

SIHANOUK MESSAGE TO CAMBODIAN SOLIDARITY CONCLAVE IN PARIS

CAMBODIAN INFORMATION AGENCY [Clandestine] in French to East Asia 1100 GMT 12 Dec 73 D

[Text] Cambodia, 12 Dec. AKI--In his message to the Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People held on 8 and 9 December in Paris, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state and chairman of the NUFC, vigorously condemned the numerous acts of aggression and monstrous crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and their Phnom Penh lackeys against the Cambodian people.

Three hundred representatives of 53 countries and 19 national and international organizations took part in the conference, held under the auspices of the Stockholm conference on Vietnam and the 52 French organizations struggling for peace in Indochina.

The message of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state of Cambodia, was read to the opening session on the morning of 8 December. The text of the message follows:

On behalf of the Cambodian people, of their National United Front (NUFC), their Royal Government of National Union (RGNUC), their National Liberation Armed Forces (CPNLAF) and in my own name, I am honored to address to all delegations and all honorable participants to the International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People--a conference made possible by the noble generosity of 52 French movements working together for peace in Indochina, and of the Stockholm conference on Vietnam--our respectful, cordial and grateful salutations.

This is the first international conference to be held especially to express its solidarity with the Cambodian people, whose country has been devastated and whose existence is being obliterated by an endless war imposed by U.S. imperialism and the will of one man, President Richard Nixon.

This terrible war, which has lasted for almost 4 years, has already killed about 400,000 people (including women, the aged, children and babies), maimed about 1 million inhabitants, and completely ruined about 3 million of my compatriots who, having lost everything (homes, orchards, ricefields, cattle and so on), have become refugees in the cities which themselves are not spared from the conflict.

Now thousands of villages, hundreds of townships and dozens of cities exist only on maps. On the territory of Cambodia, these villages, townships and cities have been razed and reduced to ashes. In most cases, this is the work of the U.S. Air Force, the most powerful, most sophisticated and most efficient air force in the world.

Most certainly, I know that certain circles, certain newspapers, even certain governments also charge the NUFC, RGNUC and the CPNLAF with responsibility for this war and its terrible train of misfortunes.

However, can we reasonably accuse the Cambodian patriots of wishing the destruction of their own country, the misery and the untold misfortunes of their own people, their own kin?

Can these patriots wish to suffer and die in such large numbers?

They are all faithful. The large majority of members of the NUFC, RGNUG and CPNLAF are convinced Buddhists. In the image of the gentle and peaceful Cambodian people, they all passionately love peace.

If he really wanted to, U.S. President Nixon could have easily granted peace to Cambodia ever since the signing in Paris, on 27 January 1973, of the U.S.-Vietnamese agreements, which put an end, in principle at least, to the Vietnam war and prepared the way for the restoration of peace in Indochina. Certainly, Article 20 of the aforesaid agreement constitutes, in the eyes of the Cambodian people, foreign interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia. But this Article 20, which prepares the way for the restoration of true peace in Cambodia (as well as in Laos), also justifies its existence by the fact that the war in Cambodia is essentially caused by foreign interference. Consequently, the conditions for ending this interference should be created.

What does this famous Article 20 of the 27 January U.S.-Vietnamese Paris agreement say?

It reads in full as follows: Foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos, totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material.

Of course, we do not believe that Mr Henry Kissinger worked out such an explicit text and the secretary of state of the United States signed it with the fully accredited representatives of the DRV and PRGRSV without giving it some importance, unaware that they would thereafter have to ask their government to implement it.

However, what has really happened since 27 January 1973, to date?

The DRV and PRGRSV have scrupulously respected all the provisions of Article 20 as far as my country, Cambodia, is concerned. As for the Government of the United States, it has never ceased to do the contrary of what it has promised to do under Article 20.

It was a month after the signing of the Paris agreements that the U.S. Air Force decided to carry out--and this until 15 August 1973--its most intensive and most lethal bombings and raids over Cambodia using its most sophisticated and most fearful aircraft (B-52's, F-111's, Phantoms, "Spookies," and so forth).

Concerning the effective involvement of the United States of America in the Cambodia war since 15 August, the situation is as follows:

- 1) There are still 100 U.S. officers, most of whom take charge of the recruiting the Lon Nol mercenaries or training Lon Nol units, at work in the Lon Nol general staff. They advise on military operations (including air operations), openly inspect the various war fronts and, in sum, take part in the work that, as Senator Edward Kennedy has recently denounced, is far from being within the framework of the mere supplying of arms, munitions and war material.
- 2) The introduction of weapons of all types (including the latest model of U.S. cannons), munitions and war material (including armored vehicles, aircraft, helicopters, naval units) has been carried out more massively and more intensively every month.

