

IV. 14 May 75

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SIHANOUK: WAR REPARATIONS 'DEVALUE' CAMBODIA'S VICTORY

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 May 75 p 5 LD

[Maamar Parah undated exclusive interview with Prince Sihanouk, presumably in Peking:
"Algeria Has Been One of Cambodia's Strongest Supports"]

[Text] [Question] Cambodia has entered a new era thanks to a total victory over American imperialism and its agents. What factors enabled this achievement?

[Answer] These factors are:

First, the Cambodian people's centuries-old tradition of fighting against foreign invaders.

Their "Angkorian" period was very glorious not only because of the building of the famous Angkor temples but also because of the warlike exploits of the Cambodian people, who defeated the Cham invaders and others. More recently, our people fought valiantly against French colonialism, whose "reign" over us came to an end in 1953.

Between 1941 and 1945 the Cambodian people also resisted the Japanese occupiers.

Second, the deep attachment of the vast majority of Cambodian men and women to national independence and nonalignment.

When the traitor Lon Nol's clique decided to change Cambodia radically, on 18 March 1970, from an independent and nonaligned country to a U.S. neocolony, all patriotic Cambodians united and rose as one against the traitors, who were too greedy for personal power and money, and against their American masters.

Third, the existence of a revolutionary base among Cambodian patriots and the competence of their leadership, both in the military field and in the others (political, administrative, economic, diplomatic and so forth....)

Fourth, the choice of a just path to the end against the world's richest and most powerful imperialism: the path of armed struggle and people's war, pursued relentlessly without accepting any negotiations, truce, international conference, compromise, so-called "political" solution, reconciliation with the traitors, "Pax Americana" or false peace with false independence.

Fifth, the support, multifaceted aid and militant solidarity of the fraternal countries (starting with Algeria, China, Vietnam, and so forth...) and of progressive, socialist, revolutionary nationalist and anti-imperialist states and peoples (including justice-loving Americans).

[Question] Certain circles, particularly of the Western press, have given a political interpretation to your decision to delay your return to Cambodia. How much credit can they be given?

[Answer] The Western press and "free world" circles in general detest me and hate the Cambodian revolution, which has triumphed over U.S. imperialism.

The press and these Western circles wishfully imagine that the Khmer Rouge revolutionaries are forbidding my return to Cambodia.

On 15 April, at dawn, we totally liberated Takhmau City. With cheers of joy the brother residents from all walks of life in the city emerged from their houses and lined the streets en masse to enthusiastically welcome our revolutionary army.

After liberating Takhmau, our units advanced toward northern Phnom Penh in two columns. The first column proceeded through Chak Angre Krom and Chak Angre Leu. The other advanced along Chamcar Daung and Stung Meanchey. Nowhere could the enemy withstand our offensive. They fell back one after another and fled in disorder to Phnom Penh. On the same day, 15 April, we reached Chak Angre Krom and Chak Angre Leu where, as in Takhmau, the people from all strata--including routed troops--turned up en masse and crowded the streets to welcome us with cheers and applause as we entered the towns to liberate them from the iron collars of the traitorous Lon Nol clique.

The same thing happened at Chamcar Daung and Stung Meanchey. Our column firmly linked up with another unit of our army which had just victoriously liberated the Pochentong position. Many uncles, grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts and brothers shook hands with the male and female combatants of our two units and warmly greeted them. An old man emotionally said that he had never before seen such polite, intelligent, brave and valiant young fighters. This can only be the fighters of the revolutionary army, he exclaimed. Another grandfather said with a smile: No wonder when the Lon Nolite troops heard that you sons and daughters of the revolutionary army were nearing Chamcar Daung and Stung Meanchey they hurriedly threw away their uniforms and fled for their lives to Phnom Penh.

After liberating the Stung Meanchey radio station, the two units then continued their victorious advance toward the city sports stadium and the traitors' general headquarters. Our unit, which had pressed forward through Chak Angre, linked up with a unit of our comrades from the southeast who were quickly heading along Route 1 after liberating Kien Svay, Veal Sbauv, Chhbar Ampeou and the east bank of the Bassac River on their way toward Phnom Penh.

