

II. 16 Mar 70

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CAMBODIA

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COMMUNIQUE OF GOVERNMENT, PREMIER'S OFFICE

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Government Communique

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 15 Mar 70 D

[Communique of the Royal Government]

[Text] The Royal Government announces to the nation that in response to its message sent to the DRV and the PRGSV embassies concerning the problem of our friendly relations, based on noninterference in each country's affairs and mutual respect for each country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, all parties concerned have agreed to meet from 16 March to discuss the settlement of problems.

Premier's Office Communique

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 2330 GMT 13 Mar 70 D

[Communique of the Premier's Office]

[Text] The Royal Government is very proud of its patriotic citizens, who have conscientiously responded to its appeals to end their demonstrations. The Royal Government wants to inform its compatriots that it has taken into consideration their desire to see Cambodia's sovereignty and territorial integrity actually respected and has contacted the concerned countries about the matter.

It therefore would like the public to realize that the continuation of attacks on the individuals and their property will not help the country--which is correct in its action--during the present situation. The Royal Government once again calls on its people to remain calm and relies upon them to respond favorably to this appeal.

PRINCE SIHANOUK TO RETURN HOME 24 MARCH

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 16 Mar 70 D

[Text] An AFP dispatch from Moscow said that Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked the Soviet leaders to take action so that Hanoi and the PRG will respect Cambodian neutrality. The Cambodian Head of State made this remark before leaving Paris for the USSR.

He will meet with Soviet leaders again today and will leave Moscow tomorrow [17 March] by special plane for Peking. He will spend 5 days in the Chinese capital and return to Phnom Penh on 24 March.

DRV, PRG MAKE PROPOSALS TO SETTLE PROBLEMS

From DRV

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1808 GMT 14 Mar 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14--Tran Van Duoc, charge d'affaires a.i. of the D.R.V.N. in the Kingdom of Cambodia, today called on the Cambodian Foreign Ministry, to which he stressed once again the utterly grave character of the provocation and ransack by saboteurs on March 11, 1970. He informed it of the DRVN Government's proposal on a settlement of problems arising between the parties concerned.

Tran Van Duoc declared:

1. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam takes note of the regret voiced by the Royal Cambodian Government concerning the incident which took place on the 11th of this month against the office and the members of the DRVN Embassy, its trade representation, and the VIET NAM NEWS AGENCY Bureau in Phnom Penh. While stressing the utter graveness of this incident, it demands once again that the Royal Government punish the culprits, compensate the Vietnamese party for the damage caused to it on that occasion, and take in time all the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such acts, create conditions for the normal functioning of its embassy, its trade representation, and of the VIET NAM NEWS AGENCY Bureau, guarantee the security of the offices and the members of those organs, guarantee the security of the person and property of the Vietnamese nationals residing in Cambodia, in conformity with international law and practice.

2. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has always been and will always be desirous to maintain its relations of friendship and good neighbourhood with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence, of the 1954 Geneva agreements of Indochina and of mutual respect for the interests of the two parties. It has always respected the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within its present borders.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam highly values the policy of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, which aims at maintaining and developing its relations of friendship and good neighbourhood with Viet Nam, and which also conforms to the aspiration of the Khmer people.

3. For that reason, the Government of the DRVN holds that the questions raised by the parties concerned will be settled in the interests of Viet Nam-Cambodian friendship.

Anxious to contribute to removing the hindrances to the relations between the two countries, the DRVN Government proposes that the parties concerned meet on March 15, 1970, or at any other time suitable for the Cambodian side. To this end it accredits its Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Tran Van Duoc pending the arrival of its official representative.

From FRG.

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East  
1512 GMT 15 Mar 70 B

[Text] South Vietnam March 15--Mr. Vo Anh Tuan, charge d'affaires a.i. of the R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government to the Kingdom of Cambodia, yesterday called on the Cambodian foreign minister, stressing once again the extremely grave character of the provocation against and sacking of the R.S.V.N. Embassy by saboteurs on March 11 1970, and of the manhandling of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. He put forward a proposal by the R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government concerning the settlement of questions between the two parties.

