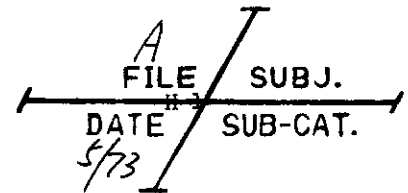


IV. 22 May 73

C A M B O D I A



SIHANOUK REVIEWS CAMBODIAN SITUATION IN BAMAKO INTERVIEW

Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 16 May 73 N

[Interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk on his arrival in Bamako on 16 May, by (Oumar Cisse) of Radio Mali--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your Royal Highness, Radio Mali is pleased to welcome you on behalf (of Malians). May I ask why you have chosen to come to Mali?

[Answer] First of all, allow me to stress the great importance we attach to the Cambodian national resistance. Africa is the greatest supporter of our national liberation struggle. At present, about 40 sovereign states recognize de jure the Royal Government of National Union [RGNUC], which I head, as the only legal and legitimate government in Cambodia for the Cambodian people. Among the 36 [as heard] sovereign states which have accorded my government de jure recognition, about 30 are in Africa. That is why the Cambodians I visited last March in the liberated zones urged me to visit the many African states which have accorded de jure recognition to our government--in order to convey to their illustrious and brave people the brotherly greetings and the deepest gratitude of the Cambodian national resistance.

It is in this spirit that I have the great honor and joy to be in Mali today to convey to the brave Malians and to His Excellency Moussa Traore, chairman of the Military National Liberation Committee [CMLN], to the CMLN and the Malian Government, our most affectionate regards and gratitude. We are grateful for Mali's constant support for our just cause of national liberation. [Sentence indistinct] I am among you today beside his excellency. Thank you once again. I thank all Malian brothers and sisters who have accorded such a rousing welcome to me and my delegation. Their welcome was an evidence of brotherliness and militant solidarity.

[Question] Your Excellency, Malians have been following with particular attention the course of the Cambodian liberation struggle since the operation began. What is responsible for the rapid victories won, and what is the present situation in liberated areas?

[Answer] In fact, we have won great victories since the beginning of our armed national liberation struggle. Our triumph is due first to the [word indistinct] friendly and patriotic Cambodians. In the course of our history, we have often been attacked by foreign imperialists--we experienced Siamese imperialism, Vietnamese imperialism and French colonialism. We have had to struggle constantly to insure the survival of our small country. After gaining independence from France, we had to face U.S. imperialism, which was and still is present in most of Southeast Asia. Cambodia was an isolated nonaligned, neutral and anti-imperialist state. U.S. imperialism could not excuse me for this policy and began infiltrating to overthrow me.

My people rejected the results of the 18 March 1970 coup--that is my [word indistinct] deposition. The Cambodian people responded to my call to rise up on 23 March 1970, and since they were already used to struggling, they immediately organized themselves. At the beginning we received arms from our Vietnamese comrades-at-arms and brothers, who had been struggling for years against U.S. imperialism established in the southern part of their country.

Following the example and experience of our Vietnamese comrades, our popular national liberation army units developed their military prowess, and since 1972 we have been completely independent.

We decided to struggle on alone without the help of our Vietnamese brothers, who had a lot to do in Vietnam. Since 1972 our popular forces have confronted U.S. and mercenary Saigon aggressors in complete autonomy. These and Lon Nol's army have never and will never impress our popular forces. Cambodians serving Lon Nol are unaware that he is not defending the fatherland or national independence. They do not know that he is doing the complete opposite--thus they are mercenaries paid from the U.S. budget in order to maintain Cambodia under U.S. neocolonialism. Thus Lon Nol's people have no moral base. We must also consider the extraordinary corruption of the new Phnom Penh regime. These things make Lon Nol's army morally bankrupt. U.S. arms and aircraft have not been a decisive factor.