A red sun rose in the east on 17 April across the Mekong's intersection. At that time, our unit and the unit of our comrades moving up Route 1 rushed forward like a race horse after crushing the enemy in a single stroke near the officers' residences at Khbal Thnal. In the streets and boulevards of the city we saw hundreds of thousands of fraternal people, young and old, men and women, crowding the streets and thoroughfares waving, cheering, hailing and welcoming us. All large and small military vehicles, buildings and positions were decked with multiple white flags by the enemy who laid down their arms and surrendered to our revolutionary army.

Our unit and the unit of our comrades then moved along Monivong and Norodom boulevards. We immediately liberated Chamcar Mon and the U.S. imperialist embassy grounds and rushed toward the traitorous clique's general headquarters. On 17 April at 0930, both our units which started from Takhmau together but took different directions--one through Chak Angre and the other through Chamcar Daung-Stung Meanchey--as well as units from other fronts linked up en masse in front of the enemy general headquarters inside Phnom Penh proper, amid thunderous cheers and ovations. In this way, on the Phnom Penh southern front, our two units' contribution to the liberation of the capital city of Phnom Penh was thus fulfilled and victoriously accomplished for the sake of our nation, people and revolution.

At this very moment, as I write my answers to your questions, the Khmer Rouge, heroic victors over U.S. imperialism, have transmitted to me from Phnom Penh the text of the resolution of their last national congress, dated 27 April 1975 which contains this passage: "Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state and president of the National United Front of Cambodia, is unanimously regarded by the special national congress as an eminently patriotic figure who has actively contributed to the struggle for the national liberation of Cambodia. The special national congress confirms that, in this capacity, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will remain chief of state and NUFC president in the new era of Cambodia's history and in the Cambodian new society."

Between the Khmer Rouge and myself there is no dispute or misunderstanding. Since the foundation of our NUFC it has been agreed that the heroic internal resistance fighters would always bear the responsibility for the country's administration, and that Norodom Sihanouk would remain chief of state and be, in this capacity, the symbol of national unity on the national plane and Cambodia's supreme representative on the international plane (interstate relations, diplomatic activities, international summit conferences).

My presence in Cambodia is therefore not indispensable. Personally, I want to stress by my absence from our capital, Phnom Penh, my determination not to interfere with the affairs of the Khmer Rouge, who have a very important task of revolutionary democratization to carry out within our nation.

I will reside in Siem Reap, near the famous Angkor temples; I will go there when the airstrip at Angkor, which was destroyed during the war, has been repaired. If this airstrip cannot be repaired quickly for lack of materials, I will return to my country by road (the Ho Chi Minh trail), as in 1973.

[Question] Have the NUFC and RGNUC decided to hold a congress shortly?

[Answer] A special national congress took place in liberated Phnom Penh 25 through 27 April. No further congress is planned in the near future.

[Question] Your Majesty, on the home front, could you give us some details of the RGNUC's action, particularly on the economic plans?

[Answer] Cambodia under the NUFC is proud that it has already been able to achieve economic independence; the rubber plantations (which belonged to the French) and the other agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises belonging to foreigners have already been nationalized. Agriculturally, Cambodia is once more becoming an exporter of cereals, fruit and livestock, thanks to intensive work by an entire enthusiastic nation. It only remains for us to modernize and develop our agriculture and industry, beginning by closing the gap separating us from the other advanced Third World nations, which is due to 5 years of a terribly destructive war imposed by aggressive U.S. imperialism.

Our revolutionary people, who have been able to overcome the worst adversity, will, I am absolutely sure, be able to achieve this desirable and desired development and economic modernization.

[Question] Could you outline for us the political face of tomorrow's Cambodia? What, in your opinion, are the new institutions which should be set up? Taking into account the transition from the state of war to the state of peace, how will relations between the party and the state be organized?

[Answer] Our (sole) party is and will be the NUFC, pending the establishment of a parliament, which will be achieved in a few years. The Cambodian people's national congress--comprising the elected representatives of the people's organizations, the representatives of the CPNIAP and those of the bonzes (Buddhism is the religion of our state)--which meets once or twice a year, acts and will continue to act as the "legislative power" vis-a-vis the RGNUC (executive). The national congress lays down the ideological, political, economic, social cultural and diplomatic "line" to be followed. The RGNUC will faithfully follow this line in its actions.

