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SIHANOUK FETED IN PHNOM PENH, HOLDS RGNU CABINET MEETING 9/17/75

Phnom Penh's effusive welcoming ceremonies for Cambodian "head of state" Sihanouk and RGNU Prime Minister Penn Nouth following their 9 September return to Cambodia have stressed the two leaders' contributions while on their "mission abroad" toward the April 1975 victory, at the same time hailing their return to work "shoulder to shoulder" with leaders in Cambodia on the country's future policies.

Sihanouk statements since his arrival in Phnom Penh have stressed his support for the egalitarian domestic policies set forth at the April 1975 special Cambodian congress conducted in his absence,* and have explicitly lauded the "people's democratic revolution" currently underway in Cambodia. The prince presided over a 10 September RGNU cabinet meeting at which he reportedly voiced his "great satisfaction" over reports on the current military, economic and social policies in the country. The meetings and welcoming festivities have occasioned appearances by numerous Cambodian leaders, but the Phnom Penh media reportage on these has not yet provided any clear evidence of the leadership ranking below the level of deputy prime minister.**

Following a grand welcoming ceremony at Phnom Penh's Pochentong airport on 9 September addressed by Prince Sihanouk and RGNU Deputy Prime Minister Son Sen, the prince was feted at a banquet that evening hosted and addressed by Deputy Prime Minister Khieu Samphan. On 10 September Sihanouk met with several RGNU and NUFC officials and later held a meeting of the "entire RGNU cabinet" to hear and approve reports on the current domestic situation. On the 12th Sihanouk was honored and spoke at a Phnom Penh rally which was also addressed by RGNU Information and Propaganda Minister Hu Nim, Khieu Samphan, and representatives of the Cambodian armed forces, people, and women. Also on the 12th Sihanouk viewed a military parade in his honor and heard an address by Son Sen on military affairs. Atmospherics throughout these festivities were uniformly described as "warm" and "intimate."