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HANOI MEDIA COMMENT ON RECENT EVENTS IN CAMBODIA

Radio Commentary

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Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1445 GMT 21 Mar 70 B

[Station commentary: "The United States is the mastermind in the coup d'etat in Cambodia")

[Text] On 18 March, a pro-American extreme rightist group carried out a coup d'etat in the Kingdom of Cambodia. It declared its opposition to Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and suspension of all democratic freedoms provided by the constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. At the same time, it has continued to stir up the frantic campaign of slander against the Vietnamese people.

The U.S. hand directing this coup d'etat was very obvious. Many Western papers observed that the CIA, that is, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, had a hand in this coup d'etat. The French news agency AFP reported that a few days before, a number of armed forces of the extreme rightist group in Cambodia had been equipped with U.S. M-16 rifles.

On 19 March, the spokesman of the U.S. Department of State hastily announced that the United States recognizes the coup d'etat group as the legal government of Cambodia. As for the Vietnamese traitor Nguyen Van Thieu, he declared that he was happy and ready to establish diplomatic relations with the coup d'etat group.

During the past nearly 15 years, ever since the Kingdom of Cambodia declared it would follow the path of peace and positive neutrality, U.S. imperialism has ceaselessly sought all means to wreck the independence and neutrality of this country. It resorted to all tricks, from provocative attacks on the borders to subversive activities inside the country. It even went so far as to plot to assassinate Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk with a view to turning Cambodia into a U.S. neocolony and military base.

The 18 March coup d'etat was the end result of a process of sabotage, subversion, and aggressive activities carried out for a long time by the U.S. imperialists against the independence and the policy of peace and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia. This coup d'etat was carried out against the background of the U.S. imperialists' obdurate protracting of the aggressive war in South Vietnam, their stepping up the escalation of the aggressive war in Laos, and their incessant expansion of the war theater to Cambodian territory.

Immediately after the 18 March coup d'etat, the Vietnamese traitors called on the extreme rightist group in Cambodia to coordinate with them to attack the South Vietnam patriotic forces in the border area. The U.S. newspaper New York TIMES overtly said that Nguyen Van Thieu had reported on this coup d'etat to 40 Asian newsmen visiting Saigon 1 and one-half hours before the official announcement by radio Phnom Penh.

The cruel nature of U.S. imperialism, common enemy of the peoples of Indochina, was all the more revealed through the coup d'etat in Cambodia. It is clear that the Nixon administration, in a situation of stalemate and defeat in South Vietnam and Laos, is frantically plunging onto the path of prolonging and developing the aggressive war throughout Indochina in an attempt to save itself from defeat.

The coup d'etat in Cambodia also exposes the real nature of Nixon's so-called new doctrine on Asia, that is, using Asians to fight Asians. Before, during, and after the coup d'etat, the extreme rightist group in Cambodia stirred up a frantic campaign against the Vietnamese people. It spread all kinds of slanderous and distorted allegations with a view to distracting public opinion and concealing the interventionist hand and cruel plot of the United States against Cambodia. It portrayed the Vietnamese people, who are fighting against U.S. aggression, as aggressors against Cambodia, in an attempt to create hatred between the peoples of the two countries. It aroused the Cambodian people to oppose the Vietnamese people to serve the U.S. scheme of using Asians to fight Asians.

The recent coup d'etat shows that the U.S. scheme is not only aimed at opposing the Vietnamese people's resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation but also at destroying the independence and sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The Cambodian people have long made a clear distinction between their enemies and their friends. They will certainly uphold their vigilance against the divisive plot of the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings.

In history, the peoples of the two countries shared the same fate of being slaves of the imperialists and colonialists, and they rose up together to struggle for their national liberation. Today, they have to stand up against their common enemy, namely, the U.S. imperialists, an extremely cruel and perfidious international gendarme.

The interests of the struggle for independence and freedom require that the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia in particular, as well as the peoples of the Indochinese countries in general, strengthen their solidarity more than ever before to spearhead their struggle against their common enemy, the U.S. imperialists.

Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk has said: Together with our Vietnamese brothers, we are determined not to yield, so long as the U.S. aggressors have not withdrawn from our Indochinese territory and so long as our full independence and territorial integrity have not been recognized.

We believe that, although faced with difficulties and complexity, the Cambodian people's struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings to safeguard their independence and their policy of peace and neutrality will continue to develop.

No wicked scheme of the U.S. imperialists can stop the wheel of history from rolling. The Vietnamese-Cambodian militant friendship will certainly overcome all obstacles set up by the enemy and will insure the final victory for the peoples of the two countries in their just struggle for their independence and freedom.

#### NHAN DAN Commentator's Article

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0330 GMT 22 Mar 70 S

[NHAN DAN 22 March commentator's article: "The U.S. imperialists are the wicked enemies of the Cambodian people"]

[Text] The ultrarightist group in Cambodia recently carried out a coup d'etat to overthrow Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk.