[Question] Where foreign policy is concerned, Cambodia will remain nonaligned. What will your relations be with the countries belonging to this "family," and particularly with Algeria?

[Answer] Concerning our foreign policy, the national congress resolution of 27 April 1975 states: "The special national congress reaffirms Cambodia's adherence to the policy of independence, peace, neutrality and nonalignment; its determined opposition to the presence of any foreign military base on the territory of Cambodia; and its resolve to fight against any foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs, whether military, political, economic, cultural, social, diplomatic or taking a so-called 'humanitarian' form. Cambodia will in no way interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Cambodia does not and will not attack any other country. It respects unreservedly the principle that every country enjoys full sovereignty and has the right to make its own decisions. At the same time, Cambodia is making and will continue to make every effort to reinforce its solidarity with the nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America....so that they may help each other in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism and for freedom, peace, justice and progress...."

I wish to make it clear that Cambodia under the NUFC and RGNUC will always consider the Arab people and states to be among its best friends. Cambodia under the NUFC and RGNUC feels particularly close to revolutionary Algeria. Our two nations have chosen the same path of armed struggle, revolution and people's democracy in order to achieve the highest national aspirations to total independence, freedom, authentic democracy, social justice, progress and the country's general development, including the (fundamental) achievement of economic independence.

Democratic and popular Algeria has been one of the most firm, ardent, militant and powerful supporters of Cambodia on the international plane. We will never forget this total solidarity which your great and glorious country spontaneously offered us from the first day of our sacred struggle for national salvation.

I say finally that the Cambodia of the NUFC and RGNUC will remain in total and lasting solidarity with the great Arab nation and the heroic fraternal Palestinian people in their just struggle against Zionism and until their final victory.

[Question] War reparations or damages were demanded after World War II. Could not this "European" rule be applied to the aggressor states, and in this present case to the United States, after the million victims and the inestimable damage cause to Cambodia?

[Answer] The United States attacked our Cambodia, ravaged and ruined it and plunged our people into the most awful suffering and calamities. But we Cambodians--NUFC, RGNUC, CPNIAP--believe that the blood freely shed by our people in these 5 years and 1 month of war is priceless and should not be "reimbursed" in dollars or other material "indemnities." [paragraph continues]

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To accept from the United States "war reparations or damages" would be, on the one hand, to devalue the very noble sacrifices of our people and disparage our already legendary victory which will be and is priceless, and on the other hand to permit our ex-aggressors, who have committed so many abominable and unforgivable crimes in our country, to believe themselves "absolved" in the eyes of history and mankind.

Taking everything into account, we prefer to dress our wounds ourselves, however serious they may be.

SIHANOUK MESSAGE THANKS PDY FOR SUPPORT

Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 May 75 ID/RA

[Text] Brother Salim Rubay'i 'Ali, assistant secretary general of the National Front Central Committee and chairman of the Presidential Council, has received a cable from Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Prince Sihanouk said: The victory of the Cambodian people over American imperialism and its stooges is nothing less than a victory of the PDY people. The cable continued: From the first day of the sacred struggle of the people of Cambodia for national independence, the PDY people and their government never faltered in offering absolute support. This support, which was effective, strong and insured our joint victory, greatly weakened imperialism--the joint enemy of the people of Indochina and the Arab and African peoples.

In conclusion, Sihanouk emphasized the support of Cambodian comrades-in-arms for the Arab people and the peoples of Africa in all international forums, until a decisive victory and justice are realized for the cause of the Palestinian people and their just struggle against Zionism, and over the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia, backed by American imperialism.

Along with the national defense and construction efforts, our revolutionary army is also focusing attention on education. In various cities and at various construction sites as well as in the countryside, the brothers are taking advantage of their rest periods to study revolutionary culture and politics. They look upon learning as a good habit to constantly enhance their revolutionary capabilities and qualities and to maintain their strong revolutionary status as a revolutionary army, the sons and daughters of the people, workers and peasants who most outstandingly fought the enemy and who are building their own country in a wonderful way.

COMBATANTS REPORTED WORKING TO REPAIR ROUTE 4

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 12 May 75 BK

[Text] Male and female combatants and cadres of our revolutionary army are most actively currently launching an offensive to repair Route 4. The more than 200-kilometer-long Route 4 has a strategic significance because it links Phnom Penh with Sihanoukville--the only seaport of Cambodia. During the war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, the enemy tried to defend this strategic road by all means; however, all attempts were successively defeated. Before its collapse, the traitorous Lon Nol clique insanely and barbarously destroyed national Route 4. Several concrete bridges, such as the O Kraing Ambel, Kompong Speu, Sre Khlong and Tuk Sap bridges, were deliberately destroyed by the traitors. Several towns, such as Mohasaing, Trapeang Kraloeng, Sre Khlong and Kaong, were reduced to ashes by U.S. bombs and artillery shells.

Now, after completely defeating the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys on 17 April, our revolutionary armed forces stationed along the Route 4 front and all the inhabitants living along this route are most actively striving to repair this road and all bridges on this road. Our brothers are tirelessly working day and night and they need a large quantity of equipment very badly. However, our brothers have boosted the spirit of

RADIO 'NARRATIVE' RECOUNTS FINAL DRIVE ON PHNOM PENH

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 May 75 BK

[First in series recounting the CPNLF drive culminating in final assault on Phnom Penh: "After Liberating Takhmau City Our Two Columns Linked Up in Front of the Enemy General Staff Headquarters in Phnom Penh"]

[Text] Respected and beloved compatriots and friends: from 1 January 1975 onward the extremely brave and valiant revolutionary army of our people opened the phase of the great movement of the dry season offensive and won the historically significant final victory. In a single stroke we won the tremendous victory which has had immense repercussions throughout the world, instilling pride in our people throughout the country and winning the awe and admiration of all friendly peoples, near and far.

We attacked the enemy simultaneously along the Mekong River, around Phnom Penh and in all provincial capital cities then under enemy control. On 1 April 1975, we liberated Neak Luong and Banam, thus definitively liberating and controlling the Mekong River. The enemy collapsed. He had no rice, supplies or ammunition. His ranks were ravaged by internal dissension and quarrels.

On 1 April 1975 U.S. imperialism withdrew traitor Lon Nol from Phnom Penh in a state of total defeat and collapse. On 12 April 1975, U.S. imperialism withdrew its embassy staff, advisers, Ambassador John Gunther Dean and some traitors from Cambodia. The enemy was then more weakened and shrunken than ever under the blows of our great assaults from all sides. From 12, 13 and 14 April the phase of the Phnom Penh offensive to win ultimate victory began on all fronts.

Beginning today we will present to all respected and beloved compatriots and friends a series of narratives showing the tremendous revolutionary heroism of the male and female combatants and cadres of our revolutionary army and demonstrating the correct, brilliant strategy and tactics of our talented Cambodian revolutionary organization. Now listen to our first narrative in the series, entitled: "After Liberating Takhmau City Our Two Columns Linked up in Front of the Enemy General Staff Headquarters in Phnom Penh."

On 13 April 1975, our unit began to sweep the heavily defended systems of enemy positions south of Takhmau city. Among these positions, the most recalcitrant was in Prek Samrong monastery, manned by five battalions of the most notoriously cruel troops and armed with large quantities of the sophisticated weapons, including four 105 mm cannons. We vigorously and persistently attacked the enemy in the monastery, overran this position and completely destroyed it. The routed enemy troops fled in disorder. The other unit on the front west of Takhmau City also vigorously attacked another group of recalcitrant enemy troops at Wat Krapeu Ha position. On 14 April both of our units launched infantry and artillery assaults on the enemy and linked up in the heart of Takhmau city. The routed enemy troops fled from Takhmau, crossed the bridge and mustered inside the position at the public works department in an attempt to resist our advance. However, they were totally crushed by our forces.

DRV CONSULATE TAKES CONTROL OF FORMER RVN CONSULATE

Hong Kong APP in English 0820 GMT 13 May 75 BK

[Text] Rangoon, May 13 (APP)--North Vietnam's **consulat general** in Rangoon, Mr Van Xuan Ang, today took over the consulate general of the former South Vietnam Government on behalf of the new Revolutionary Government in Saigon, it was **officially announced**.

