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SIHANOUK REVEALS DISCOURAGEMENT IN LE MONDE INTERVIEW

Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Oct 73 pp 1, 11 X

[Alain Bouc interview with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, entitled "I Will Not Return to Cambodia; I Will Remain in Peking Until I Die," and subtitled "The Head of RGNUC Criticizes Hanoi and the Khmers Rouges"]

[Text] Peking--The hour of clarification has come for RGNUC [Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia], the Khmers Rouges, and Prince Sihanouk. The prince, who had a long interview with us in his residence on Anti-imperialist Street, gave evidence simultaneously of anxiety, irritation, and even a hint of sadness. His remoteness from his country weighs on him, victory is slow in coming, and he is no longer sure of what the future and the resistance hold for him.

"Let us admit frankly, our weakness is patent; it can not be hidden. Despite all our victory bulletins, the Lon Nol regime is still there. If it is weak and we can not overthrow it, we are even weaker still. If, on the other hand, it is still powerful, why kill it?" The truth, as confirmed several times by the head of the RGNUC, is that the resistance cruelly lacks arms and ammunition. "Of course, we serve in the opposite camp, but there is such a disproportionate balance compared to what Nixon sends to Phnom Penh every day!"

Last January's Paris agreements resulted in the disruption of supplies from North Vietnam. The sending of aid from the DRV was blocked--not completely, but almost. In any case, the resistance did not have the means to occupy Kompong Cham and keep it. The prince tried to explain the Hanoi leaders' movements.

"In my opinion, the United States is seeking to stabilize the situation in Cambodia by awaiting a settlement of the whole Indochina question. It informed North Vietnam that if Hanoi aided the Khmers Rouges to the point of their being able to overthrow Lon Nol, it [the U.S.] would be obliged to intervene again. This is understandable: If we win, all their construction in Southeast Asia is liable to collapse.

"The second reason is that Hanoi cannot endanger the payment of America's war debts--what the United States calls reconstruction aid for Vietnam.

"Finally, it should be known that Hanoi and the NLF have drawn up a plan for the country's reunification, which requires time. They consider that a new confrontation with the Saigon regime is inevitable. The important thing for them is that the United States does not participate directly in the new conflict, in any case, that it does not resume bombing North Vietnam. To obtain a complete American withdrawal, some time must be allowed to pass so the United States will get used to peace, and it will become impossible for Nixon to again launch his country into war. You may note," continued the prince, with a finger on the map, "that the transport of arms between the two Vietnams does not require the taking of Phnom Penh: The Ho Chi Minh trails pass through regions to which Lon Nol's troops do not have access."

The disruption of the North Vietnamese channel is thus apparently behind the resistance's main difficulties. "Kim Il-song, the North Korean chief of state, proposed supplying us with as much as we wanted, but to what good, since this materiel could not be transported once it arrived at the DRV's borders? The same problem exists for Chinese aid, with the addition that Peking does not wish, in its negotiations with America, that it be reproached by the United States for adding fuel to the fire in Indochina; therefore, China does not show any enthusiasm for the idea of sending arms."

Peking Must Court Washington

"Moreover, China is obliged somewhat to court Washington to prevent the formation of a hostile American-Soviet coalition."

However, in this delicate situation there appears an element of comfort: the RGNUC's recent diplomatic successes. The prince is completely satisfied with the Soviet leaders' change in attitude. "Their position is very clear. They recalled their charge d'affaires and all their diplomats, leaving in Phnom Penh only three persons who are not of diplomatic quality to guard the buildings. The GDR left only one. The Bulgarians repatriated all their personnel. The Mongolians recently recognized us. Of course, as a matter of dignity, they cannot all follow Moscow, one after the other. They allow a few days to pass between their respective initiatives. But, in the end, there is no doubt, the whole bloc is coming our way. We now have all the socialist and nonaligned countries with us: It is a very great victory for the RGNUC which Lon Nol will not be able to minimize.

Why Did the USSR Change Its Attitude?

"We must still ask ourselves," said the prince, perplexed, "what were the reasons which led Moscow to revise its attitude. Was it, as some people say, to annoy the Chinese, who have not yet broken off relations with Chile? Or rather, does it know that a large attack is being prepared and did it decide to repatriate its men? When the Russians arrive, it's always because they think that a solution is close; they are generally shrewd. They wish to push us toward a political solution." Then the prince outlined on the map several hypothetical divisions of territory which would permit the Soviets to be present and limit Chinese influence. They are still talking, though only to reject them, about tripartite or bipartite governments which would leave the heads of the Phnom Penh regime some of the power.

"However, the idea cannot be dismissed that Peking, Moscow, and Hanoi may agree with the Khmers Rouges, without conferring with me, to prepare a massive attack in the dry season." But certainly, we asked, you would be informed, in such a case?

"That is not certain," replied the prince, "I do not have intimate relations with the Khmers Rouges, I have no more, I have almost no relations with them. Yes, it is true, I have already said that I found them Stalinistic, with their daily indoctrination instruction, the language they employ, their methods."

