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HANOI MEDIA PRAISE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S 'JUST STRUGGLE'

23 Mar NHAN DAN Editorial

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[NHAN DAN 23 March editorial: "The Cambodian People's Just Undertaking Will Surely Be Successful"]

[Text] The Cambodian case is vivid proof of the U.S. bogged-down stance in the final phase of the aggressive war against Vietnam, a stance in which the stubborn aggressors have dug their graveyard on this peninsula buoyant with the revolutionary movement.

In an attempt to salvage the collapsing Vietnamization undertaking, on 18 March 1970 the United States, operating from behind the scene, induced its Phnom Penh lackeys to stage a coup d'etat and overthrow Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk. But U.S. hopes of turning Cambodia into a neocolony and base from which to invade other Indochinese countries vanished quickly. In fact, the United States came up against a stalwart anti-U.S. bastion and have experienced the 7 million Cambodian people's seething hatred.

On 23 March 1970 Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, in the name of the (?legitimate) head of the Cambodian state, (?issued) a historic proclamation dissolving the government headed by Lon Nol, declaring the founding of the NUFC and CPNLAF, and appealing to all the Cambodian people to arise and struggle against the aggressors to save the country. The date 23 March 1970 was a basic turning point in the history of Cambodia's struggle for independence, freedom, and social progress.

In the past 3 years, responding to Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's proclamation, all the Cambodian people have united in a heroic struggle against the aggressive U.S. imperialists and their henchmen and have scored strategically significant great victories. The CPNLAF, consisting of the three troop categories, have matured rapidly. The more they fight the stronger they become. They have won one victory after another on all battlefields.

The heroic Cambodian Armed Forces and people have badly defeated 100,000 U.S. and Saigon puppet troops and forced them to withdraw from Cambodia, while dealing the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique deeper and deeper into a disastrously defensive posture.

The liberated areas have expanded constantly. In October 1970 the liberated areas occupied 70 percent of Cambodian territory, with nearly 5 million people. In July 1971 the liberated areas occupied 80 percent of all Cambodian territory with 5 million people. In May 1972 the liberated areas occupied 85 percent of all Cambodian territory. By late February 1973 the Cambodian revolution had liberated 90 percent of Cambodian territory and 5.5 of the 7 million people throughout the country and had formed a firm, stable, mutually supporting bloc from east to west and north to south. The liberated areas, comprising the most important strategic, military, political, and economic areas, are close to Phnom Penh's gates and are developing the influence of their increasingly greater and comprehensive superiority on areas still under temporary enemy control.

The source of all these glorious victories is the strong vitality of a people with a civilization several thousand years old and the staunch and unsubmitive struggle spirit of a people with an age-old tradition of struggle against foreign aggression.

The strength of this potential has developed fully under the clear-sighted leadership of the RGNUC and the NUFC, which represent the quintessence and most fundamental interests of all strata of the communist people and the Cambodian people.

The RGNUC's political platform illuminates the struggle objectives for all the Cambodian people. These objectives are to defend national independence, peace, neutrality, sovereignty, and territorial integrity for all countries within existing borders, to build a free and democratic people's regime, and to advance toward building a prosperous Cambodia in accord with the Cambodian people's deep aspirations. Originating from the principle of "unity creating strength," the platform clearly shows the way to achieve the broadest national unity bloc to oppose the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys and realize the policy of militant solidarity and cooperation with Laos and Vietnam, in line with the principle that the liberation and defense of each country are their own undertaking. The peoples of the three countries pledge to do their utmost to support one another in agreement with each country concerned, on the basis of mutual respect.

The substance of the Cambodian problem is very clear in light of historic events that have led to the Cambodian people's anti-U.S. national salvation resistance and in the light of the great and comprehensive victories the Cambodians have won and are winning. In this problem, justice and injustice oppose each other as day and night. It is common knowledge that since Cambodia wrested its sovereignty back from the French colonialists' hands, the government under Chief of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's leadership has carried out a policy of independence, peace, and neutrality. This policy is consistent with the Cambodian people's interests and the interests of peace in Southeast Asia. This policy therefore has been enthusiastically supported by the Cambodian people and approved by world public opinion.

The U.S.-directed coup d'etat of 18 March 1970 undermined Cambodia's peaceful and neutralist line and suppressed its independence while making this country subordinate to the United States.

The U.S. Government then sent 100,000 U.S. and Saigon troops to trample Cambodia underfoot, transforming this peaceful land into a battlefield and expanding the war to all of Indochina. Since then, the United States has unceasingly assisted and commanded its lackeys to step up an unjust war against the Cambodians. Worse is the fact that, after the restoration of peace in Vietnam and Laos, the United States has not stopped but has continued to aid the Phnom Penh puppet administration and intensified the brutal bombing raids by B-52's to kill the Cambodians.

It is obvious that the United States started the war of aggression against Cambodia and because of its intervention this war is still continuing. The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique is obviously a U.S. tool. The Phnom Penh puppet administration is illegal because it was created by the United States. Because of its servile nature, this administration is hated by all Cambodians who are struggling to overthrow it. It is now in its death throes because of its internal contradictions which cannot be overcome, despite the fact that it may receive countless U.S. dollars and weapons as aid.

