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I. SIHANOUK - PENN NCUTE STATEMENT  
CALLS REPUBLIC "ABSOLUTELY ILLEGAL"

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Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia issued a joint statement today strongly denouncing and exposing the "republic" fraud of the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique. The statement emphatically points out that the bogus "republic" of the Lon Nolites is illegal, anti-popular, anti-democratic and anti-national, and absolutely cannot represent the Khmer people but is against the Khmer people. It appeals to all the countries and governments which love justice, freedom and democracy and peace to refuse resolutely to recognize de facto or de jure the bogus "republic" of the Lon Nolites. The statement reads in full as follows:

Joint Statement by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia

The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group, perpetrator of the March 18, 1970, coup proclaimed on October 9, 1970, what it called the "republic" of Cambodia and the abolition of the constitutional monarchy.

In connection with this, we solemnly declare:

First, the procedure of the so-called "republicanization" of the Khmer state, utilized by the putschists, usurpers of constitutional power in Phnom Penh and violators of the 1947 national constitution, is absolutely illegal. The principal reasons are, on the one hand, the intolerable violation of the basic provisions of the 1947 constitution which the Khmer people have never rejected and to which they remained deeply attached for 23 years, and on the other hand, the complete and undeniable absence of popular consultation (national referendum or new general legislative elections).

Second, the so-called legality of the new "republic" is based solely on the vote of the National Assembly and the Royal Council which has been arbitrarily called "Senate" in contravention of the constitution. It should be pointed out that these two chambers have already been dissolved by the Head of State in his solemn proclamation of March 23, 1970. The members of the present parliament have become irresponsible persons and "outlaws" since the March 18, 1970 coup for the following reasons:

A) Under the instigation of the C.I.A., they have deposed Head of State Norodom Sihanouk under the threat of the cannons, rifles and bayonets of the (military) junta of Lon Nol.

B) They have repeatedly violated the national constitution according to which the people had elected them to parliament (to say that they have repeatedly violated the constitution is because the Head of State, once nominated, was declared sacred and inviolable (Articles 122 and 35), the overthrow of a head of government and, moreover, a head of state, is inconceivable without preliminary interpellations and without permitting the accused during his sojourn abroad to return to the country and reply to the accusations (Articles 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 6 ); the national constitution (1947) under the authority of which the parliament members, authors of the present "republicanization", were elected by the people says explicitly in Article 1 that "Cambodia is a monarchy" and in Article 115 that the provisions related to the monarchic form of the state are not subjected to any proposal for revision"; these very parliament members have become perjurers, having violated the solemn oath they had taken the day after their elections by the people in conformity with Article 53 of the 1947 constitution which says textually: "At the beginning of each legislature and before assuming their functions, the members of the National Assembly (and the Royal Council) whose mandates are valid take the following oath in the seance hall and before the Head of State: "I swear to be loyal to the royal throne and to the constitution (of 1947) and to devote all my efforts to working for the benefit of the country"; even with regard to "the efforts for the benefit of the country" the said parliament members have become perjurers because they have taken part in doing so many things detrimental to the country since last March 18. (punctuation as received)

Third, the so-called "republic" of Lon Nol is an ultrabogus "republic" .

Etymologically, "republic" means public (in Latin: publica) matters (in Latin: res), that is to say, matters of the whole nation and of the entire people. But all honest observers in the world and all serious newspapers including the big American newspapers admitted that the Lon Nol regime is completely contrary to a republic: it is only a reactionary oligarchic minority in the pay of the U.S. imperialists.

Fourth, nearly all the people's masses of all tendencies, in the face of the oligarchy of the Lonnotites, have established today a united front (the National United Front of Kampuchea or the N.U.F.K.) as testified by reporters of big foreign newspapers such as the American Richard Dudman, the Frenchwomen Claude Muller and Lydie Nicaise, the Frenchmen Alain Clement and Xavier Baron, etc . . .