Henceforth we are dictating the pace. Our struggling popular forces now number 120,000 men. They are well-equipped, first by the PRC. Since the Vietnam cease-fire, however, transportation of arms from the PRC across Vietnam has not been possible. But we already had large stocks of ammunition and arms and we have been able to effectively utilize these stocks in systematically attacking Lon Nol's garrisons and military forces. We captured many arms and much ammunition, including 105-mm cannon and shells. Lon Nol's army literally flees from our popular forces. Now, President Nixon himself is sending us supplies. The U.S. Air Force has naturally been launched against us. For the past 2 months we have had on our trail the whole U.S. Air Force available in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Nevertheless, it has not been able to deter our popular forces, because we are fighting a people's war. Our country has numerous rivers and forests. We have scanty infrastructure to offer the U.S. Air Force. That is why we can always advance. We will not retreat. Now we are besieging the enemy in Phnom Penh.

[Question] Your Excellency, a few days ago you said that the year 1974 will be the decisive year of victory. You also stated that the liberation forces will not enter Phnom Penh. How do you reconcile the two statements?

[Answer] At the beginning of this year we had no intention of capturing Phnom Penh, first for humanitarian reasons. Phnom Penh has a population of 1.5 million. If we enter Phnom Penh, there will be a big battle and Nixon will certainly launch the entire U.S. Air Force against us. Therefore, Phnom Penh would be completely destroyed. We have previously liberated several minor towns and we have liberated only ghost towns--that is, they were completely destroyed: They exist only on maps and not on Cambodian soil. They are dead. Therefore, we would not like the same fate to befall our capital.

Besides, I must say that Nixon (is not) sufficiently strong at home. The American people no longer feel concerned about continuing the war in Indochina, most especially in Cambodia, since the cease-fire in Vietnam and Laos. Why? Because before the cease-fire, the Americans still had white prisoners in the hands of yellow people. They also had white troops fighting in Vietnam. As long as there were white prisoners in the hands of yellowskins in Indochina, as long as there were white American soldiers dying, the American nation was touched. But since President Nixon succeeded in extricating their prisoners from Vietnamese hands and in evacuating all U.S. military units, and since only Cambodian yellowskins are dying by the thousands each day, the Americans are no longer moved.

Thus, Nixon decided to make us go down on our knees, because he thinks we are criminals. Our crime is that we reject U.S. imperialism. The compromise cease-fire in Vietnam and Laos enables the U.S. neocolonialists to [few words indistinct]. We will not allow the U.S. neocolonialists to remain in Phnom Penh. We want to get rid of them. [Sentence indistinct] Nixon was in a position of strength to continue the war against us. But since the Watergate affair--the financial scandal which has led to the resignation of several important Nixon aides--you know that the U.S. Senate ordered an inquiry into whether the war was between Cambodians or between Cambodians and North Vietnamese invaders. The inquiry concluded that the war is not between Cambodians and North Vietnamese but between Cambodians.

I am the traditional leader (?fighting against) U.S. imperialism. [passage indistinct] Since then the U.S. Senate and Congress have been voting to prevent Nixon from bombing Cambodia and have refused to vote money for bombing Cambodia as of July 1973. Therefore, we think that July will be an important turning point, when Nixon will be very weak. Lon Nol and his party will be completely overrun. We would not merit pardon if we prolonged the war and our people's sufferings. We can affirm that the year 1974 will witness our final victory.

#### SIHANOUK SPEAKS TO PEOPLE ON VISIT TO MOPTI, MALI

Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 May 73 N

[Response by Prince Sihanouk to a welcome address by the Fifth Region governor at Mopti on 17 May--recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency, chairman of the National Liberation Military Committee [CMLN], Your Excellency, governor of the Fifth Region, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear Malian brothers and sisters: [Passage indistinct] our struggle against our imperialist enemies has received several moving demonstrations of sympathy and brotherly esteem from the brave Malians and their illustrious leaders. We have received the constant support of all the people of Mali for our people's just cause. [applause]