Following are the contents of the proposal:

1--The Government of the Republic of South Vietnam takes note of the regret shown by the Royal Government of Cambodia over the provocation ~~on~~ March 11 against the Embassy of the R.S.V.N. in Phnom Penh and its personnel.

2--The R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government urges that the Royal Government take necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such acts, create conditions for normal functioning of its embassy, guarantee the security of the embassy and its personnel, guarantee the security of person and property of the Vietnamese nationals residing in Cambodia, as provided for by international law, punish the culprits and compensate the South Vietnamese side for the damage caused to it in the said incident.

3--The R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government is gratified to note that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, has ceaselessly striven for the maintenance of the relations ~~of~~ friendship and good neighbourhood between South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Right on its establishment in June 1969, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam stated in its program of action:

"To maintain friendly relations and to carry out a policy of good neighbourhood with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of respect for her independence, sovereignty and neutrality, to recognize and pledge respect for her present borders." Since then, the R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government has always strictly kept to that policy of friendship.

4--Among the countries having relations of friendship, the questions raised can always be settled in the interests of the two sides.

In that spirit, the R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government proposes that the representatives of the parties concerned meet on March 15, 1970, or any other time suitable for the Cambodian side. The R.S.V.N. Provisional Revolutionary Government has the honour to notify the Royal Government of Cambodia that Mr. Vo Anh Tuan, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Republic of South Vietnam in Phnom Penh, has been accredited to that meeting pending the arrival of its official representative.

#### ~~ASSEMBLY~~ CONTINUES TALKS ON SMUGGLING, VIET CONG

[Editorial Report--D] Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0200 on 16 March began carrying a live broadcast of today's National Assembly session, scheduled to discuss smuggling. The session started with debate on the questions put by Deputy Sim Var to Secretary of State for Surface Defense Oum Manorin and Secretary of State for National Security Sosthene Fernandez concerning the smuggling of seven large boxes of clothing from Hong Kong. Sim Var demanded that Oum Manorin explain the recent arrival of the seven large boxes of clothing in his name.

At this point a demonstration ~~held~~ by students in front of the National Assembly resulted in National Assembly President ~~ad interim~~ In Tam demanding an intermission to meet with the demonstrators, who read to him an anti-Viet Cong motion and handed him other motions. After In Tam promised to study their demands, the demonstrators dispersed quietly.

The debate then resumed with the deputies demanding the convocation of a special session with the Council of the Kingdom, as demanded by the demonstrators. The deputies then unanimously voted for a resolution summoning all members of the Council of the Kingdom for an immediate special session. The debate on smuggling then resumed with Sim Var again demanding an explanation from Oum Manorin and Sosthene Fernandez.

At about 0300 GMT the members of the Council of the Kingdom arrived at the National Assembly, and a special session on the anti-Viet Cong anti-Viet Minh problems started.

In Tam then read out a number of the resolutions handed him by the students which protested Viet Cong encampments on Khmer territory. After that other deputies took the floor to discuss the Viet Cong encampments on Khmer territory and anti-Viet Cong demonstrations. Certain deputies accused Mr Tim Dong, ~~royal~~ delegate to Kandal Province, of opposing the anti-Viet Cong demonstrations which were held in Kaam Samnar region in Kandal Province. They also demanded an investigation into Tim Dong's attitude.

A deputy noted that Prince Sihanouk's message was in contradiction with the demonstrations and demanded that it be further studied by the quorum.

Another deputy then read an AKP report which said that Prince Sihanouk was negotiating with Moscow to have the Soviet leaders order the Viet Cong to slow down their activities against Khmer territory. The same report also said that the Prince will stay in Peking for 5 days, and that he will not return to Cambodia until 24 March. This deputy also proposed that a youth delegation be sent to Peking to inform the Prince of the actual situation in Cambodia.