Fifth, the bogus "republic" of Lon Nol is anti-popular, anti-democratic and anti-national. Following are proofs:

A) The parliament members who are its theoretical founders (the real founders of this republic are no other than the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, the traitorous General Lon Nol and the traitorous Prince Sirik Matak) have cut all ties with the electorate since the March 18 coup d'etat. The only two deputies who dared to return (last March) to their electors to try to justify the illegal deposition of Prince Sihanouk were thrashed to pieces by the peasants and youth of their province.

E) The "rights and freedoms" that the bogus "republic" of Lon Nol has granted to the people are existing and will exist only on paper.

Even the American press itself has recently admitted this. For example, U.P.I. wrote in its cable dated October 5: "Douc Rasy, Chairman of the Committee drafting Cambodia's new constitution, said the new republic and constitution would ensure every Cambodian his basic freedoms. . . .

"Some observers noted that regardless of the move . . . Cambodia still remains under emergency laws declared shortly after hostilities broke on March 18. The emergency laws, paralleling martial law, were extended for another six months in September."

The Khmer people had already enjoyed all the rights and freedoms, announced to them by the Lonnotites, between May 6, 1947 and March 17, 1970 due to the 1947 constitution.

Since March 18, 1970, our people in the areas not yet liberated no longer enjoy these rights and freedoms. They have been entirely abolished by the Lonnotites through the "emergency laws" and the "martial law" imposed on the nation by the putschists and the traitorous parliament after their coup d'etat.

The American agency U.P.I. itself has made it clear that these anti-popular and anti-democratic laws will continue to be applied during another period of six months in spite of the new "republic" which claims to put an end to the "two thousand years of oppression and monarchic feudalism" (sic)!

One can be sure that in six months, the Lonnotites will announce that the emergency laws and the martial law will remain in force for another period of six months and so on, until . . . the fall of their regime.

Therefore, it can be seen clearly that the so-called pro-popular and democratic genuine "new constitution" which constitutes the base and essence of the "republic" of Lon Nol, is not and will never be the text elaborated by Douc Rasy to deceive the people, but the emergency laws and the martial law of Lon Nol.

What are these laws about?

The law of March 28, 1970, provides, in particular, that "the exercise of the rights stipulated in Article 4 (forbidding the arrests, detentions and arbitrary restraints), Article 9 (concerning freedom of speech, writing, printing and publication), Article 10 (concerning free association and freedom of assembly) and Article 12 (guaranteeing the secret of correspondence) of the Royal Constitution is suspended from March 18, 1970, for a period of six months which is renewable." (We draw attention here to the fact that this is a shameless and inadmissible violation of a sacred principle of international law which does not authorize a retroactivity legalizing the dictatorial acts committed before the vote of the emergency law). The same law also provides: "During the same period, the government (of Lon Nol) is authorized to take, in the form of decrees or laws, appropriate measures with regard to: police and justice, press and opinion, assembly, private correspondence."

The already notorious martial law dated May 30, 1970 says among other things: "The penalty of death and execution are condemned to those who participate or openly incite the revolt, the insurrection against the government (Lon Nol), to those who hatch a plot or launch a coup d'etat against the government (we stress the bitter irony of the case evoked by the Lon Nolites as they themselves climbed to power by a plot and a coup d'etat!), to all the persons armed by the government (Lon Nol) who desert their corps or grouping to join the enemy (that is to say to join the Khmer people struggling for national liberation), to those who provide for the enemy (that is to say the Khmer people) with food, to those who engage in subversive propaganda by oral or written means or any other visual or auditory method . . . .

