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EFFECTS OF SIHANOUK CALL FOR STRUGGLE NOTED

Singapore AFP in English 2012 GMT 24 Mar 70 B (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

[Text] Peking, March 24 (AFP)--By Pierre Comparet--Behind the call for armed struggle against the new Cambodian regime and "American imperialism," and for an alliance with the socialist countries, observers here see in Prince Sihanouk's latest statement the germs of a new Indochina front. This note could be discerned in his earlier declarations, but never since he arrived in Peking on March 19 has Prince Sihanouk put it so clearly.

Prince Sihanouk's declaration yesterday places his fight in a framework of a general struggle against "American imperialism" in Indochina. It affirms the solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples, the Khmers, Vietnamese and Laotians, against "imperialism." He claims total support from the "anti-imperialist countries and progressive socialist peoples, near and far", that seems to be more than just a formal and political support. It would seem that Sihanouk has already been assured that he can count on the arms he will need.

"If you are already armed, I will supply you at the opportune moment with ammunition and new arms," he told his countrymen. Elements which foretell a worsening of the Indochina situation appear to be at hand. However, it appears to observers here that the Chinese position remains relatively guarded. The Chinese press today gave the first direct reports on the coup d'etat organized "by the Cambodian extreme right-wing clique."

The affair was covered through foreign press reports and the only Chinese comment was that "people are watching the developments and changes of the situation in Cambodia closely." The Chinese press did not carry Prince Sihanouk's statement of yesterday.

CAMBODIAN EMBASSIES VOICE SUPPORT FOR NEW REGIME

[Editorial Report--D] Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Mandarin at 1000 GMT on 24 March carries excerpts from cables from the Cambodian embassies in France, England, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Australia, Cuba, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, the DPRK, and the PRC and the Hong Kong Consulate to the Foreign Ministry voicing support to the National Assembly in ousting Sihanouk.

Herewith text of the message attributed to the Embassy in Peking: "We fully support the act jointly taken by the two councils in lawfully deposing Prince Sihanouk. We praise the courageous resolution through which Cambodia has turned over a new page in its history. The Cambodian people will enjoy still greater happiness and social welfare."

BRIEFS

NORTH VIETNAM DELEGATION--On completion of its mission in Cambodia, the North Vietnamese agricultural experts delegation led by technical director of agricultural service (Dinh Ba Khanh) left Phnom Penh at 1030 on 17 March an Air France flight bound for Shanghai. [Text] (Phnom Penh Domestic Cambodian 0500 GMT 18 Mar 70 D)

SPECIAL MEETING--The National Assembly acting chairman invites Their Highnesses and members of the National Assembly to come to the assembly hall on 26 March at 0900 for a special meeting. [Text] (Phnom Penh Domestic Cambodian 0700 GMT 25 Mar 70 D)