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SIHANOUK ADMITS PRESENCE OF N. VIETNAMESE, VIET CONG

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[Text] Sihanouk has confessed that there are North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in the Khmer Republic. Renegade Sihanouk, who for a long time denied that North Vietnamese and Viet Cong regular forces were waging a war of aggression on Cambodian territory, has now openly admitted the presence of aggressor forces, who have committed crimes against the Cambodian people with their massacres, pillage and devastation of homes, monasteries and villages. In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Brioni on 16 June, Sihanouk solemnly recognized that since the second half of 1972 there have been no North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units in Cambodia. Sihanouk said that the only remaining foreign forces are liaison teams in charge of transportation of equipment and other production for the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao.

This solemn confession before international press shows that Sihanouk has confessed and recognized that he actually did betray the nation, religion and people of Cambodia, and that it was he who invited North Vietnamese and Viet Cong regular forces to invade Cambodia and commit all kinds of acts of devastation and torture against innocent people, Buddhist monks and Cambodian sons and daughters. This confession is also proof to the world that the war being waged on Cambodian soil at present is a flagrant war of aggression in which those who are waging it have used Sihanouk as a screen to conceal their aggression and to pit the Cambodian people against their own brothers. This acknowledgement by Sihanouk also shows international public opinion that the war that has been waged in Cambodian territory to date is still being led by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong, meaning that the latter did not withdraw in the second half of 1972 as Sihanouk claimed. Consequently, we Cambodians must understand that this war which has caused devastation and suffering of all kinds to all of us Cambodians is a war kindled by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong regular forces at the antinational and antireligious instigation of Prince Sihanouk, who confessed and recognized this fact on Saturday 16 June in an interview with AFP on Brioni Island.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM