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TEXT OF SIHANOUK STATEMENT REJECTING TALKS OFFER

*Cambodian Information Agency [Clandestine] in French to East Asia 1140 GMT
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[Text] Cambodia, 12 Jul, AKI—On 10 July Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state and chairman of the NUFC, issued a statement in Peking, vigorously rejecting the fallacious proposal for holding negotiations and forming a government of national coalition put forth by the clique of traitor Lon Nol at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists. The statement also expressed the firm determination of the Cambodian people to fight to the end for the liberation of their fatherland. The text of the statement is as follows:

The U.S. Government headed by Richard Nixon has just ordered the so-called government of the so-called Khmer Republic in Phnom Penh to proclaim an offer of negotiation, reconciliation, peace and establishment of a Lao-type government of national coalition.

In this connection, in my capacity as the legal chief of state of Cambodia, recognized as such by the entire Cambodian resistance movement (including the Khmer Rouge, the most famous of whom is Khieu Samphan), and also officially recognized by 60 sovereign states in the world, I would like to give the following exact information to international opinion so that it will not be misled by the hypocritical, deceptive, shameless and cynical propaganda of U.S. imperialism of which the so-called Khmer Republic is a foul tool.

First, the NUFC, RGNUC and CPNLAF are not making war for the sake of war, but embody the Cambodian people's genuine, profound and unshakable desire for freedom, independence and nonalignment. They are forced to wage an extremely difficult armed struggle against the super powerful and super rich United States which, unprovoked by the people and Kingdom of Cambodia, has committed aggression and invaded and colonized them after organizing the so-called republican coup d'etat of 18 March 1970.

Consequently, the armed struggle that the NUFC, RGNUC and CPNLAF have waged for more than 4 years is a sacred struggle of national salvation and national liberation. It is a national duty and not just an act of belligerency.

Second, international opinion should keep this crucial point of history in view: the sole abettor of war in Cambodia is U.S. imperialism. It and it alone has put an end since 1970 to the 16 years of peace in the Kingdom of Cambodia which, to that date, was called by all of the world people an oasis of peace in wartorn Indochina.

The aggression against the Kingdom of Cambodia by the United States has started since 18 March 1969.

In fact, exactly a year before the 18 March 1970 coup d'etat, U.S. President Richard Nixon ordered the U.S. Air Force based in South Vietnam to begin the bombing and strafing raids over the neutral Kingdom of Cambodia with the glaring double aim, on the one hand, of ruining the economy and finances of the anti-imperialist royal government, which made the mistake of daring to reject all U.S. aid since 1963 and, on the other hand, of causing the people of the bombed and strafed areas and the members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces to lose confidence in Norodom Sihanouk's ability to defend the neutrality, sovereignty, peace and prosperity of the country.

On 18 March 1970 the (U.S.) CIA organized and . . . succeeded in the coup d'etat against Sihanouk and the Independent and neutral Kingdom of Cambodia that U.S. imperialism has since changed into a "republic"—a satellite of "Washington"—and integrated it in the pro-imperialist and capitalist system of the so-called free world.

The Royal Cambodian Army, after being transformed into a "republican army" has been immediately used by the Americans to fight against the forces of the NFLSV operating against U.S. imperialism in the zones of South Vietnam adjoining the Cambodian border.

President Richard Nixon denied that his government was "behind" the 18 March 1970 coup d'etat. However, on 30 April 1970 he ordered 50,000 U.S. soldiers and 60,000 Saigon troops to invade Cambodia to save the Phnom Penh regime of the quisling (Lon Nol) from being defeated by the patriotic Cambodian people.

Between 1970 and 1973 the government of Washington used several groups of mercenaries and many foreign individuals (Thai, South Vietnamese, Lao, Taiwanese, Philippine and so on) to help the clique of traitor Lon Nol wage the war against the patriotic Cambodian people. These foreigners served either in the ground forces, the Marine Corps or the Air Force.

From 18 March 1960 to 15 August 1973 the U.S. Air Force stepped up the number and intensified the deadly, destructive firepower and violence of its raids in Cambodia. The acknowledged goal of these raids was to annihilate the resistance movement of the Cambodian people while completely destroying Cambodia for making the mistake of not following the Lon Nol clique on the path of national treason and treason to the idea of nonalignment of the Third World.

From 18 August 1973 up to now, the United States has pretended that it has no role in the Cambodian war because, as they say, this war has "become a pure civil war" pitting nobody else but the Cambodians against each other.

As far as the NUFC, RGNVC and CPNLAF are concerned, the affirmation by the Americans and their press saying that "the Khmer Rouge are fighting alone without the assistance of any Viet Cong or North Vietnamese combat unit" corresponds to the reality.

But so far as the "Lon Nol side" is concerned, such an affirmation about a "civil war" is absolutely incorrect. The truth is that the Americans continue to command and take a direct part in the Cambodian war. Therefore this war is not a "civil war," but a war of aggression and colonization against Cambodia by the United States.

According to an official confession of (U.S.) Secretary of Defense Schlesinger, the U.S. Air Force based in Thailand carried out nearly 700 flights every month to help, in various ways, the Lon Nol army to "contain" the assaults and offensives of the CPNLAF.

The U.S. Marines and the Saigon Marines help the "Lon Nol marine" to fight the CPNLAF and NUFC all along the Cambodian seacoast (blockade of the coast, occupation of coastal islands, transport of logistics, transport of Cambodian officers and American weapons, transport of war material and military personnel for coastal cities such as Kampot, Sihanoukville, and Ream that are besieged on land by the CPNLAF and so forth).