There followed an exchange of views among the deputies during which certain deputies called for restraint on all actions until the Prince's return. Other deputies called for an increase in Khmer military forces to make them equal to those of the Viet Cong before any negotiation with the Viet Cong. Certain deputies voiced support for In Tam's suggestion that the Royal Government must explain the results of its anti-Viet Cong work. Other deputies then took the floor and proposed another special session on anti-Viet Cong demonstrations with the participation of the Royal Government and the youth parliament, which was unanimously approved by the participants.

After that In Tam called for the continuation of the debate on the smuggling problem, and Sim Var took the floor again to demand explanations from Oum Manorin and Sosthene Fernandez.

The session continued with several deputies expressing their views on the smuggling of the clothing in the name of Oum Manorin. They urged Oum Manorin to explain the matter and invited Secretary of State for National Security Sosthene Fernandez to give details of his investigation into this case. Sosthene Fernandez gave the names of the merchants who were responsible for the incident, but contended that he could not find the complete truth because the principal responsible person has fled.

Deputies Sim Var and Un Tramuch then exchanged views on some of the accusations levied in this affair. Other deputies said they suspected there was complicity between Oum Manorin and Mr Kol Siphuong, Khmer consul general to Hong Kong, because the latter was a close friend of Oum Manorin. Other deputies charged that the investigation did not bear fruit simply because Sosthene Fernandez was also a close friend of Oum Manorin.

In Tam then cut in to read 3 motions submitted by the deputies demanding that the National Assembly hold a vote of confidence concerning Oum Manorin and Sosthene Fernandez, and that an investigation be started to find out the role of Customs Director Chum Yen in this affair.

In Tam then asked Deputy Pin Yoeun to read the order of the day for the plenary session to be held at 0900 on 18 March for the vote of confidence on Oum Manorin and Sosthene Fernandez and for the proposed investigation concerning customs director Chum Yen. After the order of the day was unanimously approved by the deputies, President In Tam declared the session closed.

#### DEPUTY PREMIER HOLDS CONFERENCE TO CLARIFY EVENTS

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1440 GMT 12 March 1970--D

[Press conference by Deputy Premier Sisowath Sirik Matak in Phnom Penh. This is longer version of same press conference run in Cambodia section of 13 March 1970 DAILY REPORT]

[Text] I declare the press conference open. First, I would like to apologize for delaying this press conference. But I have been very busy. Secondly, I would like to thank you all for coming [words indistinct] which we believe threatens the survival of our country. I was told by Premier Lon Nol to hold this press conference to inform you about the recent demonstrations in Svay Rieng province and the demonstrations yesterday in Phnom Penh.

When it took office, this government--the so-called government for the national salvation--was faced with the question: Are there really Viet Cong troops in our country? It concluded, subsequently, that there really are. First, the Viet Cong troops have come to enslave our country. Second, we have noticed smuggling activities in rice and other goods. This is a very important matter. Faced with these problems, the government has taken several official measures on the basis of the friendship existing between us and South and North Vietnam.

We have contacted them many times through diplomatic channels. When Gen Lon Nol went to Peking he met with high personages like Mr Pham Van Dong and Mr Nguyen Huu Tho and told them about the problems. These leaders clearly stated that they respected Cambodia's territorial integrity, and promised that they would order the troops out of Cambodia to the other side of the border. When I myself met with Pham Van Dong at [words indistinct] I also raised this problem in a friendly discussion. We both agreed to strengthen our friendship. He promised to have the Viet Cong troops pull out of Cambodia if there really were Viet Cong infiltrators inside Khmer territory.

We subsequently set up a committee--a Cambodian civilian-military committee--to directly contact a Viet Cong committee to find ways to ward off the danger threatening our nation. What was the result of this step? I must confess that the Royal Government has not achieved any satisfactory result concerning the withdrawal of the Viet Cong troops. This is the reason behind the Svay Rieng and Phnom Penh demonstrations, which were staged by the Khmer people who are displeased with the Viet Cong troops' aggression against and occupation of their country. The Royal Government has taken these incidents into consideration and yesterday received a resolution of the National Assembly asking it to do whatever is necessary to settle this affair for the future and safety of Cambodia.

