

SIHANOUK CITES DRV REACTION TO AIRLIFT, CHOU EN-LAI REMARKS

Hong Kong AFP in English 1233 GMT 27 Feb 75 OW

[By Serge Romensky]

[Text] Peking, 27 Feb (AFP)--Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai expects a communist-backed Red Khmer victory in Cambodia "in a very short time," Cambodia's former king and head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk declared here today.

In an exclusive interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, the prince said Mr Chou told him that since last November he had repeatedly advised U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to abandon the Phnom Penh government headed by Marshal Lon Nol in order to save the honour of the United States.

Prince Sihanouk said he met Mr Chou on Monday, 24 Feb, and that the Chinese premier was "in a very good form" in the hospital where he has been living since June of last year.

The prince, who is head of the Royal Cambodian Government of National Unity (RGNUC), said he did not envisage staying on as chief of state "after the victory". He had sent word of his decision officially to the Red Khmers, he said, although they had insisted that he accept the post for the rest of his life.

Prince Sihanouk described American President Gerald Ford as "naive" if he believed the Red Khmers would now consent to negotiate with anyone. Even Mr Kissinger did not believe this was possible and sought only to prolong the war in Cambodia with the hope that some external event would change the situation there, the prince declared.

He reaffirmed his belief that reconciliation was possible between the United States and the forces he leads provided the Americans abandoned the Lon Nol government, a position he stated recently in an open letter to President Ford which he sent to the Long Island daily NEWSDAY. "But I am doubtful that the United States will take advantage of this possibility for an honourable outcome," the prince said today.

Prince Sihanouk gave the following details of his talks with Mr. Chou:

"Things appear to me to be going very well for you and I congratulate you," the Chinese premier told the prince. "I can forecast that things are coming to a head and that you will win in a very short time. You do not have to wait much longer."

Mr Chou, Prince Sihanouk stated, told Mr Kissinger last November that "the longer you delay your withdrawal from Cambodia, the more you endanger the honour of your country".

Last year it was "now or never" for the Americans to get out of Cambodia "with their heads high," Mr Chou stated.

"I gave this advice and I deeply regret that Mr Kissinger did not receive it favourably," Mr Chou told the prince. The Cambodian leader added that Mr Chou had sent the same advice to Mr Kissinger through intermediaries on several occasions, some of them recently.

Commenting on Mr Chou's statements, Prince Sihanouk declared: "Very well, it is now a contest of the finish between us on one side and the Americans with Lon Nol on the other side".

Hence, all the people, including peasants and workers, must play their respective roles in implementing the plan. In this connection, mutual assistance teams must be revived since they can resolve the farm labor shortage problem, promote the spirit of collective work among the peasantry, and lay the foundation for agricultural producers cooperatives.

Another important point is the need to change the proportion of land ownership. In 1973-74 only .2 percent of the farmland was in the hands of the state and 99.3 percent was in the hands of private owners. However, according to the government plan, state land holdings will be .6 percent, cooperative land holdings .6 percent and private holdings 98.8 percent by the end of the 4-year plan in 1977-78. Production is also expected to rise from 3.5 billion kyats to 4.05 billion kyats.

This year's paddy prospects are quite good. As of 24 February, over 910 million baskets have been procured. Since some peasants have pledged to overfulfill their quotas, it is hoped that the paddy purchasing target will be fulfilled this year. It is necessary for the members of the Central Council as well as councils at various levels to continuously organize the peasants so that they will sell their quotas as well as surplus paddy to the government. Let me conclude by calling on you to include these points and the current situation in your respective areas when you discuss the annual report of the Central Executive Committee and the report of the Finance Committee. [Applause]

COL TIN SEIN VISITS REFUGEES IN TANGYAN 21-22 FEB

Dagon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Feb 75 NK

[Text] A team of officials led by Col Tin Sein, commander of the Northeast Burma Military Command, and U Saing Maing of the Lashio Party Committee visited Tangyan from Lashio on 21 February. At the headquarters of the 33d Infantry Regiment they met the Lwe-La people who had fled their homes in southern Wa state on the eastern bank of Salween River to Tangyan, (Hong Gong), (Lue Sai) and (Nam Pan) as they could no longer bear the mistreatment of the Burmese Communist Party. Deputy Commander Lt Col Aye Than of the military command and officers from the 1st Strategic Command were also present at the meeting. The officials also instructed the government departments concerned to give necessary assistance to the refugees.

On 22 February they held discussions with the party and council officials from Tangyan, (Nam Pangong), (Pangyan) and (Hong Yai) townships and laid down security, economic, administrative and social welfare programs to be carried out under the supervision of the a. y. party and councils. On the same day Col Tin Sein addressed the members of the 33d Infantry Regiment and 67th Infantry Regiment stationed at (Hong Yai), noting their role in the administration and elimination of the insurgent saboteurs. They returned to Lashio in the evening.