- 3) President Nixon has just received from the U.S. Congress the approval for new military aid to the Lon Nol regime. The aid will be twice that provided in the previous budget (that is \$350 million for 12 months just for military aid, not to mention the so-called "economic" aid, which is also increasing).
- 4) The U.S. Air Force continues to operate in the Cambodian skies (flights of observation planes, flights of jet fighters allegedly "without firing," which however launch rockets on several places in the liberated zone, and flights--particularly--of heavy cargo planes and helicopters assuring transport of war material and the dropping of arms, munitions and food and so forth for the benefit of beleaguered Lon Nol garrisons, positions and towns and the transport of combat personnel from the rear to the front and back).
- 5) The CIA, a few months ago, sent some tens of thousands of Khmer Krom and Khmer Thai mercenaries (Vietnamese and Thais of Cambodian origin) to operate inside Cambodia. These mercenaries from Saigon and Bangkok have not yet left our country.
- 6) Infantry, cavalry and naval units belonging to the army of the Saigon "republic" have launched and still launch from time to time deadly incursions into our country.
- 7) The U.S. Air Force based in Thailand has received from the Washington government (which has not kept it a secret) an order to be on alert to again attack Cambodia whenever our CPNLF launch a big offensive against Phnom Penh.

This constitutes positive proof of the deliberate and total violation of the spirit and letter of the U.S.-Vietnamese Paris agreements (as far as my country is concerned) by the United States of America--proof that supports the full responsibility that President Nixon and his government must bear concerning the foolish pursuit of the war in Cambodia.

It is a foolish pursuit because the maintaining at all costs of a fascist, corrupt and extremely unpopular junta in power in a few cities isolated and besieged from all sides by a people who are absolutely determined to recover their freedom, national independence and nonalignment, will lead to nothing good for the United States of America and the free world.

President Richard Nixon justifies the U.S. intervention in Cambodia on the grounds that:

- 1) The Cambodian people suffer the aggression of the armed forces of the DRV and of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front (called the "Viet Cong" by the West).
- 2) Indochinese communism (including Cambodian communism) threatens in an unpardonable manner the peace and the "way of life"--"free-word" style--of the peoples of Southeast Asia.
- 3) The Cambodian resistance or Cambodian movement of national liberation (NUFC, RGNUC and CPNLF) is not independent and is only a puppet of Hanoi (the DRV); consequently, allowing the RGNUC (my government) to take Phnom Penh and administer Cambodia would mean that the North Vietnamese communists will rule over Cambodia and directly threaten Thailand and the other pro-Western countries in Southeast Asia.

These three pretexts are three absolutely fallacious arguments, because:

1) In the first place, the DRV and the NFLSV have never had the slightest expansionist aim in my country whereas Thailand and the Saigon republic have not hesitated to publicly claim land, ancient temples and islands actually belonging to Cambodia. If the DRV and NFLSV really ventured to commit aggression against Cambodia, the Lon Nol regime, whose soldiers are the most inefficient in the world, would have already been swept out 3 years ago.

In our national liberation struggle, we Cambodians rely especially on our men. This is why, materially and numerically weaker than our Vietnamese brothers, it takes us a lot more time to kick out aggressor U.S. imperialism and its Phnom Penh lackeys. Now as far as the weapons and munitions are concerned, we must essentially rely on our enemies to "provide" us with them, though they do so involuntarily. Furthermore, I can categorically affirm that there is not one Vietnamese unit operating in our country or supporting us in our armed struggle.

2) Noncommunist or nonsocialist countries have no reason to be afraid of Indochinese communism or the so-called Cambodian communism (which is nothing but a national movement of liberation comprising all tendencies from princes, Buddhist monks, the bourgeois and big propertied classes to Marxists). Our revolution is not to be exported. What does "the progress of Indochinese communism" mean at the present time when Mr Nixon himself resolutely took the lead in the movement of rapprochement, friendship and cooperation with the two most powerful communism of the world, the Chinese and the Soviet?

3) President Nixon has gratuitously insulted us when he pretended that our national resistance and its government apparatus are the puppets of a foreign country. It is true that, like the PRC and the DPRK, the DRV is a great friend of ours but it is not at all true that we have been the puppets of "Hanoi" or of "Peking" or "Moscow". If tens of thousands of members of the NUFC and CPNLAF have already been [words indistinct], **contrarily** to the "Lon Nolites" whose soldiers are plain mercenaries paid by the budget of the United States of America, our combatants are struggling neither for a salary, a beautiful uniform nor stripes and medals. They are struggling to regain liberty and national independence, that is the national honor lost since March 1970 because of the treason of a handful of fascists who have an insatiable appetite for power and money.

That is the truth concerning my country and its national resistance.

Respected and honorable participants in the International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People:

As you know very well, since 1970 many international conferences and many demonstrations have taken place almost everywhere in the world, including in the United States of America, to support the struggle of the Cambodian people, to condemn the U.S. intervention and interference in Cambodia's internal affairs and to expressly demand that President Richard Nixon put an end to his wrong policy on Cambodia. Unfortunately no positive results have ever been achieved. It is true that President Nixon is extremely stubborn and arrogant. He has never admitted that he could make a mistake and he would rather continue a mistake or even aggravate it rather than lose face.

