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III. SIHANCUK, PENN NOUT I SEND CONGRATULATIONS TO KHIEU SAMPHAN

[Peking NCNA International Service, in English, 1543 GMT, 24 January 1971]

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia (NUFC) and Samdech Penn Notith, Chairman of the Political Bureau of the Cantral Committee of the NUFC and Prime Minister of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (RGNUC), sent a message yesterday to Khieu Camphan, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the NUFC, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense of the RGNUC, extending warmest congratulations on the resounding victories won by the National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (NLAFC) Kull text of the message follows:

His Excellency Khieu Samphan,

Member of Political Eureau of the Central Committee of the NUFC, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense of the RGNUC,

We request you and all the glorious and heroic fighters of the People's National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambolia to accept our hearty admiration, deep gratitude and warmest congratulations for your resounding victories won first of all in the big offensive of November, 1970, then in the Pich Nil region in December, 1970, and recently at Pochentong, during which the enemies of the Khmer people, namely, the U.S. imperialists, their Saigon lackeys, and Phnom Penh sub-lackeys, have suffered ignominious defeats and heavy losses. Your contribution to the liberation of our motherland and to national salvation is inestimable; your great victories and tremendous sacrifices will go down with shining words in the history of our beloved Cambodia to which you have largely saved her honour injured by the high treason of Lon Nol and his heinously criminal gang. We bow most respectfully to the illustrious memory of all our people's heroes and heroines who have fallen on the field of honour. We feel consoled with the knowledge that their supreme sacrifices will not be fruitless because out of their pure blood will be born a regenerated, free, completely independent, democratic and prosperous Cambodia. We extend to you and the beloved monks and the people our most affectionate regards.

Norodom Sihanouk

Head of State and Chairman of the NUFC

Penn Nouth

Chairman of the Political Bureau and

Prime Minister

January 23, 1971