

STATEMENT BY SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, JANUARY 29, 1973

On 26 January 1973 the traitors' clique of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh boasted about a supposed suspension of offensive operations by their mercenaries as of 29 January 1973.

Everyone knows that since the debacle of its military operation Chenla 11 at the end of 1971, the traitors' clique of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh has been irremediably driven on the defensive and that, despite U.S. air cover, the Cambodian people and CPNLAF since that date have launched crushing, sustained general offensives in all fields against the regime of the fascist clique, casting it into defeat and total collapse in all domains.

The CPNLAF has liberated more than 85 percent of the territory with over 5 million people of the total of 7 million people in Cambodia. The traitors are hiding in a few enclaves which are being relentlessly harassed by the CPNLAF. The capital, Phnom Penh, where NUFC organizations are particularly active and constantly assert their presence with resounding actions, is totally isolated. It is experiencing a shortage of rice and food, and the people are struggling more fiercely against the fascist and rotten regime of the traitors, who are becoming more isolated with each passing day and who survive only thanks to massive U.S. aid. Support for the traitors in the international arena is decreasing, whereas the prestige of the NUFC and RGNUC is continuously increasing. No force can ever extricate the traitors' clique of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh from this deep impasse. Therefore, the boastings on 26 January 1973 about a supposed suspension of offensive operations by this clique are nothing more than a gross attempt to cover up its total incapacity to launch an offensive to try to remedy its situation of defeat. They are also a perfidious maneuver to deceive world opinion with regard to its so-called desire for peace.

The fascist, militarist regime of the traitorous Phnom Penh clique is merely the product of the antinational, antipeople 18 March 1970 coup d'etat and a sordid, bloody tool of the U.S. neocolonialist policy of aggression in Cambodia. The Cambodian people have drawn once and for all a sharp delineation between the patriotic forces joined with the NUFC and the handful of criminal traitors who have massacred tens of thousands of Cambodians and destroyed all the achievements of 16 years of peace. Therefore, no compromise is possible between the NUFC and the traitorous clique.

Since independence 16 years ago, the peace-loving Cambodian people have actively fought against all U.S. maneuvers and plots in order to preserve their country's policy of independence, peace, and neutrality. More than anyone, they appreciate the benefits of this policy. However, peace is lasting and just only if it is linked to liberty, honor, and national unity.

Such a peace will be restored in Cambodia only when all the objectives of the Cambodian people's struggle are realized, that is, after the total, definitive, unconditional cessation of bombing and strafing by U.S. aircraft and all other acts of aggression, the withdrawal from Cambodia of all military and civilian personnel of the U.S. and its satellite, the cessation of all U.S. support and aid to the fascist Phnom Penh regime, and the total elimination of the entire traitors' clique of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh, thus permitting NUFC and RGNUC, once installed in Phnom Penh, to build an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous Cambodia on the basis of territorial integrity, in conformity with the solemn 27 March 1970 statement of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and NUFC chairman, and with the NUFC political program.

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The Cambodian people's just struggle for national salvation under NUFC and RGNUC leadership is making an important contribution to the common struggle of the peace, justice and freedom-loving people throughout the world against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. From the Vietnamese, Lao, Chinese, Korean and all other peoples of the world, including the American people, it enjoys firm and active support and multifarious aid for which NUFC and RGNUC express once again their profound gratitude. The Cambodian people are confident that, thanks to their unity, their unshakable determination, and this international aid, their just and noble struggle will certainly triumph.

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