VOPE ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RELEASE FIVE POW'S

Voice of the People of Burma (Glandstone) in Burmese to Burma 1700 GMT 23 Feb 75 NK

[Announcement on POW's]

[Summary] Comrades and people, the people's army captured seven mercenaries of the military government in the (Nam Lin) battle on 21 January 1975. Two of the wounded were released after medical treatment. Arrangements have also been made for the release of the remaining five POWs. They are: 1) Pvt Saw (Shwe Pyo); 2) Pvt Than Soe; 3) Pvt Tin Hui; 4) Pvt Maung Maung; and 5) Pvt Maing Kyint Lwin.

The prince revealed that during his visit to Hanoi for Tet (lunar new year) celebrations at the beginning of February he reached agreement with North Vietnamese leaders that they would respond to an American airlift to Phnom Penh by stepping up overland deliveries of Chinese arms and ammunition to Cambodia through North Vietnam.

Answering a question on when he believed the Phnom Penh government would collapse, Prince Sihanouk replied that "unlike Lon Nol, I have always detested astrologers. But I think that if it is not this year, it will be next year that the war ends."

The United States, with or without the extra funds for Cambodia requested by President Ford, had no hope of eliminating physically the Red Khmers, he said. Their only means of doing this, according to the prince, would be to use the atomic bomb in Cambodia or send in massive numbers of American soldiers.

These were theoretical possibilities, the prince said. "I don't think either of these two eventualities is possible," he added.

Turning to the question of his own future in a "liberated Cambodia", Prince Sihanouk stated that the only job he would accept would be that of a representative of his country outside Cambodia and that the Red Khmers would be entirely free to handle the country's internal affairs.

"I don't want to be mixed up with internal questions ever again," Prince Sihanouk affirmed. "They have already cost me much too dearly".

Even as a figurehead chief of state, the prince declared, "I would live outside Cambodia for 11 months out of 12."

The prince recalled that the Lon Nol government had sentenced him to death in his absence as a traitor and he stressed his ideological differences with the communists.

"To be sure, after the victory, I would become once again a patriot and a hero in the eyes of the Red Khmers," the prince said.

"Very well. I prefer to stop there and end my career rather than risk, one fine day, to have the Red Khmers put me on trial and make me a 'traitor' once again".

U.S. PLANE VIOLATES OUDOMSAI AIRSPACE 16 FEB

Radio Pathet Lao [Clandestine], in Lao to Laos 0415 GMT 28 Feb 75 BK

[Text] On 16 February the U.S. imperialists sent a jet aircraft to fly harassment and reconnaissance missions over Muong Sai in Oudomsay Province. The aircraft made many passes over the area. These acts by the U.S. imperialists brazenly violate the independence and sovereignty of Laos and seriously provoke and challenge the Lao people.

CABINET MEETING DISCUSSES SOUVANNA PHOUMA'S HEALTH, COUP RUMORS

Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0530 GMT 27 Feb 75 BK

[Text] The government spokesman, Phagna Oudai Souvannavong, deputy minister of information, propaganda and tourism, this morning spoke with domestic and foreign reporters on the results of the cabinet meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of His Highness Phnu Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma. He said that at the beginning of the cabinet meeting, his highness the prime minister expressed his pleasure at chairing the meeting and said that his health was getting better every day, but had not yet returned to normal. The prime minister added that he would deal with only major national affairs matters and he asked the ministers and deputy ministers to be responsible for all minor problems, which he would only involved himself with if they could not resolve them.

The cabinet also discussed the coronation of King Savang Vatthana. The cabinet proposed that a new coronation preparatory committee should be set up with His Highness NPCC President Prince Souphanouvong as chairman and Interior and Social Welfare Minister Phagna Pheng Pongsavan as vice chairman. It is expected that the coronation will be held in late 1976. The spokesman also reported that His Highness Prince Souphanouvong has invited his majesty the king to visit the liberated areas after the traditional Lao new year--13 April.

The cabinet also discussed rumors about preparations for a coup d'etat. The cabinet, regarding these rumors as seriously endangering peace and national concord in Laos, agreed to ask the CJC to investigate the matter. If the persons responsible for these rumors can be ascertained, they should be arrested immediately and severely punished in accordance with the law.

PRIME MINISTER ORDERS STEPS TO BAN FOREIGN HIPPIES

Radio Pathet Lao [Clandestine] in Lao to Laos 0415 GMT 27 Feb 75 BK

[Text] According to KPL, on 21 February the PGNU prime minister issued order number 24/2 NY to the deputy prime minister and foreign minister and to the minister of interior and social welfare urging them to take effective and resolute measures to get rid of hippies presently in Laos. The order reads in part as follows:

I would like to reaffirm to you that in its 15 January meeting, the PGNU cabinet adopted a resolution on the granting of visas to hippy-type tourists, stressing that strict checks should be conducted before the granting of visas. This has arisen since it has been observed that many foreign hippies have entered our country and have, through their activities, affected our society, our fine culture and the life of Lao youths in particular.

In order to preserve the fine culture and traditions of the country, I hereby request that: