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10/72

IV. 12 Oct 72

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SIHANOUK SAYS PRC, DRV ASSURED HIM OF CONTINUED AID

Paris AFP in Spanish 1445 GMT 4 Oct 72 C--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[By Francois Pelou]

[Text] Peking, 4 Oct--China and the DRV have assured Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former Cambodian chief of state who is in exile in Peking, that they would continue to aid Cambodian fighters if there were to be a separate cease-fire in Laos or South Vietnam. The head of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia [RGNUC] revealed this in exclusive statements to AFP's special correspondent. Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown on 18 March 1970 by a military coup d'etat and has been living in Peking ever since.

The Prince reiterated the determination of both himself and the Cambodian fighters to reject any compromise solution such as the one suggested to the U.S. Senate by Mike Mansfield. He also said he was determined to continue the struggle until he completely eliminates Lon Nol (the man who overthrew him) and his clique, even if there were to be a cease-fire in South Vietnam. Mansfield, the leader of the Democrats in the U.S. Senate, had suggested that Prince Sihanouk return to Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, at the head of a provisional government of national union in which Lon Nol's cabinet would be represented.

The Prince told AFP: We will stop fighting only when my government, with its 22 ministers and vice ministers living in Cambodia or abroad, return as the only legitimate government, regardless of what happens in South Vietnam or in Laos. He said that he had just received a message from Cambodian fighters in which they reject any compromise solution and in which they reiterate their determination to struggle until Lon Nol is completely eliminated.

Sihanouk revealed that, because of the rumors of a negotiated solution in Vietnam soon, he had sent a representative to Hanoi to ask the DRV Government to state its position on the particular problem of Cambodia. "Le Duc Tho (special advisor to the DRV delegation in Paris) brought me a message from Hanoi personally," said the prince, "and he assured me that whatever happens, the DRV will continue to help us and to supply us with weapons. Le Duc Tho then told me: 'We do not think we will reach a quick agreement with the Americans as long as they continue to refuse to accept the basic conditions of the PRGRSV, and we will continue to prepare as if we had to face a lengthy war. In any case, however, we will continue to give you and your people all our aid in accordance with the resolution of the conference on the Indochina countries held in Hanoi on 25 April 1970, which promised mutual aid.'"

Le Duc Tho also told Sihanouk that he would continue to meet with the Americans as often as the Americans wished, although he was not optimistic about a quick solution. However, according to well-informed Peking sources, Washington and Hanoi have already reached an agreement on the principle of a South Vietnamese government composed of three factions. The same circles added that the meetings between Kissinger, President Richard Nixon's adviser, and Le Duc Tho have reached a crucial phase regarding the process and the timetable for eliminating the current South Vietnamese president, Nguyen Van Thieu.

The exiled Prince then spoke of a meeting he held with PRC Premier Chou En-lai, who also assured him of the support of his country of 800 million inhabitants. The Premier told him: Senator Mansfield has just said great things about you, and I know perfectly well that he is not the only one to think that way. I know that even within President Nixon's government, there are persons who share Mansfield's opinion.

Sihanouk expressed appreciation for the Premier's words, as well as his friend Mansfield's suggestion, but he told Chou En-lai that such a solution (a provisional government with Lon Nol) is unacceptable to him and to the Red Cambodians. He explained: Everyone has accepted the legitimacy of my government, which originated in the 1947 constitution. Our government is a cabinet of union with all patriotic Cambodian groups. Then Chou En-lai said: We approve your proposition completely since you represent the only legitimate government. And if the United States wants peace, it will have to accept your return as chief of state with the government that you currently head...I know that there are people in the U.S. Government who are disgusted with the incompetency and corruption of Lon Nol's regime.... They will end up accepting your return, under the conditions you set, if you propose it to them.

Sihanouk replied: We will continue struggling until the Lon Nol clique has been swept away. Chou En-lai again assured him: Whatever happens, you can count on our help. We approve your position without reservation. Moreover, we will give you everything you need to attain final victory as soon as possible.

The Prince told AFP's special correspondent: Chou En-lai guaranteed that China would oppose an international conference such as the Geneva conference if Cambodia were not represented by Sihanouk.

Regarding the recent Sino-Japanese negotiations, Sihanouk said that the bilateral agreement between the two countries would in no way change Japan's attitude toward his government in exile. I expect nothing from the Japan of Tanaka (the Japanese prime minister), Sihanouk affirmed.

In conclusion, Sihanouk declared: I am like Van Thieu. I reject a cease-fire. I reject any compromise with the others. I reject a government of two or three factions. On these three points, our positions are similar.

KHMER SPOKESMAN DECRIES SIHANOUK STAND ON WAR

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0507 GMT 6 Oct 72 D

[6 October statement by Thong Lim Huong of the Information Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] In a statement to correspondents of a news agency in Peking, Sihanouk has disclosed that he has arranged for the invading North Vietnamese-Viet Cong forces to continue the war of aggression in the Khmer Republic even if there is a cease-fire in the republic of Vietnam or in Laos. Sihanouk also contended that he has been assured by North Vietnam and Communist China that they will always continue their aggression against the Khmer Republic even if the war lasts 5 more years. In order to conceal the savage aggression of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong against the Khmer Republic, Sihanouk added that Hanoi is closely following the so-called resolution of the 25 April 1970 summit conference of the Indochinese countries.

Regarding these assertions by this former dictator head of state, the Information Ministry of the Khmer Republic would like to denounce to world public opinion the fact that because he wants to take vengeance against the Khmer people and relishes their suffering, Sihanouk, the Peking puppet, has sought all available means to conceal and continue the barbarous war of aggression of the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong in the Khmer Republic.

Communist China has categorically rejected any Geneva-type international conference because it refuses to resolve the problem of the war of aggression in the Khmer Republic.

The Information Ministry of the Khmer Republic wishes to denounce the attitude of North Vietnam and Communist China in using Sihanouk as a stepping stone to continue the aggression of the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong forces in the Khmer Republic. North Vietnam and Red China are using Sihanouk to shield the aggressors' deliberate interference in the internal affairs of the Khmer Republic and to mask their intention to use Khmer territory for their aggressive acts against neighboring countries.

The Information Ministry of the Khmer Republic furthermore wishes to draw the attention of world public opinion to the criminal design of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong in using Sihanouk as a base to continue their war of aggression against the Khmer Republic in the most despicable attempt to put the Khmer people under their neo-colonialist-style control.

Phnom Penh 6 October 1972, Thong Lim Huong, under secretary of state for the Information Ministry.

INFORMATION MINISTRY DENOUNCES SCORCHED EARTH TACTICS

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1221 GMT 29 Sep 72 D

[29 September statement of the Khmer Information Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] It is clear that the invading North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces are currently implementing with increasing persistency a criminal scheme to destroy everything within Cambodian territory, particularly in all combat zones. As a result, houses in many places within the Khmer Republic have been burned down by the invaders in an open attempt to terrorize the citizens and increase the number of refugees and homeless. Simultaneously, the Vietnamese communists have perpetrated all sorts of destructive acts in our country in order to undermine our economy in the long run. Furthermore, within the framework of this criminal policy of destruction the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong have forcibly marched away Khmer inhabitants to faraway regions as if these people were suspects. This shows that the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong communists have not only committed destructive acts but also turned several places into virtual deserts by destroying everything in their paths and forcing inhabitants to abandon their houses if they have escaped being massacred.

For this reason, the Information Ministry of the Government of the Khmer Republic wishes to voice to national and international public opinion its energetic condemnation of the policy of destruction and oppression being implemented by the invading North Vietnamese and Viet Cong aggressors in regions under their control and in all operational zones. These incidents have occurred several times since the beginning of the war, which was provoked by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

In this connection, the Information Ministry stresses that it can supply to all foreign observers photographs and other evidence of destruction caused by the criminal policy of the invading Vietnamese communists who refuse to respect anything at all.

Phnom Penh, 29 September 1972

• COMMUNIST PRISONER DISPLAYED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1215 GMT 8 Oct 72 D

[Text] This morning at 1000 in the conference hall of the national radio station, Lt Col Am Rong, the under secretary of state for the Information Ministry and spokesman for the high command of the Khmer National Armed Forces, held a press conference during which he presented to local and foreign journalists a North Vietnamese-Viet Cong prisoner captured by our forces when the Vietnamese communists attacked the Chroui Changwar Bridge and the armored personnel carrier park on the night of 6-7 October.

At the beginning of the conference, Under Secretary of State for Information Thong Lim Huong told the journalists that on the night of 6-7 October North Vietnamese-Viet Cong suicide commandos attacked Phnom Penh in an attempt to create confusion in the capital and to spoil the All-Souls Day celebrations during which our citizens honor the souls of their ancestors, parents, and our heroes who died for the defense of our fatherland.

Lt Col Am Rong said that this North Vietnamese-Viet Cong prisoner was named (Nguyen Van Chau), born in [word indistinct] South Vietnam, and held the rank of a lieutenant. He commanded a unit assigned to capture our armored personnel carriers which were used to attack national Route 5.

Am Rong noted that while the enemy was attacking, our national forces immediately intervened and cut off the rear. They killed 81 enemy troops and captured six prisoners. In addition they seized a large quantity of war materiel and documents. The enemy dead and the captured prisoners indicate that they were Vietnamese nationals.

The press conference ended at 1100.

SPOKESMAN REPORTS 11 OCT MILITARY SITUATION

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0731 GMT 11 Oct 72 D

[Text] Deputy High Command Spokesman Maj Chhang Song reported this morning that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacked our positions at Lve and Koh Andet in Takeo Province. Communist gunners last night lobbed a barrage of 400 82-mm mortar rounds into the Lve garrison. Yesterday our troops defending the Kompong Seila region courageously withstood a North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attack, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. We suffered two killed and 12 wounded.

Our forces searching for the enemy in the capital and its suburbs captured a wounded Viet Cong in the Trapeang Prey area. In addition, the Phnom Penh security found five enemy rocket launchers yesterday.

BRIEFS

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE--By Decree 707-07/72 BST on 22 September Mr Thai Pheng, administrator 1st class of the primary tuition, identity no. 39, was appointed under secretary of state of the Ministry of Education and Culture in charge of the political connection with the government in replacement of Mr Pan Leng. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0510 GMT 30 Sep 72 D]