We had a great welcome in Bamako yesterday. Today's welcome by Mopti in the Fifth Region has been characterized by solidarity, enthusiasm and sincerity. [sentence indistinct] [applause] We are deeply grateful to you on behalf of all Cambodians fighting against U.S. imperialism and neocolonialism. [sentence indistinct] [applause] I convey to you the sincere greetings and thanks of the Cambodian people. We wish the noble and brave Malians prosperity--especially those of Bamako and Mopti, who have been so hospitable and generous to us. [applause] [passage indistinct]

President Traore, Your Excellency the governor of the Fifth Region, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear brothers and sisters: Our two peoples and countries understand each other. Mali and Cambodia each have an ancient and glorious civilization. [applause] The Malian and Cambodian empires were well known in history. [applause] The two countries were colonized by France and were under foreign domination for more than half a century. Following World War II Mali and Cambodia gained national independence. Finally we were independent. Our two countries chose the same foreign policy of nonalignment. [Passage indistinct]

The de jure recognition accorded the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia [RGNUC] is an act of justice [several words indistinct], all our fighters at home and abroad are very grateful to you, Moussa Traore. [applause] [Passage indistinct]

Your Excellency the head of state, Your Excellency the governor of the Fifth Region, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear brothers and sisters: Our people are victims of U.S. imperialist and neocolonialist aggression. (?We want) Washington to put an end to this aggression so that peace may reign in Cambodia. We want it to recognize our independence, unity, neutrality and territorial integrity. [Passage indistinct]

We will continue fighting furiously. [Passage indistinct] This regime will not last long. We have already liberated 70 percent of our national territory. [Passage indistinct] Cambodians have been fighting for the past 3 years against imperialism, neocolonialism, and racism like our brothers in Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Rhodesia and Palestine. Mali and President Moussa Traore have always manifested unshakeable support and solidarity for our just struggle. Cambodians, the RGNUC, the national liberation forces and myself shall be eternally grateful to the noble and brave Malians. [applause] [Few words indistinct] Long live Mali! Long live Mopti and the Fifth Region! Long live Col Moussa Traore! Long live Cambodia-Mali friendship! [applause]

#### SIHANOUK HAILS CONGO SUPPORT AT BRAZZAVILLE BANQUET

Peking NCNA in English 0044 GMT 21 May 73 B

[Text] Brazzaville, May 20, 1973--(HSINHUA)--Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, spoke at the welcome banquet given in his honour yesterday evening by President of the People's Republic of the Congo and Madame Marien Ngouabi.

In his speech, Samdech Sihanouk first of all, on behalf of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the National United Front of Cambodia, the Khmer people, and the whole of the Khmer resistance, expressed profound and heartfelt thanks to President Marien Ngouabi, the Congolese Party of Labour, the Government of the People's Republic of the Congo, and the Congolese people for their grand and warm welcome to the royal Cambodian delegation.

Samdech Sihanouk said, "Upon setting foot on the marvelous soil of people's Congo, we Khmers are deeply moved and very happy to find ourselves among a heroic fraternal people." He said: They have from the beginning of our struggle given us resolute, powerful and multiform support since March 1970, when our country fell victim to the dastardly and cruel U.S. imperialist aggression aimed at neo-colonizing Cambodia like its neighbours South Vietnam and Laos."

Samdech Sihanouk said: "We Khmers, your anti-colonialist, anti-imperialist, anti-racist comrades-in-arms, are particularly proud to enjoy constantly, for more than three years, your total solidarity, which was expressed vigorously everywhere and in all circumstances, particularly at the conferences of non-aligned countries in Dar es Salaam, Lusaka, and Georgetown, and at the United Nations organization.

"In Lusaka, His Excellency President Ngouabi strongly and brilliantly pleaded in favour of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as the symbol of the legitimacy and continuity of the Khmer state and as the only government of the patriotic Khmer people fighting, arms in hand, for national salvation and total liberation of their fatherland."