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V. SIHANOUK STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES
PEKING SUPPORT FOR HIS "KINGDOM"

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Peking NCNA International Service in English, 2030 GMT,
12 October 1970

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of the National United Front of Kampuchea, yesterday wrote to Chou En-Lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, expressing the deepest gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its statement of October 10. The message reads in full as follows:

His Excellency Mr. Chou En-lai
Premier of the State Council of
The People's Republic of China
Respected Mr. Premier,

In the name of the Khmer people, the National United Front of Kampuchea, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and in my own name, we beg Your Excellency to kindly convey to His Excellency the respected Vice-Chairman Lin Biao, to the Chinese government and the great Chinese people our deepest gratitude for the statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China issued on October 10, exposing the fraud of the Phnom Penh traitors, lackeys of the U.S. imperialists, in their so-called "republicanization" of the Khmer state, and reaffirming the very powerful and total support of China and its people for the Kingdom of Cambodia, the symbol of loyalty to the Khmer people, their supreme interests and their dignity, and the symbol of attachment to the ideals of democracy, freedom, progress and independence.

We are eternally grateful to China, the best friend and the greatest and most effective support of the Khmer people, for its equity with regard to the Khmer monarchy at a time when the Phnom Penh traitors are unjustly heaping all "sins" on it, shamelessly and unblushingly distorting the 2,000-year history of our race. In this regard, the Government of the People's Republic of China, of which Your Excellency, respected and loved by all the patriotic Khmers, is the eminent Premier, has made the following historical testimony to the world: "Whether a state is progressive or reactionary depends not on whether it bears the name of a kingdom or a republic, but on whether or not the policy it follows represents the interests of the people and whether or not its policy is anti-imperialist. There are certain kingdoms which pursue a policy of peace and neutrality, oppose imperialist aggression and defend their national independence, thus winning the approval and support of the people and playing a progressive role in history."

This judgment, so equitable, of the People's Republic of China, the perfect symbol of the people's ideals of progress, democracy, independence and anti-imperialism, constitutes for us all, for all the Khmers who are not denatured, the greatest encouragement in their struggle for the advent of social justice, economic development and people's democracy and for the restoration of complete independence to Cambodia.

It is with these sentiments that I beg Your Excellency to accept my highest and fraternal consideration.

Signed: Norodom Sihanouk
Head of State of Cambodia
October 11, 1970