



II. SIHANOUK REJECTS POSSIBILITY OF
"COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT" FOR CAMBODIA

[Cambodian Information Agency, clandestine, in French to
Southeast Asia and the Far East, 1100 GMT, 20 November 1971]

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and Chairman of NUFK, recently granted an interview to Joaquin Creyvo Daga special correspondent of Prensa Latina in Hanoi. Following are the questions and answer:

Question 1 -- Excellency, the western press is making speculations about a compromise settlement with regard to the Cambodian problem. What is your opinion of these rumors?

Answer -- Following their heavy defeats in the military, political, and economic fields, the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys and local sub-lackeys have been obliged to step up their political and diplomatic maneuvers, including the launching of the rumor on a compromise settlement. What sort of compromise? That NUFK and RGNUC agree to negotiate with the Phnom Penh traitors? That they discuss a partition of Cambodia? This will never happen! We will pursue the present national salvation struggle to the end, with neither a regressive spirit nor acceptance of any compromise. We will fight until the end of the aggression by the U.S. imperialists and their Saigon and Bangkok lackeys, until the overthrow of the regime of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh traitors, and until the advent of an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, democratic, and prosperous Cambodia with its territorial integrity within its frontiers. We will fight no matter what the sacrifices and no matter how long the struggle may take.

Question 2 -- The military situation is characterized by an increasing number of attacks around Phnom Penh and even in the capital itself. Does this intensification of the patriotic struggle constitute a new phase to definitely destroy the last den of the Lon Nol regime?

Answer -- Our guerrillas, regional and regular forces have gained valuable experience since the 18 March 1970 coup. Our CNPLAF have demonstrated that the enemy is not even safe in the urban centers temporarily occupied by him, and that the CNPLAF are able to use all forms of combat. It is hard to speak of a new phase in this war of national and people's liberation. We attack the enemy where we find him. He has taken refuge in some lairs, including the capital, as we have already liberated 8/10's of our national territory.

Of course, our armed forces and people must continue their offensive against these enemy lairs in order to completely eliminate them. The only obstacle to the complete liberation of our fatherland is the massive intervention of the U.S. Air Force.

Question 3 -- What do you think is the basis for the close unity between NUFK and RGNUC in the development of the armed and political struggle for the complete liberation of Cambodia?

Answer -- According to my 23 March 1970 statement, NUFK is a broad national movement including all strata of our people who are inspired by the purest patriotism and gathered in fruitful and indestructible unity by deep attachment to the Khmer nation's noble traditions of struggle against foreign aggression. The NUFK mission is to lead the people's war and expel from Cambodia the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their Saigon and Bangkok lackeys, overthrow the bloodthirsty regime of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh traitors, and build an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, democratic, and prosperous Cambodia.

NUFK's strength lies principally in a correct political line contained in its political program which conforms to the deep aspirations of the Khmer people, especially the working class and peasantry. NUFK committees--true people's organs of administration and government --have been set up at the hamlet, village, district and provincial levels. Since NUFK is a national, patriotic and popular movement, the Royal Government which stems from it can only be one of national union and harmony. This is why RGNUC includes patriotic personages from all social strata and having different political tendencies. Apart from a minority of traitors led by Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh, the Khmer people unanimously give enthusiastic and devoted support to NUFK and RGNUC which they recognize as their only legal and legitimate representative.

Question 4 -- In accordance with the spirit of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference Joint Statement, will you please relate the most significant successes of this historic meeting under the present circumstances?

Answer -- Faced with common enemies, the Indochinese People's Summit Conference has strengthened solidarity, mutual assistance and cooperation among the three peoples. It has greatly contributed to developing brotherly friendship and neighborly relations among the three countries. However, it has also clearly stated that the liberation

and defense of each country must be the task of each people... A result of this cooperation is the strategic victories won by each people within their own territory. The most significant success was the defeat of the Americans and their puppets along Route 9 in Southern Laos, in Khe Sanh, South Viet-Nam, and the areas of Chup, Damber and Snoul in Cambodia. These operations were carried out simultaneously. It is certain that this historic unity of our three peoples constitutes a decisive factor in our common and final victory over the U.S. aggressors and their local lackeys.

Question 5 -- What is your opinion on the struggle of the third world people, in general, and the Latin American people, in particular, and also on these people's movement of solidarity with the Khmer people and the other Indochinese people?

Answer -- The international situation is excellent for the world people's struggle for freedom and national independence. Considering itself an international policeman, U.S. imperialism is faced with inextricable difficulties in all fields -- military, political, economic, financial and social. In this matter, the Indochinese people have been making their contribution by standing at the frontline of the anti-imperialist struggle. They have also demonstrated that despite their weak technical and material means, the Asian, African and Latin American people are able not only to resist imperialist aggression but also to win decisive victories. Imperialist exploitation and domination in certain Latin American countries have attained such a degree that they become unbearable to the local people, who have risen up to struggle in various forms. Noteworthy success has been achieved in Cuba and Chile. Other Latin American people are still struggling. If they have an unshakable determination and if they are provided with a just and correct political line and leadership, they will win final victory. The people of the third world have given the firmest support to the Khmer and Indochinese people and have never missed an opportunity to show their solidarity with us. Our struggle is doubtlessly common to all. Nevertheless, I gladly take this opportunity to voice our deepest gratitude to them, especially to the heroic brotherly people of Cuba and their revolutionary government headed by Major Fidel Castro. As far as Cambodia is concerned, RGNUC is now recognized by 28 countries, most of which belong to the third world. We are convinced that in the future other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America will give RGNUC -- the only legal and legitimate government of Cambodia and the only true representative of the (?fighting) Khmer people--their militant and positive sympathy--that is, their official recognition.