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SIHANOUK AND IENG SARY VISIT HANOI OVER TET HOLIDAY
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Cambodian Prince Sihanouk's annual visit to Hanoi for the lunar new year Tet holiday closely followed the pattern set during his visit last year. DRV Premier Pham Van Dong once again led Vietnamese officials at the airport welcome and departure ceremonies and hosted an 11 February reception for the prince, and First Secretary Le Duan met with the Cambodian leader. In keeping with the pattern last year, the visit did not prompt Hanoi editorial comment or a joint communique--treatment which had marked Sihanouk visits for Tet from 1971 through 1973.

Sihanouk's 9-15 February stay in Hanoi coincided with a "friendship visit" to the DRV by Ieng Sary, the special adviser of RGNU Deputy Prime Minister Khieu Samphan. Ieng Sary had served in Peking as the "special envoy" of the communist insurgents from 1971 until 1973 when he returned to Cambodia. He had accompanied Sihanouk to Hanoi for Tet in 1972 and 1973. According to VNA, Ieng Sary's current visit was at the invitation of DRV Foreign Minister Trinh. He arrived on 10 February, met with Sihanouk on the following day, saw Pham Van Dong on the 13th, and was present at the airport for Sihanouk's departure on the 15th.

Speaking at the 11 February reception for Sihanouk, Pham Van Dong expressed particular satisfaction over advances in Cambodian-Vietnamese relations. He maintained that "a new, very fine step has been made in the past year in developing the militant solidarity and fraternal friendship between Vietnam and Cambodia," and he characterized the improvement in relations as "an extremely important factor" in strengthening both sides in their struggle for complete victory. The premier did not specify how relations had improved, but the past year has seen visits by RGNU Deputy Prime Minister Khieu Samphan to Hanoi in March and April 1974, the exchange of visits by RGNU/NUFC and PRG/NFLSV delegations to each other's "liberated zones," in June and December respectively, and the simultaneous formation last month of Vietnamese-Cambodian friendship associations in Hanoi and Cambodia.*