The coup occurred after Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk in Paris condemned the ransacking of Vietnamese embassies and organs in Phnom Penh on 11 March, pointing out that the above-mentioned provocations were initiated by the ultrarightist elements and aimed at changing the political and ideological trends in Cambodia, driving Cambodia into the U.S. camp. He also announced his decision to return home to restore neutrality and the policy of nonalignment, to insure Cambodia's survival. On 18 March, under the control of the ultrarightist group, the joint session of the National Assembly and the Royal Council voted a "no confidence" vote against Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and appointed National Assembly President Cheng Heng as acting chief of state.

According to REUTERS the power in Cambodia is now actually in the hands of Gen Lon Nol, premier and minister of defense, and Deputy Premier Sirik Matak. The coup makers announced abolition of democratic freedoms as stipulated in the constitution. Simultaneously they endeavored to slander and provoke psychological reactions against Vietnam. According to Western sources, the situation in Cambodia is very tense.

The coup d'etat in Cambodia was organized by the U.S. imperialists. Events occurring during the past few days prove it. The French bourgeois paper PARIS JOUR pointed out that this is a pro-American coup which was engineered in accordance with a CIA plan. (?AFP) reported that Cambodian soldiers patrolled in Phnom Penh streets bearing U.S. M-16 rifles. According to LE FIGARO, these rifles were handed over to Cambodia by the U.S. AID organ. Immediately, after the coup, the U.S. State Department hurriedly recognized the new regime in Cambodia as the legal administration.

The U.S. lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok manifested their joy and predicted an improvement of relations between them and Cambodia. The traitor Nguyen Van Thieu stated that he and the Cambodian coup makers might cooperate in opposing the South Vietnamese patriotic forces. According to the New York TIMES correspondent in Saigon, Thieu had been informed of the coup and told the journalists about it.

The 18 March coup is the biggest of a series of crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists to undermine Cambodia's independence and policy of peace and neutrality. For more than 10 years the U.S. imperialists have systematically implemented their criminal plan. Immediately after the signing of the 1954 Geneva Accords, they set up the SEATO bloc and deliberately put Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam under the protection of this bloc. The U.S. imperialists and their lackeys have successively resorted to attacks, provocations, threats of subversion, acts of sabotage, and assassinations to force Cambodia to join the U.S. camp.

Under the leadership of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people's struggle aimed at safeguarding national independence and the policy of peace and neutrality has frustrated many U.S. plots and hostile acts.

But the U.S. imperialists have not given up their sinister schemes. On one hand the Nixon administration spoke of peace and friendship with Cambodia, but on the other hand it continued to use planes to drop bombs and spray chemical poisons on Cambodia. U.S. and puppet troops continued to bombard Cambodian territory with artillery and encroach on it. The U.S. lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok refused to recognize Cambodia's present borders and continued to support and command the Khmer Serei to destroy Cambodia's security.

The recent coup d'etat has unmasked the extremely wicked U.S. policy toward Cambodia. It proves that the U.S. imperialists are the most dangerous enemy of the Cambodian and other peoples.

The coup d'etat in Cambodia is part of the U.S. plan to invade the Indochinese countries. This plan has been repeatedly defeated by the Indochinese people's staunch combativity and great solidarity. But the U.S. imperialists are still very obdurate.

They are prolonging their war of aggression in Vietnam and escalating the war in Laos. The U.S.-engineered coup aims at abolishing Cambodia's policy of peace and neutrality, destroying that country's independence, dragging Cambodia into the U.S. camp, and turning Cambodia into a U.S. neocolony and military base to widen and prolong the war in Indochina.

One of the U.S. immediate goals in engineering this coup is to use Cambodia to oppose the Vietnamese people's anti-U.S. national salvation resistance. This is an application of Nixon's doctrine of using Asians to fight Asians. The fact that the Cambodian ultrarightist group is brazenly slandering Vietnam and actively stepping up an anti-Vietnam campaign is precisely aimed at implementing the wicked U.S. plot of sowing division and enmity between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples and, simultaneously, covering up the extremely dangerous subversive and aggressive role of the United States in Cambodia. This plot will surely fail.

The age-old friendly relations between the peoples of the two neighbors, Vietnam and Cambodia, which have undergone many tests are being consolidated and developed day by day and becoming unbreakable. In the fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the peoples in the two countries have increasingly tightened their solidarity and have mutually supported each other. We are grateful to the Cambodian people for their valuable support for our people's anti-U.S. national salvation fight. On our part, we always respect the independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and territorial integrity within the present border lines and always strive to consolidate and strengthen the longstanding friendship and the "good neighbor" relations between our people and the Cambodian people. This policy of Vietnam is consistent with Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's policy of peace and neutrality and the interests of the Indochinese peoples.

Firmly maintaining this policy, our people fully support the Khmer people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists and the pro-American ultrarightist group to protect the independence, peace, and neutrality of Cambodia. The Vietnamese people resolutely reject the slanderous arguments of the ultrarightist group in Cambodia and condemn its scheme and acts of sowing division and stirring up hatred between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples. We demand that this group end all words and deeds against Vietnam, end its terrorization of the Vietnamese residents in Phnom Penh, and renounce its scheme to divide the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Following the 18 March U.S.-engineered coup d'etat, the Cambodian people's struggle for their independence, neutrality, and peace has encountered difficulties, but these are only temporary difficulties. The U.S. imperialists are very crafty and wicked, but in Indochina they are weakened and defeated.

The U.S. imperialists' brazen, subversive acts against Cambodia have been condemned by all progressive mankind. The Cambodian people who have once more clearly seen the very cruel face of the Americans and their lackeys will ever more resolutely struggle for their independence and freedom. The Indochinese people's fight is on the offensive and is scoring increasingly greater success. The Cambodian people, who have had the tradition of experiences in struggling against the imperialists, will certainly overcome all immediate challenges and continue to advance on their glorious path of protecting their fatherland. Closely uniting with each other in stepping up the fight against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, the peoples of the three Indochinese countries will certainly win.

## QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Commentary

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0930 GMT 22 Mar 70 S

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 22 March commentary: "The Americans have promoted the coup to undermine the Kingdom of Cambodia's independence, peace, and neutrality"]

[Text] On 28 March, the pro-U.S. ultrarightist group in Phnom Penh staged a coup against Cambodian Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk. REUTERS on 18 March reported: "The real power in Cambodia is now in the hands of Gen Lon Nol, premier of the government and concurrently defense minister, and Vice Premier Sirik Matak. The coup makers have brazenly ordered the abolition of all freedoms of the Khmer people stipulated in the Cambodian Constitution, such as freedom of assembly, freedom of the press [words indistinct] to rudely suppress the Cambodian people."

The 18 March coup was obviously a very brazen and subversive act by the U.S. imperialists. The French paper LE FIGARO on 20 March said: "The sight of Cambodian troops equipped with M-16 rifles and patrolling in Phnom Penh streets makes the U.S. denial that it was involved in the coup unbelievable; prior to 1963 when U.S. military aid to Cambodia was suspended, the United States had not yet manufactured M-16 rifles."

On 19 March, the French paper PARIS-JOUR reported the coup under the following headline: "A pro-U.S. coup d'etat in Cambodia was masterminded by CIA." The Washington-based REUTERS correspondent wrote [words indistinct]: "CIA had a finger in the pie." The Japanese Foreign Ministry stated: "No doubt the pro-U.S. elements have seized power in Phnom Penh," according to AFP on 18 March.

U.S. involvement in the coup was so obvious that [words indistinct]. AP on 19 March reported: "During the very day of the coup, more than 100 Americans posing as tourists and newsmen were present in Phnom Penh. According to the New York TIMES of 20 March, the lackeys of the Americans in Saigon were informed at noon of 18 March that "something might occur in Phnom Penh." Its correspondent in Saigon said: "Thieu informed 40 Asian journalists now visiting Saigon of the coup about 1 and a half hours prior to the official announcement by the Phnom Penh radio."

It was not by chance that the Washington leaders and the Saigon puppets expressed joy over the coup, and the White House lost no time in recognizing promoters of the coup.

On 20 March Chief of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk reasserted in Peking that the coup in Phnom Penh is completely illegal, and that the chaotic situation in Cambodia is provoked by the coup leaders and the CIA. (AFP) The 18 March coup is the most serious and brazen act of aggression of the U.S. imperialists in their maneuver to reduce the Cambodian people to bondage. For many years, they have not ceased intimidating and undermining the policy of independence, peace, and neutrality of the Cambodian Kingdom headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

The Americans had used their lackeys, such as Son Ngoc Thanh, Sam Sary, and Dap Luon, to stage subversive activities and to murder the leaders of the Cambodian Kingdom, but they had failed in these attempts. After that, they incited their lackeys in Saigon and Bangkok to constantly carry out provocative activities along the Cambodian borders, to shell the populated areas of Cambodia, and to send troops across the borders, violating Cambodian territory. According to a report by the Cambodian Royal Government before a UN session, between 1962 and 1969, the Americans and Saigon puppet administration had sent troops to infringe upon Cambodian territory over 7,000 times, killing more than 300 civilians and injuring 700 others.

Recently, the U.S. imperialists recklessly incited the ultrarightists to organize demonstrations to ransack the DRV and Republic of South Vietnam embassies in Cambodia, to terrorize the Vietnamese nationals, to provoke enmity between the two peoples, and to misled public opinion so that the Americans and ultrarightists could carry out the 18 March coup d'etat. This brazen act of the U.S. imperialists is aimed at opposing and undermining the policy of independence, peace and neutrality of the Cambodian Kingdom, and opposing the Vietnamese people's anti-U.S. national salvation resistance.

The Vietnamese people severely condemn the U.S. imperialists' aggressive policy toward Cambodia. We greatly admire the patriotism and stalwart traditions of the Khmer people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors for the past several years and (are grateful) for the Khmer people's support for our people's resistance. The Vietnamese people, now as in the past, have always respected the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia within its present borders.

Being two close neighbors, the Vietnamese and Cambodian people will certainly not cease strengthening and developing their solidarity and friendship. However cruel and cunning they may be, the U.S. imperialists will never be able to subdue the heroic Cambodian people, nor will they be able to avoid defeat in Vietnam or impair the friendship between the Vietnamese and Cambodian people.