest reports say the fighting continues.

In Takeo, early on 16 May about 100 well-armed Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attacked the Tram Khnar outpost, but were repelled by our defenders at about 0630. Two enemy dead were found. Our side suffered two soldiers slightly wounded.

In Kampot, Khmer operational forces supported by armor engaged an important enemy force about one kilometer from the (Kompong Nung) College in Damnak Changoe. Well-entrenched Viet Cong and North Vietnamese elements poured withering fire on our troops. The fighting raged until our forces, supported by naval craft and seaplanes, forced the enemy to disperse. Three enemy dead soldiers were found, along with three Chinese-made submachineguns and about 20 grenades. Several other enemy dead or wounded were carried away by their retreating comrades. We suffered one man killed and another slightly wounded.

Pursuing their policy of genocide [words indistinct] to the imperialist, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese invaders continue [words indistinct], but they will never be able to curb the national resistance put up by an entire people.

Khmer Armed Forces Communique

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1615 GMT 17 May 70 D

[Khmer National Armed Forces High Command communique]

[Text] During the past 24 hours the level of enemy actions has been the same as those of the previous day. In many instances our fighting units, supported by friendly forces, made great efforts to check the enemy offensive.

In Kompong Speu, in (Beng) and (Treng) villages, Kong Pisei district, our defense forces clashed with about 100 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. After a half hour of heavy fire the enemy withdrew. Many traces of blood were found, proving that many of the enemy were killed or wounded. One of our forces was slightly wounded and one rifle was damaged.

In Takeo, at 1900 on 16 May Angtassom town was attacked by a sizeable Viet Cong and North Vietnamese force. Our fighters' strong resistance compelled the enemy to withdraw at 2200, leaving behind one killed, about 12 grenades, and two Chinese-made machine pistols. Our side had no casualties.

Our authorities came to Tonleap, (Komnap), Phnom Den, and Po Sangker on 16 May to distribute arms and ammunition to the local people, at their request. The public will recall that these four communes had been plundered frequently by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, who imposed their law on the peaceful and unarmed population. We pay great tribute to the people in these regions, who refused to bow before the imperialist aggressors, thus setting a good example for their fellow countrymen. We are convinced that from now on the enemy will find that nobody listens to him [in these regions].

In Kampot, on 16 May the town of Damnak Changoe was violently attacked by several Viet Cong-North Vietnamese battalions, which occupied our defense positions despite our heavy artillery shellings. When our troops ceased firing the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese appeared from all sides and launched assaults against our positions.

Our cool-headed troops counterattacked and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. However, after several hours of (?fierce) fighting, our troops had to make a tactical withdrawal in the face of an enemy obviously superior in arms and equipment.

In Kirirom, on the night of 16 May about 100 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese burned a dispensary, the houses used as the office of the water and forest service, and a rest house. This utterly mean act proves that the imperialist aggressors want to pursue their policy of systematic destruction of our social substructure.

Dear compatriots, all the above facts show that our age-old enemy has not given up his annexationist dream toward us. But we are convinced that no matter happens, our valiant fighters, militarymen, official, youths, and villagers will be able to cut off the bloody hands of these invaders.

✓ Recapture of Kompong Cham

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 18 May 70 D

[Text] During a press conference the morning of 18 May the General Staff spokesman announced the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese have withdrawn from Kompong Cham and that the positions occupied by the enemy have been retaken by Khmer forces. The spokesman also revealed that fighting between Khmer forces and the Viet Cong is going on at Tram Khnar, on the Kampot road. The towns of Kampot and Prey Veng were harassed by Viet Cong during the night of 17 May, the spokesman added.

LPP STATEMENT CONDEMNS U.S. INVASION OF CAMBODIA

Peking NCNA International Service in English 2048 GMT 18 May 70 B

[Text] Peking, May 18 (HSINHUA)--A spokesman of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front issued a statement recently in strong denunciation of U.S. imperialism's new act of aggression against the Kingdom of Cambodia, according to the "Pathet Lao" Radio yesterday.

The statement pointed out that the dispatch by U.S. imperialism of its own forces and the troops of the South Vietnamese puppets to invade Cambodia was aimed at rescuing the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique which is being besieged ring upon ring by the Khmer people, who are fighting in response to the sacred call of Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for armed struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys.

The statement said that the dispatch of U.S. imperialist and Saigon puppet troops to Phnom Penh is a very serious act of aggression against Cambodia. This act of aggression has gravely threatened peace in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile it gives the lie to Nixon who, in a recent speech on Cambodia, pretended that the United States "respects" the independence, sovereignty and neutrality of Cambodia and has no intention to invade that country. It also enables the people to see clearly Nixon's obduracy in pushing ahead his policies of aggression against Cambodia and war expansion in Indo-China in defiance of the vehement protest of the world people, particularly the awakened students, other progressive people as well as political figures in the United States.

The statement said that the Laotian Patriotic Front and the Laotian people severely condemn these odious crimes of aggression and war committed by the U.S. imperialists and their agents in flagrant violation of the sovereignty, independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia. The statement demanded that U.S. imperialism and its lackeys immediately withdraw all U.S. troops and troops of the Saigon puppets from Cambodia. The statement said that in the light of the joint declaration of the Indo-Chinese People's Summit Conference, the Laotian Patriotic Front and the Laotian people are following with keen interest the fraternal Khmer people's heroic struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their agents and for national salvation, and are ready to give all necessary support to the Cambodian people.

In conclusion, the statement expressed the firm belief that, waged in the spirit of the Indo-Chinese Peoples' Summit Conference and widely supported by justice- and peace-loving people of the world, the common struggle of the Khmer, Vietnamese and Laotian peoples will certainly triumph.

BRIEFS

SOVIET TV DELEGATION--A Soviet TV delegation led by Vladimir Alexander Gousser paid a visit to the liberated zone of Laos from 27 April to 9 May. It was granted a TV interview by Prince Souphanouvong, visited a number of economic, cultural, and educational establishments in Sam Neua Province, and witnessed many crimes committed by the United States in its air bombardment of the Lao liberated zone. (PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY /Clandestine/ English 0637 GMT 15 May 70 D)

J