Without having the least desire to allude to the sad Watergate affair in the United States, and restricting myself to the affairs of my own country, I would like to say that President Nixon prefers to support Lon Nol's fascist junta to the end, rather than reconcile with Sihanouk and the Cambodian patriots, reconciliation I have already proposed to him several times through the good offices of one of the most honest, wisest and most respected American personalities: Senator Mike Mansfield.

In fact I have, on behalf of the NUFC and RGNUC, proposed to President Nixon the following solution that has the advantage of conciliating the interests of the Cambodian resistance and those of the United States of America (including the question of "face" and the continuation of maintaining the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh):

1. The United States of America puts an end to its military aid to the Lon Nol regime, which then would fall ipso facto.
2. The RGNUC and the U.S. Government exchange diplomatic relations.
3. The main traitors (Lon Nol and a dozen others) are sent abroad. The second-category traitors are granted an amnesty by the RGNUC.

Instead of accepting this reasonable solution, the government of President Nixon prefers to regard the NUFC, the RGNUC and the CPNLAF as mere "rebels"--insurgents--against Lon Nol and his government and suggests to us through "indirect channels" to negotiate (sic) with the Phnom Penh regime in order to "integrate" ourselves in the Phnom Penh "republican" system--the system of U.S. neocolonialism established in our capital. This is absolutely unacceptable.

In fact how can we accept such a solution when we are now recognized as the independent and nonaligned state of Cambodia by 55 sovereign countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe? The extremely heavy sacrifices, particularly in human lives, that our national resistance has made since 1970 would not have any meaning or justification if we should give up the struggle of restoring total independence to our country. This would happen if we submitted ourselves de facto to U.S. imperialism.

To sum up, the problem of the war in Cambodia and consequently the indescribable sufferings of the Cambodian people will have no solution so long as President Richard Nixon does not abandon his prejudice for a group of traitorous Cambodians and against the Cambodian patriots.

The current International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian people will nevertheless be in a position to efficiently help these poor people to catch sight of a not too distant end to their misfortunes, if it is willing to urge the parties, movements, groups and individuals who are responsible for its realization to properly approach the U.S. parliament (Congress) on the one hand and a certain number of governments on the other hand. The aim of these steps is one hand to deprive the Washington government of the means to violate the spirit and letter of Article 20 of the 27 January 1973 Paris agreements and on the other hand, to isolate to the maximum, in the international and world arena, the antinational and antipopular regime of Lon Nol which, in the long run, will compel President Nixon and his protege Lon Nol to give up imposing on Cambodia and the Cambodian people this insane war of destruction and genocide.

Concerning the U.S. Congress, we should make it understand that the fall of the Lon Nol regime would not necessarily create a "communist" threat to the United States of America, the free world and Southeast Asia. The congress is betraying the American people when it spends 500 million of their dollars every year to maintain the Lon Nol junta and to plunge the Cambodian people into total despair for several decades to come. Cambodia was already underdeveloped from the beginning.

Regarding the world's governments, we wish that those that sincerely love justice and peace and that still have diplomatic relations with the Phnom Penh regime either recognize the RGNUC or at least become "neutral"--that is give up their present partiality to the war criminals. That partiality is to the detriment of the Cambodian movement for national liberation.

Peace and independence will unfailingly and immediately be returned to Cambodia if, on the one hand, President Nixon no longer has enough funds to continue the war in Cambodia and help the regime of the Lon Nol traitors survive against the will of the Cambodian people, and if, on the other hand, the aforesaid regime becomes extremely isolated in the international arena.

I know that your noble and very important conference is pursuing just that very aim, namely to regain liberty, national independence, peace and security for the Cambodian people.

May I be allowed to express to it my fervent respects and wish it, on behalf of all of the Cambodian patriots--that is, the true Cambodia--full success in its work and great achievements.

Please accept the assurances of my high and respectful consideration, my deep admiration and my eternal gratitude.

QATAR RECOGNIZES SIHANOUK, RGNUC

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[Text] Cambodia, 6 Dec AKI--On 24 November Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state and chairman of the NUFC, issued a communique informing the international press that the State of Qatar has officially recognized Prince Norodom Sihanouk and RGNUC as the legal chief of state and legal government of Cambodia respectively. The communique reads:

I am honored to inform the international press that, by a message received on 25 November 1973, the State of Qatar officially recognizes Norodom Sihanouk and his government (RGNUC) as the legal chief of state and legal government of Cambodia. The content of the message is as follows:

His Excellency Chairman Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state and chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, Excellency and dear brother,

It is very important to me to ask Your Excellency to remain assured of the solidarity of the people and government of the State of Qatar with the friendly people and Government of Cambodia as well as the continuation of our constant support accorded your just cause inside and outside the United Nations.

I extend to Your Excellency the assurance of my very high and fraternal consideration.

Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.