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✓ TEXT OF SIHANOUK'S 'THIRD MESSAGE TO NATION'

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[Text] Peking, April 22 (HSINHUA)--Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, made public here on April 21 his third message to the nation. Full text follows:

Third Message to the Nation by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia

From 1955 to the beginning of March 1970, our Cambodia had an excellent reputation internationally. It was called the "oasis of peace" in a war-torn Indo-China and a troubled Southeast Asia. But in the middle of March 1970, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak gang decided deliberately to turn "the oasis of peace" into a land of trouble, then of war.

This gang began by sending its hatchetmen to ransack the two embassies of friendly Viet Nam after having organized in our provinces very violent demonstrations against the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

This unfortunate news reached me in France where I had stayed for two months for reasons of health. I immediately sent a message to the nation demanding everyone to stop on a particularly dangerous "slope" which would lead our country to the greatest misfortune.

The reactionaries of Phnom Penh showed this message to the young people and the army as the "proof" of my "high treason". I became a "traitor" to the nation because I wanted to avoid catastrophe!

True, there had been armed members of the N.F.L. who were brought into our territory sometimes by the necessities of the war. But these members had never attacked us.

On the contrary, the ground and air forces of U.S. imperialism very frequently committed aggression against us, bombed our country, killed our soldiers, provincial guards, militiamen, peasants, women and children, and destroyed our military posts, schools and other national property. The martyrs of Chantrea and Dak Dam are still in everyone's memory. But the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak gang refrained from recalling the catastrophes that the U.S. aggressors brought to us every week.

Having usurped constitutional power and murdered with its armoured units several hundred people opposing it, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, which impudently gives itself the title of "Government of National Salvation", officially sent our young people to the front of the war it is bent on waging against socialist Viet Nam, thus deciding to make our young people die in place of Yankee soldiers.

When this "war" desired and provoked unilaterally by them became a catastrophe for the country and the nation of Khmer, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak and company put me to public prosecution as the "responsible person" for the "destruction" of Cambodia!

Now, the historical truth in this respect is known to the whole world. I only wish to cite as evidence two testimonies coming from the "free" world.

1. Excerpts from a cable by Michel Garin, A.F.P., dated April 9: "The peaceful co-existence in force between the Vietcong and the representatives of the government of Phnom Penh under Norodom Sihanouk is going to disappear."

2. Excerpts from an A.P. cable dated April 16, a passage of the speech made by the Democratic leader Mr Mike Mansfield at the U.S. Senate:

"What was for a decade and a half the only oasis of peace in Indochina has been turned into a bloody battlefield in the space of one month. The conflict already involves, the potential of an ugly genocide by government-stimulated mob action against the several hundred thousand Vietnamese civilians, for the most part farmers, fishermen and tradesmen, who come from both North and South Vietnam and who have lived for decades in reasonable peace in Cambodia. The Pandora's box which was held shut by the leadership and diplomacy of Prince Sihanouk is now wide open. For years Cambodia was in the eye of the Indochinese hurricane. Now it is swept up in the full fury of racial, ideological and militarist storm. We ought to know on the basis of experience that even with a massive infusion of American equipment we are likely to have minimal constructive effect on the upheaval and we will open the door to another destructive impact on our own national interests."

Yes, the truth is that in the space of one month, the diabolical reactionaries have succeeded in destroying 15 years of peace, freedom, happy life, progress and international prestige. Our Cambodia is today the synonym of anarchy, war, misery and death, and it won the worst reputation in the world.

In the face of this diabolical "government," those responsible for this radical and tragic change, the only alternative for our people is to take up arms to strike it down like a harmful beast from the jungle.

Yet such a "government" dares to proclaim that it is not interested in power and only Sihanouk aspires to power. But in Cambodia itself, our Buddhist monks and our people can judge.

At present, it is the people who take upon themselves the responsibility of armed resistance against the reactionaries, flunkies of U.S. imperialism, and the responsibility of administration in the liberated villages and areas.

When our people will win the victory (and they are bound to win it; right now, the liberated areas are expanding rapidly), it is natural that they, represented by the healthy and pure, progressive youth, must also take up the responsibility of the government and the functioning of the state.

A people's struggle aimed at restoring power to a prince, even if he is called "Sihanouk," would be meaningless. Thus, what the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak gang is increasingly afraid of is the dynamic people's resistance and the fighting strength of the young army of the national united front of Kampuchea.