The penalty of forced labour for life will be inflicted on the troublemakers who, by whatever means, make use of the situation to commit all kinds of exactions at the expense of nationals or foreigners, to enrich themselves illegally to the detriment of others (we stress the ignobly shameless and unchaste character of this provision of the martial law of Lon Nol, for in Cambodia, only the Lon Nolites and the mercenary troops of Saigon and Phnom Penh paid by Nixon are the troublemakers who make use of the situation to commit exactions (as received -- Ed) at the expense of the Khmers, the Vietnamese, the

Chinese, etc . . . and to enrich themselves illegally to the detriment of others, but they are not punished for this) . . . those who listen to the radio broadcasts of Peking, Hanoi, the Vietcong (sic) or other enemy broadcasts will get the penalty of forced labour for a period of from 5 to 20 years".

Meanwhile, this sinister martial law of Lon Nol, whose "chief drafter" is the same Douc Rasy who brags about accomplishing an original "democratic constitution", concludes: "During the period of the application of the present martial law, the repression of the crimes enumerated above is entrusted to military tribunals and the army (of course the mercenary army in the pay of Mr. Nixon). The sentences passed by these tribunals are not subjected to any appeal or cassation."

That is the true feature of the "new democracy" and the "republic" of the Lonolites in all its horror, cynicism and insolence with regard to the civilized people and states of the world.

C) Moreover, this "republic" is simply an arch-war criminal and an arch-criminal "credited" with the murder of several thousand of (unarmed) national opponents and the death, after agonizing suffering, and the indescribable mutilation of hundreds of thousands of citizens, men and women, in the cities and the countryside,

including women, old people and children, all of whom were crushed by the bombs, napalms and toxic chemicals dropped by the planes of the air forces of Washington, Saigon, Bangkok and Phnom Penh, and also "credited" with the genocide of tens of thousands of foreign residents, mainly Vietnamese.

Sixth, the "republic" of Lon Nol does not possess any attribute of interior or exterior sovereignty (even de facto).

In reality, its survival in Phnom Penh, as admitted even by Messrs. Nixon, Agnew (U.S.A.), Thieu and Ky (Saigon), depends solely on the U.S. military, financial, economic and material aid and the armed intervention by the Yankee, Saigon and Bangkok forces.

It governs only Phnom Penh (and moreover under the American-Saigon control). All the rest of the country is practically in the hands of the National United Front of Kampuchea whose national liberation armed forces appear everywhere. It is true that some important provincial cities, although attacked, have not yet been occupied by the national liberation armed forces of the N.U.F.K. but the American press itself admitted that these cities are in contact with Phnom Penh only by air!

The independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of the "Cambodia of Lon Nol" are sheer empty words, for the "Cambodia of Lon Nol" has once again become a protectorate of foreign countries (as at the time of French colonialism), a "cobra with three heads": U.S.A. - Saigon - Bangkok. Phnom Penh, the capital, has become a real American colony where the American Embassy (as revealed by U.S. correspondents) goes so far as to "advise" the Lon Nol troops to advance or retreat on the battlefield (for example, in Taing Mau, Kompong Thom province). The armed forces of the pro-U.S. Saigon generals Thieu-Ky have, as real colonialists, occupied certain cities (for example, Krek, Pochentong, Neak Loeung), certain districts (for example, Takeo, Kampot, Svay Rieng) and the off-shore islands of Cambodia.

All the incontestable facts that we have mentioned above prove that the "republic" of Lon Nol proclaimed on October 9, 1970, presents the following characteristics:

- It is illegal and anti-constitutional.
- It is bogus, anti-popular, anti-democratic and anti-national.
- It is a political criminal, a criminal by common law, and a war criminal.
- It has completely and irremediably ceded all the attributes of national sovereignty (independence, neutrality and territorial integrity) to a foreign power (the U.S.A.) and its satellites, immediate neighbours of Cambodia. Consequently, it does not possess any attribute of sovereignty attached to a state worthy of the name.

