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HANOI SUPPORTS SIHANOUK'S STAND IMPLICATING U.S. FOR HIS OUSTER

[Commentary: "Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk's declaration was a strong indictment of the American imperialists and their ultra-right cliques and at the same time affirmed his determination to struggle to protect Cambodian independence"; Hanoi, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 24 March 1970, p 4]

On 20 March, Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Chief of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, exposed the illegality and unconstitutionality of the coup d'etat on 18 March. At the same time he clearly indicated his determination to struggle to overturn the coup d'etat, protect the independence and national sovereignty, and to free Cambodia from the hands of U.S. imperialists. This important declaration fully clarified the present situation in Cambodia and disclosed the direct actions being taken by the Cambodian people to protect the independence and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk agreed that the coup d'etat on 18 March was perpetrated by "a clique of ultra-right lackeys belonging to the U.S. imperialists." Concerning the nature of the coup d'etat, Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk emphasized that it was illegal, unconstitutional, and a betrayal of the people. The Crown Prince's declaration also explained that the objective of the coup d'etat was to establish an unconstitutional permanent dictatorship to repulse the Cambodian people. That dictatorship is following a criminal policy aimed at destroying Cambodia's independence and neutrality and delivering the Kingdom of Cambodia into the hands of U.S. imperialists.

Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk's declaration revealed that the aims of the U.S. imperialists and the ultra-right clique were to falsely denounce and distort the war of resistance against the U.S. for national salvation of the people of Vietnam, to stir hatred among the people, to disorient public opinion, to cover the only reason for the coup d'etat on 18 March perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists against independence, and to destroy the neutrality of Cambodia. The Crown Prince explained:

"the perpetrators of the coup d'etat stirred my countrymen to attack Vietnamese citizens and their places of worship by acts of demagogue, differentiation of the races, polarization of the country, and, it can also be said, by facism." This declaration exposed the true character of the perpetrators of the coup d'etat who fabricated reasons for their lies that the head of state had betrayed the Fatherland and that the Fatherland was facing a crisis, in order to openly and boldly satisfy their own personal greed and that of the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency).

In his declaration of 20 March, Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk explained that the objective of the urgent struggle of all the Cambodian people is to smash the sinister plots of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, abolish the coup d'etat, and restore the legal system and democracy. The Crown Prince indicated his own strong determination to wage along with all the classes of Khmer people the battle which will lead to that sacred victory. He declared: "Because of a bold and open coup d'etat by an ultra-right group, one clique is systematically robbing the possessions of the country and the people. These elements oppress the people, lead the nation to war, ignore the independence of the people, and give the country over to U.S. imperialism. Therefore, it is my mission to participate in that sacred struggle. Our people must abolish this coup d'etat from within and without our country, re-establish the legal system and democracy. This mission which I shall carry out will either result in victory or my death. That also is the mission of all people deserving of the name of Cambodian.

The declaration by Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the legitimate leader of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the originator of and tireless fighter for the independence and true neutrality of Cambodia, a strong advocate of Khmer-Vietnamese friendship, was not only a strong indictment of the ultra-right and U.S. aggressor cliques for their crimes, but also was an appeal to all the classes of the Khmer people for solidarity in their fight against the U.S. and their lackeys and to resolutely defend Cambodia's independence and neutrality. The declaration exposed the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys as the enemies of Cambodia's independence and neutrality; it exposed the extremely grave nature of U.S. intervention which has forced the people of Cambodia to face the crisis of a possible loss of their country; it explained the urgency of the struggle of all Cambodians against the U.S. imperialists and their ultra-right cliques; and it explained that the necessary course of action is to overturn the dictatorship recently established by lackeys of the U.S. imperialists after betraying the people by a coup d'etat in Cambodia on 18 March.

The declaration by the Crown Prince was an answer to the existing legitimate wish of all classes of Khmer people to continue the brave struggle of the past years by himself and the Cambodian people to resist the U.S. imperialist aggressors and at the same time open a new phase of fighting consistent with the changed conditions now in Cambodia.

The declaration by the Head of State Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk helped strengthen the long standing feeling of solidarity and friendship between the people of the two Vietnams and the Cambodian in their common struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

The people of Vietnam enthusiastically welcomed the declaration by Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The people of Vietnam firmly support the struggle of Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian people which is being carried out to protect Cambodia's independence and to smash every sinister plot of the U.S. imperialists and their lackey cliques. Crown Prince Norodom Sihanouk has always advocated a policy of solidarity and friendship between the Cambodians and the Vietnamese for the interest of both nations. The several recent events further amplify the solemnity of that policy. The Vietnamese people will not cease strengthening the traditional Vietnamese-Cambodian friendship and the feeling of solidarity of all the countries of Indochina to fight against the aggression of the U.S. imperialists.

The clique of U.S. imperialists is presently at a great disadvantage. Their vicious side has been completely exposed to the people of Cambodia. They are presently suffering heavy defeats in Vietnam and Laos. They are being isolated in the sky. The struggle of the Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and all the classes of Khmer people against the U.S. and their lackeys has a strong base. The people of Vietnam believe that that just struggle has the sympathy of all progressive peoples and that a victory is certain.

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