The people and the youth who adhere to this front are inspired by the noblest ideals of democracy, social justice and social equality.

This is why the National United Front of Kampuchea gains increasing support of the monks, the youth, intellectuals and the people in the countryside and the cities.

I only wait for the day of complete victory of our people to tender them my resignation as the legal head of state and transfer to them the legitimate power of the state. Moreover, I shall be able very soon to entrust all the responsibility of state affairs to the qualified representatives of our progressive people and youth who make up the new government of national union.

This government (entirely independent of me) will be assisted by a consultative assembly. Local people's administration will belong to this government and such local people's administration has already been set up in a number of villages and districts to which will be added without doubt many others liberated by the people's army of the National United Front of Kampuchea in the weeks and months to come.

It is true that in the administrative buildings of the liberated areas and on the uniforms of the people's army, people can notice the portrait or the effigy of Sihanouk, but this not at all signifies that power returns to me. It belongs to and will belong to the people and their government alone. Our resistance fighters wear my effigy merely as a sign of gratitude and filial affection.

There is thus a very sharp demarcation between the movement of the working people and of the progressive and socialist youth on the one hand, and the regime composed of the clique of war-mongers, the despicable and corrupted "warlords" (leader: Lon Nol), the clique of dishonest big capitalists (leader: Sirik Matak who is supported by Songsakd Kitchpanich, a shady banker and a notorious C.I.A. agent) and the clique of big landlords and plantation-owners, advocates of exploitation of man by man (leader: Cheng Heng) on the other.

It is these three associated cliques which thirst for power and which, in order to maintain their power, do not hesitate to kindle the flames of war in our country, give rise to the worst disasters and sow death, thus acquiring a pretext to exercise an iron dictatorship over the nation for an indefinite period.

This gang claims to be "devoted to independence and neutrality." In this respect, however, it has unmasked itself quickly:

The Saigon "government" and the U.S. military authorities in South Vietnam have admitted to the international press that since the March 18 coup d'etat, there has been close cooperation among the three reactionary and anti-popular forces on plans of operation aimed at putting down the resistance and the struggle for liberation of the Khmer and Vietnamese peoples.

The Lon Nol "government" has authorized U.S. planes and helicopters to bomb and make aggressive incursions into Cambodia.

The U.S. and Thieu-Ky ground forces are also authorized, and even invited, to make murderous incursions in Cambodia.

The Washington government finally admitted itself that Lon Nol had officially and insistently asked it for military and other aid in very large quantities.

Sirik Matak, on his part, has admitted to an American reporter that he was considering having American forces stationed in Cambodia in the near future.

Some Western papers have revealed that the United States, wishing to avoid revealing to the world its patronage to the Lon Nol regime, would render aid to its lackey through the medium of certain accomplice governments (such as those of Saigon, Djakarta, Bangkok...)

The C.I.A. has also recently exposed itself as the engineer of the March 18 coup d'etat. It has ordered its special agent Songsakd Kitchpanich to prepare for the "rallying" of "Khmer Serei" troops to Lon Nol.

All these convincing facts have been carefully concealed from our monks and people by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak gang. But outside Cambodia, the Western press itself has brought them to the attention of the whole world.

Our Buddhist monks, people and youth can now pass adequate judgment on the reactionary regime of Phnom Penh, having recognized its true nature. If this regime were sincerely devoted to the people and the country, it should have resigned so as to spare them a future more disastrous than the present.

With its resignation, our country and our nation would have no difficulty in requiring peace on the basis of independence, territorial integrity and neutrality. But it is inconceivable that this regime would agree to step down, for evidently it is fond of power to the point of plunging light-heartedly the whole nation into the worst miseries and sufferings and of sending to death the young people among whom it has fanned up racist feelings.

Our soldiers, youths (enrolled by Lon Nol in his army), policemen, provincial guards and militiamen should think with a more acute conscience of the extreme misfortune in all respects of their compatriots whom they sacrifice on the altar of the oppressors. They should be aware that they themselves and their like are heading towards certain death if they continue to maintain with their weapons the power of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak. They should not hope that the people's resistance forces will capitulate before them and their masters. They should observe the heroic and unflinching struggle the Vietnamese and Laotian peoples are waging against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, traitors to their people.