What has the government done officially concerning these incidents? We wrote letters to the diplomatic representations of both countries expressing our deep regrets for the demonstrations of yesterday which damaged their embassy buildings. We also appealed to our Viet Cong and North Vietnamese friends to help the Khmer Government maintain friendship between our countries and to withdraw their troops from our territory in accordance with our people's wishes. Thus, the Royal Government is (watching the situation) and has taken the necessary measures.

Why did the demonstrations break out? The Royal Government realizes that the people's agitation and anger are justified by the situation. Though all of us have made every effort, the Royal Government has not made much progress. Therefore, the people have become angry and we find that their acts are not contrary to our national aspirations. I must stress that the Royal Government has contracted them [Viet Cong] many times in an attempt to preserve friendship.

Concerning the smuggling problem, the present Royal Government had concluded a trade agreement with the Viet Cong so they may buy directly from our country and we may sell to them legally. But our friend on the other side [Viet Cong] has not respected the agreement. Since this trade agreement--that is, since January 1970--We have seized more than 4 million riels' worth of smuggled rice. This is only the rice seized by the customs office and does not include the many other smuggled goods which we have not been able to seize. This proves that the Viet Cong have not respected the agreement between the two parties. This is a serious problem because smuggling undermines our national economy. Their aggression on Khmer territory is a very grave problem (which has arisen) despite our continuous assertions to all our friends that our country is an independent and neutral country which is aligned to neither side, that we want to be friendly with all countries, and that we want our territorial integrity to be respected.

In view of the gravity of this problem, the Royal Government informs the nation that it considers the recent demonstrations fully justified. I now invite Mr Sak Sutsakhan [a colonel representing the General Staff of the Royal Khmer armed forces] to come and tell us about where the Viet Cong encampments are located.

[Col Sak Sutsakhan:] I have three points to make: The first deals with Viet Cong infiltration into Cambodia; the second with their attacks on our defense forces and the Cambodians living in border villages; and the third with their political and military indoctrination of our people living far from the national community in order to turn our people against the nation. Regarding the first point, the Viet Cong want to take our northern territory--that is, Rattanakiri Province, which borders on Laos and South Vietnam. They want this part of our country to adopt the Viet Cong communist ideology. By means of propaganda and education, they have tried to indoctrinate the Khmer Leu in that region and turn them against Cambodia. The Khmer armed forces have been aware for more than a year that the security and sometimes the lives of loyal Khmer Leu and Khmer soldiers have been endangered.

To turn the Khmer Leu against Cambodia and to bring Khmer territory under Viet Cong rule, the Viet Cong claim that Rattanakiri is not Cambodian territory, that it does not belong to Prince Sihanouk but to Uncle Ho Chi Minh. Many Khmer Leu who refused to be indoctrinated by the Viet Cong have given themselves up to our authorities. This report is true. Since last December, our defense forces' daily mopping-up operations in Rattanakiri have met with great difficulties.

In each clash we found the bodies of Viet Cong and Khmer Leu. Our forces have lost 10 killed; 126 have been wounded in the clashes. This includes those wounded by pointed bamboo traps.

The second point is the Viet Cong infiltration into Cambodia. Rattanakiri is not the only place where we found Viet Cong encampments. They run from north to south-- in Mondolkiri, Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, down to Kampot. They escaped the American and South Vietnamese attacks and took shelter in those provinces. Their infiltration endangers our forces which clash with them sometimes. From October of last year to 2 March this year, that is, since Gen Lon Nol and Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak talked with the Viet Cong representatives to find a friendly solution to this problem of Viet Cong infiltration, the rate of Viet Cong infiltrators has consistently increased.

And since the beginning of their encroachment in Cambodia, there have been 49 incidents caused by them in which either Cambodian residents or soldiers were victims. Our defense forces reported this to the Royal Government, and the Royal Government sent many protest notes to the Viet Cong embassy. The Viet Cong embassy admitted the facts when it received our notes. The 49 incidents which occurred in the above-said provinces were caused by Viet Cong elements shelling our defense forces posts, laying mines to kill our people, and sometimes attacking even our operational forces coming to ask them to get out of Cambodia. The Viet Cong embassy was aware of all that, and admitted the Viet Cong infiltration.

