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CAMBODIA

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✓ SIHANOUK INTERVIEWED ON JAPANESE TELEVISION

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Tokyo JOAK-TV in Japanese 0130 GMT 21 Jun 70 T

[Unidentified NIHON DEMPA reporter, on behalf of NHK, was granted an interview with Prince Sihanouk on the occasion of the Prince's visit to Hanoi; Sihanouk answered in English to questions posed in Japanese]

[Text] Question: May I have your opinion on the achievements of the Summit Conference in Indochina Peoples and the role it will play from now on?

Answer: (Jean Lacoutille), a French journalist and well-known expert on Indochinese matters, recently wrote in LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR: "General Lon Nol and the Americans have succeeded in bringing together in the resistance in the war the Far East [as heard] all the people formerly colonized by France: Pham Van Dong, Nguyen Huu Tho, Souphanouvong, Sihanouk. The incendiaries of General Abrams are profoundly changing the political structure of Cambodia and are sharply radicalizing the orientations of a small people who till then dreamt only of peace. Indochina has actually formed its peoples's front and Cambodia a government firmly hinging on the maquis, that is to say, on the resistance."

This is quite true in view of the radical change effected in Cambodia's present policy, a change wanted by the Phnom Penh fascist group and which has turned our motherland into a docile satellite and base for U.S. aggression. My people and myself have no other choice but to join the camp of the Lao and Vietnamese progressives and socialists, and form with them and our people an Indochinese people's front whose main task is to liberate our respective countries, Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam, from U.S. imperialism and the governments of the traitors in its pay.

The Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples sanctioned the formation of the Indochinese people's front. The victory of this front over the Indochinese renegades and their U.S. masters is beyond doubt. Should U.S. imperialism persist in staying in Indochina, our three peoples--Khmer, Lao, and Vietnamese--will fight till it no longer persists. To attain this goal, we are prepared to wage together a protracted struggle against our common enemy.

After victory, we will help one another rebuild our countries and will achieve close cooperation to insure their rapid and steady progress in the social and economic fields, of course, in strict respect for the sovereignty, independence, regime and territorial integrity of each.

Question: The next question. May I hear from Your Highness about the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the Cambodian situation that followed?

Answer: My answer is contained in part in the answer to your first question. I would like to add, that even if the Americans were to withdraw completely next July all their ground forces from Cambodia, we will not consider that they have stopped aggressing and neocolonizing our colony [Sihanouk corrects himself] our country. For, on the one hand, they allow the satellite South Vietnamese forces to continue occupying our motherland and oppressing our people and, on the other hand, they promise to carry on the bombing of our national territory and provide the satellite South Vietnamese forces in Cambodia and the army of the traitor, Lon Nol, with big logistic support and a naval, airborne, and heliborne operation as well.

Obviously, the Khmer people, that Westerners and their press have unjustly presented as the so-called Viet Cong and Viet Minh, will not lay down their arms before the foreign aggressors, however powerful they may be. With the backing of the fraternal peoples of Vietnam and Laos, and the support of the Chinese and other peoples, they will sooner or later succeed in sweeping away from our motherland its neocolonialism and Lon Nol's bloodthirsty fascism.

Question: Finally, may I hear the aspirations and determination of Your Highness about the future of Indochina, including Cambodia?

Answer: The future of Vietnam and Laos will respectively be what the Vietnamese and Lao people want them to be. I have no right to speak of their future in the place of the people concerned, but I think that the kind Japanese TV viewers can find the answer to your third question by reading the joint declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples.

As for the future of Cambodia, the Khmer people no doubt want her to be an independent, democratic, progressive, and nonaligned, neutral state. As far as my trip to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is concerned, may I say to you that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is a great and loyal friend of the independent, progressive, and nonaligned Cambodia that I represent. Furthermore, our national united front is from now on linked to her by bonds of militant solidarity and combat fraternity which could already be foreseen from the joint declaration of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples.

It is, therefore, natural that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has invited me to make a state visit and that I have reserved to her my first visit after the formation of our front and government of national resistance against U.S. imperialism our common enemy. From this visit, our government and myself have drawn the greatest satisfaction, the bonds of eternal friendship uniting our two peoples are closer than ever, and our cooperation in all fields is bound to develop steadily.