The prince talked on these ticklish subjects with the same ease. But his extreme sensitivity prevented him from hiding a deep-seated sadness: "You know, there are wounds which cannot be healed. I tell you, I will not return to Cambodia, I will remain in Peking until I die. My mother, the Queen, is going to come here and we will both remain in China. But, meanwhile, I will aid the Khmers Rouges. To sweep away imperialism, they can count on me."

The prince remained discreet regarding the reasons for these disagreements. But it could be felt that in the end it was a problem of authority: Who will make the decisions? The solidly united Khmers Rouges group, or the prince, or even Prime Minister Penn North? It is obvious that in Peking the young members of the Cambodian resistance prefer the efficient ponderousness of collective decisions to the prince's charm and sparkle. The RGNUC head has no desire to lose his freedom of action and speech in the meanderings of democratic centralism. He has the impression he is being held aloof.

"I am fighting to be allowed to live in Cambodia with them: There is no danger any longer, now that the bombing has ceased; this old argument is no longer valid. And even if they feared my influence with the masses, I would agree to live without contact with the people, but at least on the national territory. I have asked them to destroy this reputation of 'government-in-exile'. The ministers must be sent to Cambodia from Peking, or at least their portfolios transferred to people in the interior. Why keep this whole team abroad? We only have four ministers and six deputy ministers in the interior; the others, the majority, are in the four corners of the globe. This position is untenable. If they do not agree to this request, I might even resign. Moreover, what do they want to make the RGNUC; why obstinately keep it in Peking? What place are they reserving for me? I want to know what my status is in their view. Am I simply an employee or the chief of state?

Envisage the Same Goal

"However, we envisage the same goal. For the moment, due to a lack of munitions, we can not end the war, but we can continue it. I want to help the Khmers Rouges realize their dream of taking power in Phnom Penh, of setting up their socialist regime there, because, you know, between the Blues and the Reds, there is not even a question of choice; between corruption and the pure and strong regime they want to set up, there is nothing in common."

NUFC RADIO CARRIES ARTICLE ON EFFORTS TO IMPEACH NIXON

Voice of the National United Front of Cambodia [Clandestine] in Cambodian to Cambodia
0400 GMT 30 Oct 73 D

[Article: "Nixon Is Being Forced by the American People To Quit the Presidency"]

[Text] Nixon is badly entangled in Cambodia. He is also deeply bogged down in the Middle East. The Arab peoples are rising up and heightening their solidarity to struggle against Nixon's aggression. Now, in the United States itself, Nixon is under fire from the American people who are getting together to drive him out of the Presidency.

In order to win reelection Nixon committed innumerable crimes to defeat his opponents, including the break-in of the headquarters of the U.S. Democratic Party. The filthy Watergate affair that broke 6 months ago has unearthed and exposed Nixon's corrupt activities before the eyes of the American people. Many of his employees at the White House, who were involved in this wrongdoing, were fired from their duties by Nixon because he was afraid that his foul activities would be exposed.

However, this step was in vain, for the American people are well aware of the truth. They are very indignant and are vigorously denouncing him. They even demanded that the Supreme Court [as heard] impeach him. The U.S. Senate then set up an investigating committee to look into the matter. Panic-stricken, Nixon appointed one of his confidants, namely Richardson, to the post of attorney general. Likewise he named Archibald Cox special prosecutor because he expected that Cox could prevent this Watergate scandal from worsening and that he, Nixon would escape unscathed.

However, the truth remains the truth. Contrary to Nixon's expectation, his filthy scandal has become even more stinking. Both the Senate's investigating committee and the court refused to compromise with him and requested that he hand over all secret tapes relating to the Watergate scandal. Neither Richardson, the attorney general, nor Archibald Cox, the special prosecutor, could save him. Nixon was furious over their failures. He fired both Richardson and Archibald Cox as well as the under secretary of justice. He still refuses to hand over the secret documents on the Watergate affair to the **court**.

Such behavior cannot be tolerated by the American people. A wave of indignation against Nixon is sweeping the United States. In Miami, Florida, the multimillion-strong CIO-AFL voiced its protest and demanded that Nixon resign from the Presidency of the United States. If he remained stubborn, the union organization would demand that the U.S. Congress pull him out of the post. The people's movement to drive Nixon from the White House has become more feverish and turbulent. Ninety members of the House of Representatives have petitioned for Nixon's impeachment, while six senators who were attending conferences abroad have hurriedly returned home to take part in the drive against Nixon. Several other senators have publicly denounced him. Many of them issued press statements condemning Nixon for blemishing the American people's honor in this scandal. Not a single senator or member of the House of Representatives dares to step in to overtly support Nixon, and even the chairman of his own Republican Party has condemned him.

We recall that Spiro Agnew, Nixon's vice president, has just been sentenced to a 3-year jail term for corruption and larceny. He is the first U.S. vice president to be sentenced to jail while in office.

Such is the fate of the Phnom Penh traitorous clique's masters. The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh-In Tam-Cheng Heng-Sosthene Fernandez traitors, their Phnom Penh lackeys, are sure to experience an even worse destiny. Both the masters and lackeys will certainly be overturned by the Cambodian people and the American people as well as the peace-loving peoples of the world.

Down with Nixon, the international thugs' ringleader!

Down with his Phnom Penh lackeys, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh-In Tam-Cheng Heng-Sosthene Fernandez traitors!