Every day a great number of soldiers and officers of these imperialists and their lackeys are annihilated. In the future, the losses of these lackeys will be still heavier because the U.S. forces will withdraw from South Vietnam and leave the lackeys to die in their place.

Do the mercenaries in Lon Nol's service really wish to meet a similar fate? It is time for them not to be fooled any longer by the Lon Nol regime.

As regards the question of defending our territorial integrity, allegedly menaced by socialist Viet Nam, how could the latter, when it has formally and solemnly recognized our territorial integrity as well as our present borders, undermine our territorial integrity?

Our compatriots should rather be concerned over the persistent refusal to recognize our country's present borders by the pro-U.S. regimes and avowed "friends" of Lon Nol who carry out their anti-popular rule in Saigon, Bangkok and Vientiane. It is time for these compatriots to distinguish the true friends from the true enemies of our motherland.

And even if they have to speak of the Vietnamese, these compatriots should look at the fact confronting them: Lon Nol has cynically deceived them by plunging them into a criminal and fatal anti-Vietnamese crusade, while Lon Nol himself stretches his hand to Thieu and Ky and the two pro-imperialist regimes in Phnom Penh and Saigon are cooperating more and more openly and closely in the military and other fields!

Such is the truth. It should rouse our compatriots, young and older, military and civilian, to get rid as soon as possible of these traitors who have odiously deceived them and brought colossal misfortune to our motherland.

Their duty as Khmers, if they are patriots, is to fully support the National United Front of Kampuchea which is the organization of the progressive, socialist and upright people and youth.

I do not ask you, dear compatriots, to support Sihanouk, but to support your people and their army. And I remind you once again that if you want to regain peace on the basis of independence, neutrality and territorial integrity, you should at once abandon and isolate the clique of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak reactionaries; you should point your guns at these traitors; but if you are afraid of being killed by the bullets of their armoured cars, you should resolutely and without delay go to the jungle, from where and from our villages and the countryside, we shall attack these traitors at their city lair.

Finally, I call the attention of our Buddhist monks and nation to the fact that international opinion has unanimously condemned the racist policy of Lon Nol-Sirik Matak and their official incitement to the murder of perfectly peaceable and law-abiding Khmer and Vietnamese civilians.

What the propaganda service of the Lon Nol "government" conceals painstakingly from the nation is the aversion which all the people of the world today have to the unjustifiable, barbarous, savage, base and unpardonable genocide perpetrated by Lon Nol's mercenary army against several hundred peaceable Vietnamese Civilians, including old people, women and children.

This genocide has brought dishonour to our country and our race before the world and history, and that is the fault of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak gang of arch-criminals. That it is condemned by all the countries in the world without exception can be illustrated by this editorial of the largest paper of the United States, "the New York TIMES," released by the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL on April 17, 1970: "The mounting evidence of government-inspired mass murder of Vietnamese living in Cambodia should provoke a second thought in Washington about the stability and the morality of the regime that recently displaced Prince Sihanouk in Phnom Penh. Evidence of appeals to the ancient prejudice of the Khmers against neighboring people is a sign of desperation on the part of a government trying to shore up a shaky political base."

"Slaughter of unarmed, captive civilians is a reflection of military weakness in a regime that came to power pledged to eject Vietnamese, not all of whom can be regarded as communist sympathizers, certainly will cool enthusiasm...for the Phnom Penh regime.

"If the United States should make the mistake of acceding to a Cambodian appeal for military aid, it could find itself more dangerously embroiled then ever in a struggle that has little relationship to the purpose for which this country entered Southeast Asia."

One can see that even the American journals themselves no longer rejoice at seeing Lon Nol dragging Cambodia into their imperialist camp, because the hands of the Lon Nol regime are stained with blood of peaceful, innocent and defenceless people.

The duty of all the Khmer compatriots, whether they are religious people or laymen, is to wash away the disgrace on the honour of our country, our race and our religion.

I therefore call on all my compatriots, first, to prevent by every means the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique from continuing the unspeakable policy of genocide; secondly, to save the honour of Cambodia by refusing from now on to serve or obey the fascist, Nazi and sanguinary "government of Phnom Penh.

I conclude here my third message to the nation, and I extend my most **respectful** and most affectionate regards to Her Majesty the Queen, to the Buddhist monks and the Khmer people.

Long live Cambodia!

Norodom Sihanouk

Peking, April 20, 1970