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I. SIHANOUK WILL NOT ATTEND AN
INDOCHINA - WIDE CONFERENCE

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(Peking NCNA International Service in English, 0201 GMT,
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Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the National United Front of Kampuchea, at a press conference here today strongly condemned the "new initiative" on the Indochina question dished up recently by U.S. President Nixon and expressed the conviction that the Cambodian people will surely be victorious and will liberate their country from the rule of U.S. imperialism and Lon Nol's fascism.

Samdech Penn Nouth, Chairman of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea and Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union, and Ngo Hou, Minister of Public Health, Religious and Social Affairs of the R.G.N.U., were present at the press conference.

Samdech Sihanouk said: An AFP dispatch from Phnom Penh on October 9 said: The pro-government paper "Cambodia" has published a rumour circulated in Phnom Penh for the past 24 hours that Prince Sihanouk has attempted suicide and is at present in a critical state. You see, I have not hanged myself, I have not shot myself with a revolver, and I am in good health. They are dreaming, taking their wish as reality. They wish I were dead.

Samdech Sihanouk said: I am fighting for a definite ideal, that is to say, to liberate my country from U.S. imperialism and from Lon Nol's fascism. I am sure that we will be victorious. I foresee this in one year two years, ten years, twenty years, but we shall be victorious; this is certain. This is a struggle, a marathon. Mr. Nixon does not permit this marathon, but one fine day Mr. Nixon will be worn out, or will be overthrown, while the forces of Indo-China are in their own countries. You can't imagine that we can cope with it for we are in our own country.

Samdech Sihanouk said: We are Khmers, Vietnamese and Laotians, it is impossible to have us beaten. If we are now fighting Nixon in America, we would have little chance of winning the war. But we are fighting in our own country and with China and Korea as our reliable rear area. You cannot imagine that China and Korea would disappear. Mr. Nixon can disappear. The American people can demand any minute, year after year that America disengage itself from the mire of Indochina, from the mire of Cambodia. But it is out of the question that China and Korea would abandon us.

Recently I saw once again His Excellency Chairman Mao Tse-tung on October 1. He confirmed to me that China will continue to support us until complete victory.

Samdech Sihanouk said: Lon Nol should not hope that we would retreat, we shall never retreat, never, never. But if we have to fight 20 years, it would not bother me because I have always experienced difficulties during all my life. This is not the first time that I meet such difficulties.

Samdech Sihanouk said: As to Nixon's notorious statement on cease-fire and on an international conference to put an end to the Indochina war, I wish to tell you precisely that so far as Cambodia is concerned, we would accept a conference under the condition that Mr. Lon Nol and his puppet regime which represents only themselves or at most U.S. imperialism do not attend this conference, and under the condition that we alone are invited to it. But Mr. Nixon has no intention of inviting us to this conference, and Mr. Lon Nol, while supporting Mr. Nixon's proposal, has said that he and his clique will not attend this conference if Sihanouk is invited. Thus we agree with the above-mentioned. In not accepting this conference, you can be sure that fighting will continue; because Lon Nol said that they would agree to a conference of peace under the condition that Sihanouk does not attend. As to us, we agree that the conference should take place under the condition that Lon Nol and his clique do not attend. I believe that our two positions are perfectly symmetrical and reconcilable in this sense.

Samdech Sihanouk said: Mr. Nixon can never hold this conference because we say we shall never accept this conference. We shall not accept this conference because we are united with a certain number of countries and China is one of them. China certainly will not go to the conference if Lon Nol is accepted and if we are not invited as the representative of Cambodia. Suppose China does not participate in the conference, what could Mr. Nixon achieve without China? If more countries are to be cited, there is anti-imperialist Viet Nam, North and South, and I believe that they will also be united with us. In these circumstances, the holding of a Conference on Cambodia is at least quite hopeless. We also agree with the puppet government of Phnom Penh on a second point. It said that a conference will lead to the partition of Cambodia.

Samdech Sihanouk said: Cambodia is thus divided into two. As to them, they assert that I represent nobody, that I have no supporters whatsoever in Cambodia and that they do not accept a partition with one part for me and one part for them. As to me, I tell you that they represent only the Americans. And I don't accept any partition because the (National United) Front (of Kampuchea) does not accept partition. That is to say, the N.U.F.K. and its Liberation Army will fight on until the Lon Nolites are crushed and completely swept away from Cambodia, and so the whole of Cambodia will be liberated, because my struggle is not to liberate one part of Cambodia but to liberate the whole of it.

With regard to cease-fire, Samdech Sihanouk said, we are against international control, for we have always been against the International Control Commission because this Commission has never been able to render service to peace in Indochina. This is why when we were in Cambodia, with me as the Head of State and Penn Nouth as the Head of Government, we demanded that the International Control Commission put an end to its mission in Cambodia; and now we also don't approve a return of the International Control Commission to interfere in a civil war. If it is a cease-fire to save Lon Nol, we don't agree at all, we cannot cease firing. We must always fire on the Lon Nolites, so that they will disappear from our country, so that our country will again become free and independent, again become neutral and non-aligned. As for Mr. Nixon, we have nothing against him if he ceases to attack us and if he ceases to support Lon Nol. I don't think that he will cease to support Lon Nol, so we will fight on. If he likes to negotiate directly with us, we will agree. We will never negotiate with Lon Nol. But we can negotiate as the (South Viet Nam) National Front for Liberation is doing in Paris. We can negotiate together directly with the Americans, directly in any neutral country they like. Negotiate what? Negotiate peace with the total, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the American troops and their lackeys, that is to say the Non-Indochinese troops, from our country. What we demand is that the Non-Indochinese who came from afar get out of Indochina. It is here we are in agreement with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Laotian Patriotic Front. I can conclude my remarks this way, that is to say, we remain loyal to the Laotian Patriotic Front, The Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. I have seen their ambassadors, we have a meeting here, the ambassadors of North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam and we are always loyal friends, we consult each other, we are always loyal to the commitments made together at the Chinese and Indochinese border several months ago on April 25. We will not change our attitude with regard to our combat solidarity, our unity and our common front of struggle against the Americans. We agree to support the eight points of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. Our Vietnamese and Laotian brothers are our comrades, that is to say, what they propose for themselves, we support them; and what we propose for ourselves, they support us. We promise to support each other. This is our attitude in face of the proposals of President Nixon. What we demand is that the Americans, not the Indochinese, should get out of Indochina, that the New Zealanders, the South Koreans, the Filipinos and the Australians, all of them should get out of Indochina and leave the Indochinese to solve their problems themselves. That is what the Geneva Agreement of 1954 and of 1962 have always demanded.

Samdech Sihanouk also answered questions raised by newsmen.