This situation reveals that there is no other way than that reasserted in the statements of 26 and 28 January 1973 by the NUFC and RGNVC to solve the Cambodia problem. The Cambodia problem must be solved in accord with Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's five-point proclamation of 23 March 1970. The United States must end its intervention in and aggression against Cambodia and respect the Cambodians' basic national rights. Cambodia's internal affairs must be settled by the Cambodians themselves, without foreign interference.

Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk represents the legality, genuineness and continuity of the Cambodian state. The RGNVC with Samdech Penn Nouth as prime minister and Khieu Samphan as deputy prime minister is the only genuine and legal government of the Cambodian people.

As the organizer and leader of the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of the Cambodian people who have scored great victories, the NUFC and RGNVC, continuing and developing gloriously the Cambodian nation's patriotic tradition and revolutionary heroism, will never submit themselves to the aggressor's violence. Meanwhile, the stand of the NUFC and RGNVC profoundly reflects the love for genuine peace of the Cambodian people who have been struggling stalwartly in the past 3 years to restore peace in genuine independence, freedom and sovereignty. (Statement of 26 January 1973).

In his statement of 27 February 1973 demanding that the U.S. Government respect and seriously implement the Paris agreement on Vietnam, Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk stressed: The peace problem in Cambodia is not difficult to solve. If the United States agrees to end its interference in the Cambodians' affairs, Cambodia will surely restore its traditional peace. For this reason, I demand that the Nixon government respect and immediately implement Article 20 of the Paris agreement on Vietnam which the United States signed with the DRV Government on 27 January.

Loyal to the joint statement of the Indochinese peoples' summit conference, the Vietnamese people consider the Cambodian people's victory as being their own victory and pledge to strengthen their solidarity with the fraternal people of Cambodia in the struggle against U.S. aggression to protect their sacred basic national rights.

As mentioned in the DRV Government's statement of 1 February and in the joint communique of 7 February 1973 on Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's friendly visit to the DRV, our people and government support the Cambodian people's struggle for independence and freedom and their correct stand with a view to solving the Cambodia problem and restoring peace to all of Indochina. We are convinced that the Cambodian people's just undertaking will surely triumph gloriously.

Hanoi Radio Commentary

Hanoi in Vietnamese to Vietnam 2330 GMT 22 Mar 73 S

[Commentary: "The Cambodian People's Just Struggle Will Certainly Win Glorious Victory"]

[Text] In the Cambodian people's 2,000-year history of struggle to build and preserve their country, 23 March 1970 is regarded as a shining milestone.

This was the day Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, acting as legal chief of the Cambodian state, issued the five-point proclamation addressed to his compatriots. In this proclamation he announced his decision to dissolve the Lon Non puppet administration which had been set up following the 18 March 1970 reactionary coup d'etat, the National Assembly, and the royal council for betraying the constitution. He also made public his decision to set up the National United Front of Cambodia, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, and the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces. He solemnly appealed to all the people to form a unified front and stand side by side with the Vietnamese and Lao peoples in waging the struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to defend the fatherland's independence and freedom.

Responding to this sacred appeal, the Cambodian people arose united, millions as one, to resolutely fight and win victory. Since then the Cambodian revolution has developed constantly, steadily, vigorously and uniformly and has repeatedly achieved brilliant successes in all fields--military, political and diplomatic--thus raising the prestige of the NUFC and the RGNUC to an unprecedentedly high level.

The CPNLAF, the main spearhead of the Cambodian people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle, consists of three troop categories--militia and guerrilla troops, regional troops, and regular troops--and is constantly strengthening and developing. The CPNLAF has matured rapidly, fought stalwartly, and become increasingly stronger and more victorious while fighting. The CPNLAF has defeated U.S., Saigon puppet, and Phnom Penh puppet troops, frustrated all small- and large-scale counteroffensive operations launched by the enemy, and has repeatedly cut his strategic communication lines, thus driving him deeper and deeper into a defensive and passive position in which he has been under heavy siege and pressure.

The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique has been chased by the Cambodian Armed Forces and people into its lair in Phnom Penh, and even in this last lair this clique has been under pressure from inside and outside.

Politically, the NUFC has been united at home and abroad and the Cambodian national solidarity bloc has constantly expanded and consolidated. Many notables, intellectuals, religious men, and patriotic troops have left areas under temporary enemy control in favor of the liberated area to join the resistance personally. The liberated areas has been enlarged from east to west and north to south. Rich in natural resources and heavily-populated, this area now covers 90 per cent of the nation's whole territory, contains 5.5 million people, and serves as the firm rear and base for the resistance. The NUFC's and RGNUC's organizations are increasingly consolidated and strengthened, at all levels, especially the hamlet, village, and district levels, and are successfully fulfilling their tasks in accordance with the NUFC's political program.

In the international arena the Cambodian revolution's prestige continues to rise. The world people's movement to support the Cambodian people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle has increasingly developed. To date more than 30 countries have established diplomatic relations with the RGNUC.