In regard to this unequivocal situation beyond all questions, we express the hope that:

- All the states and governments which love justice, freedom, democracy and peace will refuse to recognize *de facto* or *de jure* the bogus "republic" recently proclaimed by the Lon Nolites in Phnom Penh.
- Those which have left their embassies in Phnom Penh after the putsch of March 18, 1970, without recognizing the Lon Nol regime, will reconsider their position, because the Lon Nol clique has cut "all the bridges" with those which maintained, before October 1970, relations with the constitutional and popular legitimacy (consequently, this legitimacy as a whole belongs only to the Royal Government of National Union under the leadership of the N. U. F. K. and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia).

-- All the states and governments, which are sincere friends of the Khmer people and sincerely support their legitimate struggle for restoring national independence, neutrality, territorial integrity, democracy and peace to their motherland, will officially recognize the F.G.N.U., if they have not yet done so.

-- All the socialist or progressive or democratic states and governments will expose to the world the swindle of the bogus "republic" and sham "democracy" of the Lon Nolites and will condemn this regime for its innumerable crimes.

-- The monarchic states and governments will refuse to recognize de facto or de jure the Lon Nol regime which has accepted the role of instrument of the U.S. imperialists in the iniquitous act of regicide of a 2,000-year monarchy which has never betrayed the motherland and the people.

Finally, we assure all the republican or socialist states and governments that we are far from opposing a genuine republicanization of the Khmer state.

If we are firmly opposed to the present "republicanization" by the Lon Nolites, it is first of all because it is pure charlatanism, and then, above all, because only the whole nation, only the Khmer people as a whole have the right to decide on such a serious and important question (underscore in original text, Ed.)

If the Lon Nolites were real republicans and democrats respecting the people, they would not have hastily proclaimed their "republic" on October 9, 1970, but on the contrary would wait till the end of the war, till the restoration of peace, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and normal conditions of life to the whole country. It is only at that moment that the question could be solved legally, effectively and legitimately by all the men and women citizens of voting age in a national referendum (emphasis in original text). This is what the N.U.F.K., in conformity with the ideals of democracy written down in its political programme, has always advocated, and it is logical and legal even in so far as procedure is concerned.

The nasty proclamation of their "republic" by the Lon Nolites completely reveals their inadmissible contempt of the people and the national electorate, their political charlatanism, their complex of guilt with regard to the 1947 constitution and their usurpation of constitutional power, their uncertainty of the future, their desperate effort to cover up

their crimes, their unpardonable treason and dictatorship behind a demagogic "screen", and above all, their dreadful fear of the N.U.F.K. and its total victory, because the N.U.F.K. is the Khmer people themselves who fervently cherish the ideals of independence, freedom, social justice, democracy, progress and peace, and who indomitably struggle against U.S. imperialism which threatens and violates these ideals.

The bogus "republic" of the Lonnotites absolutely does not represent the Khmer people. It is against the Khmer people (emphasis in original text), because:

-- It deceives, despises and oppresses the people.

-- It betrays the people and the motherland in the interest of U.S. imperialism and its satellites (the anti-popular militarist regimes of Saigon and Bangkok).

-- It has literally murdered the 23-year-old Khmer democracy and replaces it with emergency laws and a martial law which strip the people and the nation of all their rights and freedoms and their sovereignty.

-- It has killed several thousand peaceful opponents and launched a war against its own people whose sole crime is that they want freedom and the liberation of their motherland.

-- It has appealed and continues to appeal officially to the U.S. imperialists and Saigon and Bangkok militarists for the genocide of the population of the cities and the countryside and for the total destruction of Cambodia (except its fief Phnom Penh).

-- It is responsible for the worst sufferings, the worst humiliations and the worst nationwide destruction ever known in the 2,000-year history of Cambodia.

We express in advance our profound gratitude to those states and governments which will kindly understand this statement.

October 10, 1970

Head of State and Chairman of the N.U.F.K.

Signed: Norodom Sihanouk

Chairman of the Political Bureau of the  
Central Committee of the N.U.F.K. and  
Prime Minister of the R.G.N.U.

Signed: Penn Nouth