A Burmese foreign office official was present at the take-over ceremony. The property was sealed and records and bank accounts were transferred to the **North Vietnam Consulate General**.

Three members of the former South Vietnamese **Consulate General** left Rangoon a few days ago. An administrative officer joined the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG). The Burmese Government has not yet made official its position towards the PRG although the presence of a representative of the Foreign Ministry at the take-over suggests that Burma is ready to recognise it.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the consulate-general of North Vietnam is likely to be raised to embassy status.

EDUCATION MINISTER WIN VISITS REOPENED INSTITUTES

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 9 May 75 BK

[Excerpt] On 9 May 1975, Minister of Education Dr Khin Maung Win visited the Institute of Economics and the Rangoon Institute of Technology, which reopened on 8 May. He met with the students and offered them words of advice.

Minister Dr Khin Maung Win, accompanied by Director General U San Tha Aung of the Department of Higher Education, was welcomed at the Institute of Economics by Rector Dr Aye Hlaing and other professors and at the Rangoon Institute of Technology by Rector Dr Aung Gyi and instructors.

LEADERS GREET CZECHOSLOVAKS ON 9 MAY NATIONAL DAY

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0130 GMT 9 May 75 BK

[Text] President U Ne Win of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma has sent a message of greetings to President Gen Ludvik Svoboda of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on Czechoslovak national day. Prime Minister U Sein Win and Foreign Minister U Hla Phone have also sent similar messages to their counterparts Dr Lubomir Strougal and Mr Bohuslav Chroupek.

The message from U Ne Win reads: On the occasion of the national day of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, I and the people of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma are happy to extend warm felicitations and good wishes to Your Excellency and the Czechoslovak people for your personal wellbeing and for the prosperity and happiness of the Czechoslovak people.

BRIEFS

THAI FISHERMEN SENTENCED--Rangoon, May 13 (APP)--Thirty-eight Thai fishermen caught poaching in Burmese territorial waters were sentenced to two years' imprisonment each and fined 500 kyats by a court in Mergui, it was reported here today. The fishermen were caught in waters off West Mergui, in southern Burma, by the Burmese Navy last month.
[Text] [Hong Kong APP in English 0034 GMT 13 May 75 BK]

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Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 8 May 75 p 5 LD

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FILE / SUBJ.

DATE / SUB-CAT.

PRESS REPORTS CONFLICT ON REACTION TO CAMBODIAN BORDER 'THREAT'

'Open Fire' Order

Bangkok POST in English 14 May 75 p 3 BK

[Text] Trat--Border Patrol Police (BPP) forces and marines guarding the "tense" border areas in Klong Yai district have been instructed to open fire on any Khmer Rouge soldiers who set foot on Thai soil in an attempt to carry out their threat of pushing the border demarcation line one kilometre into Thailand.

The instructions were issued by the government yesterday after Khmer Rouge soldiers delivered an ultimatum to Thai authorities demanding the border demarcation line be withdrawn one kilometre inland from the existing frontier within seven days starting from Monday.

Khmer Rouge soldiers have even threatened that they would "use force" to push their demands if the Thais fail to comply with the order within the given period.

The BPP headquarters in Bangkok was immediately alerted and after a series of meetings and tense discussions, orders were issued that the BPP and marine troopers would open fire in case of any intrusion.

"If the Khmer Rouge really carry out their threats, they will be violating the sovereignty of Thailand. We will not tolerate this," a ranking BPP officer said.

The Supreme Command has been alerted of the growing confrontation in Klong Yai district of Trat.

Threat Termed 'Insignificant'

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[Text] Thailand will disregard Cambodian soldiers' order to Thai authorities at Hat Lek district of Trat to move the borderline one kilometre into Thailand within a week.

Commander of Region Two border police, Pol Col Suwit Saisuphan, said the Cambodian order was insignificant because it came from young and brash soldiers and not from anybody in authority.

He said the situation along the Cambodian border remained peaceful with forces of both countries patrolling and being stationed at various points.

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