Recognition by the conference of foreign ministers of nonaligned countries, held in Georgetown in August 1972, of the RGNUC's delegation as its official member was convincing proof of the great prestige of the Cambodian people's just and successful struggle.

At the same time the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys in Phnom Penh have become increasingly isolated and have plunged deeper and deeper into the quagmire of defeat. The U.S. imperialists' Khmerization policy has suffered serious setbacks and faced the danger of complete bankruptcy. The Phnom Penh army, the backbone of the Khmerization plan, continues to deteriorate and disintegrate.

Many armed mutinies and desertions have occurred. The U.S. lackey ringleaders were filled with great panic by a most recent incident. On 17 March a patriotic Cambodian officer used an aircraft of the Lon Nol puppet air force to bomb puppet president Lon Nol's palace, exterminating a large number of enemy troops. The patriotic officer then safely landed his aircraft in the liberated area.

Along with these military setbacks, the U.S. lackeys in Phnom Penh have been constantly bogged down in an irremediable, profound, complete, and permanent crisis. They have been unable to get along with one another and have sought ways to kick one another out in order to occupy the position as effective henchmen of the United States and gain the best rewards. The internal ranks of the Lon Nol puppet army commanders are also subject to acute contradictions.

Simultaneously the economic and financial difficulties of the Lon Nol clique have increased continuously, making people in areas under its temporary control who already have many difficulties in earning a living endure more suffering. Such a situation has led to vigorous struggles by all strata of the people, as manifested by recent labor and school strikes in Phnom Penh, Kampot, and other areas.

Yet, the U.S. imperialists have not resigned themselves to defeat. On the contrary, they have continued to step up the war of aggression in Cambodia. Night and day they have sent many aircraft, including strategic B-52's, to bomb and destroy Cambodia and have strengthened their henchmen so they can oppose the people and the revolution.

Faced with the danger of destruction, the Lon Nol clique is becoming increasingly dictatorial and fascist. Recently it has repeatedly taken many measures aimed at repressing the people's seething struggle movement against its rotten regime. It has formed an anti-uprising police force, proclaimed a state of emergency and ordered a curfew throughout the country, and has arrested and detained many members of the royal family, including the children of Chief of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Penn Nouth. It has also brazenly proclaimed the suspension of all democratic liberties granted by its own constitution. It has suspended all domestic newspapers and magazines except for its own newspaper, and searched for and arrested many people who do not side with it or oppose it. But the U.S. imperialists' actions to intensify the aggressive war, and the Lon Nol clique's dictatorial and fascist actions cannot save them from failure and collapse. On the contrary, these actions can only make the Cambodian people's flame of hatred rise even more violently.

As the Cambodian people's intimate comrades in arms, the Vietnamese people are unswervingly determined to strengthen their unity with and support wholeheartedly the fraternal Cambodian people's just struggle. We unreservedly support the Cambodian people's stand, which was reflected in the 26 and 28 January 1973 statements by the NUFC and the PCNUC.

The Cambodian problem must be solved in conformity with Chief of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's 23 March 1970 declaration. We firmly demand that the United States end its criminal war of aggression against the Cambodian people, and all its schemes and actions to prolong this unjust war, respect the Cambodian people's fundamental national rights, and allow the Cambodian people to settle their own internal affairs without foreign interference. No matter how frantically the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys may writhe, there is no way they can avoid total failure.

The Cambodian people's just struggle will certainly win glorious victory!

HANOI WARNS SAIGON WILL BE PUNISHED FOR OPERATIONS

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[Commentary: "Those Who Wage Conflicts Will Be Punished"]

[Text] In late February 1973 the Saigon administration convened a meeting of commanders of the 9th and 21st infantry divisions and province chiefs in western Nam Bo to discuss plans to launch large-scale operations against the U Minh Thuong and U Minh Ha areas, in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces, under the control of the PRGSRV. Recently this administration also brazenly threatened that it would launch big attacks against the Tong Le Chan and Rach Bap areas, under the PRGSRV's control.

As everyone knows, for more than 1 month now, the Saigon troops have launched tens of thousands of nibbling operations and sweeps with the support of the air and tank forces. The most typical cases were the nibbling operations against the southern Cua Viet area, the Tay Ninh area, the Sa Huynh-Duc Pho area, and the area northeast of Dakto. On 15 March the Saigon troops again launched the large-scale 4/45 operation to nibble at the liberated area west of Pleiku city. In these operations the Saigon troops burned thousands of houses, killed thousands of compatriots, and destroyed many villages and hamlets.

The Saigon administration's implementation of its dark scheme aimed at nibbling at and pacifying the U Minh area, a base of the western Nam Bo people, and its preparations for attacking the Tong Le Chan area constitute more undeniable proof of the United States' use of the Saigon administration as an instrument for sabotaging peace and continuing the Vietnamization plan with a view to implementing U.S. neocolonialism in South Vietnam. Realities have proved that the United States is actively consolidating the strength of the reactionary and bellicose elements in Saigon with weapons and ammunition being shipped secretly from Japan to the south. The United States illegally maintains tens of thousands of disguised military personnel and uses its embassy and consulates to command the Saigon army and to implement the pacification plan.