The third point is that they have infiltrated our country to indoctrinate our people living in remote areas and to support those rebels against the nation.

These points I have made are not groundless accusations. We have enough evidence from captured documents or from persons who went astray and surrendered to the authorities. The Viet Cong also came in to help or to lead the Khmer reds--the Viet Cong Khmer--in attacking our people, our national police posts, and our defense forces' border posts. They also sent those treacherous Khmer reds to neighboring territory for training and then sent them back into Cambodia to conduct sabotage, subversion, or other acts aimed at terrorizing our border people and attacking our defense forces.

The Viet Cong attacked our forces to open the way for the rebels to cross back to their camps in Cambodia. Every time our forces pursued them closely, the Viet Cong elements were found barring the way for the Khmer reds to hide. This trick is used very often in Mimot District, Kompong Cham Province, down to Svay Rieng where a great number of Viet Cong and Khmer reds live and steadily cross back and forth between South Vietnam and Cambodia. The points I have made are only the most important ones.

[Sirik Matak:] I would like to thank Col Sak Sutsakhan for his clear and precise account on the problems of the Royal Khmer armed forces which shows that there are Viet Cong troops on Cambodian soil. Now, what has the Royal Government done about it since the public demonstrations took place? The Royal Government has asked the Viet Cong and the DRV embassies to respect Cambodia's territorial integrity so as to safeguard friendship between the two countries. We want them to withdraw all their troops from our soil. The Royal Government has asked them to do this.

Secondly, we have suspended the agreement to sell rice and other supplies to the Viet Cong until we see that they do what we have asked. This is according to what the Khmer public wants the government to do. The government worked out measures on this matter only this morning. This is what we did. We have not broken friendly relations with them. The case is serious. We repeated to them that this salvation government wants to maintain diplomatic relations with them, but that we also want our relations based on reciprocal respect of each other's objectives.

I shall brief you about what we have done. It is all in the letter that the Royal Government sent to Prince Sihanouk in France telling him what the government has done since the demonstrations. Let me read you the letter in French which we have just mailed at about 1800. It reads: "On 8 March Several hundred people of Svay Rieng demonstrated against the Viet Cong's repeated violations of our territory and against their encampment in our border areas. The demonstrators wanted to destroy all those undesirable sanctuaries and camps on our soil. They confiscated several light and heavy weapons.

"On 11 March, thousands of people from all walks of life, including about 200 priests, demonstrated again. They sacked the South Vietnamese and the DRV embassies, burning their documents and vehicles. These incidents were the manifestation of the culminated anger of our people, who have suffered for years from the imminent threat to their country. In the wake of such incidents, the Royal Government has been looking for a correct and legal way to answer the public's demands. It has to find a way to guard the country against this threatening danger. There is no need for the Royal Government to side with SEATO or the aligned countries, or to be against the national policy designed by Samdech Euv.

"We must strengthen our national forces in order to cope with any eventuality. It is absolutely necessary and urgent that we increase our armed forces to about 100,000 units to efficaciously guard our eastern borders. This will oblige our friends to carry out their obligations and behave correctly and sincerely as regards our friendship, and not to trample on our policy of reciprocity.

"The Royal Government believes that there is still a chance to save our friendship with the Viet Cong, and requests that its resolution be endorsed by Your Highness. Signed, Lon Nol."

I would like to stress that this is the attitude of the Royal Government since the demonstrations broke out. We are aware of the necessity of safeguarding our territorial integrity while preserving our friendship with them. We can keep our friendship with them only if they keep their promises. Those are the problems and the measures we are going to take, politically and militarily. Enough has been said in this press conference to clarify the present crisis in the country.

I would like to call for your help, especially the press, to ask the people throughout the country to remain peaceful and calm. Everything we have done to solve this very important problem has been done without anger. We should use kindness, sincerity, and gentleness. I call on you to help the government solve this national problem in accordance with the people's desires. I thank you. [applause].