In the field of operations, several hundred U.S. officers are openly commanding "Lon Nol" units. As a matter of fact, according to the U.S. press itself, U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean is the supreme chief of general staff of the so-called Khmer Republic army.

On top of this we should point out the presence everywhere of CIA officers who, according to the U.S. press itself, are active in "Lon Nolite" provincial cities handling the (forcible) recruitment of young "cannonfodder" and their training, in the "secret war" against the patriots (war of the Hitlerite SS or Gestapo kind) and so on.

Finally, we should also mention the very important fact that the U.S. Congress itself is an accomplice of Richard Nixon by according to him massive credits (nearly \$700 million per annum) to render viable the "Khmer Republic"—meaning U.S. neocolonialism set up in Phnom Penh and in one-tenth of Cambodia.

Thus, the key to war and peace in Cambodia is in the hands of the United States, aggressor against my country.

It would thus be insane to accuse the NUFC, RGNUG and CPNLAF or Sihanouk of refusing peace.

Peace? We demand no other than this, and immediately; but we would not accept a peace without returning 100 percent to Cambodia her freedom, sovereignty, national independence, territorial integrity, national unity and state unity.

We shall always categorically refuse an "American peace" which imposes partition of our country or a "government coalition" with the traitors (the quislings and the Pierre Laval's whom one would send to a firing squad but with whom one would never sit at a table of government or even a table of * * * negotiations).

The return of peace to Cambodia need not go through "negotiations" or an "international conference". This peace can be realized immediately: if the United States ceases to interfere in Cambodia's affairs and ceases to give military aid to the Lon Nol clique, this will suffice for the Cambodian problem to be solved ipso facto.

Third, the NUFC, RGNUG, CPNLAF and Norodom Sihanouk together embody the State of Cambodia, the state of independent and nonaligned Cambodia.

Indeed the U.S. press in particular and the press of the so-called "free" world in general call us "rebels".

We are not "rebels" for the double reason that, on the one hand, we embody the legal Government of Cambodia, the legal regime of the Kingdom of Cambodia illegally "deposed" from Phnom Penh by the (U.S.) CIA-paid lackeys, and, on the other hand, we are fighting not against a national government, for we are the national government, but against U.S. imperialism, which is a foreign power and which commits aggression against us and carries out an atrocious war of genocide without declaration of war and without any acceptable justification.

As for the "Khmer Republic" and the "Lon Nol-Long Boret government," what are they really?

The most recent, serious and thorough inquiries by the big U.S. press affirm that they have no popular basis and that they only exist and survive thanks to the United States.

These inquiries led us to establish the following most singular and astounding, but very precise fact: U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean, given "full powers" by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, is the absolute master of the so-called Khmer Republic. It is Dean who chose Long Boret as chief of the Phnom Penh "government". The "ministers" of this government are chosen by * * * Dean. It is also Dean who names various posts, praises or blames, moves or recalls, or retires the principal civilian and military figures of the "Khmer Republic". It was Dean who fired Cheng Heng (the No. 3 man of the regime at the beginning) from the High Political Council of this republic. It was Dean who replaced the High Political Council with a High Executive Council led by another favorite lackey of the Americans: ex-Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak. And finally, it was again Dean who, from the confession of some big Western press agencies themselves, fancied and decided to launch the new seemingly charming offensive in the form of the offer of a general reconciliation among Cambodians and peace in Cambodia accompanied by formation of a government of national coalition. [words indistinct] satellites of the United States. Nevertheless, the respective governments of these countries have some kind of personality, enjoy a certain degree of support of the people and know how to create a certain state sovereignty. But the so-called Khmer Republic is absolutely naked in the sense that it has no serious legal basis, enjoys no popular support (except for the support of rapacious persons and hooligans who make personal profit from it), is spat at by its own rightist youths and has no means to survive by itself.

This so-called republic claims to have under control a large territory of great economic significance and the majority of the Cambodian people. If it is so, why can it survive (and even so, very painstakingly) only thanks to the continued aid of the United States, Thailand, South Vietnam, South Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand, Japan and so on, not only in kind but also in rice, maize, meat, vegeta-

bles, fruit, tobacco, vegetable oil, cotton and so on—all agricultural products that the Kingdom of Cambodia produced and exported in large quantities and that the present Cambodia of the NUFC and RGNUC (representing nine-tenths of national territory) is producing in more than sufficient quantities for its own consumption and even for export to our neighbors and brothers of liberated South Vietnam and Laos?

The Khmer Republic thus has no legal or economic basis, nor any living territory; that is, a territory where the people can live normally while working and producing.

Therefore, it is a puppet, without soul and without life—a puppet of the United States. When one peace proposal or another seems to come from its mouth, in reality it only comes from the mouth of the U.S. Government, which shamelessly manipulates it.

I invite the latter to stop its hypocritical and cynical game and not to cowardly try to mislead international opinion by attempting to present white as black and black as white, i.e., that the NUFC, RGNUC, CPNLAF and Norodom Sihanouk are warmongers whereas Washington and Phnom Penh are pacifists and replete with good will.

On behalf of the NUFC, RGNUC and CPNLAF, I demand that the U.S. Government led by Richard Nixon unconditionally and immediately cease interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs and unconditionally and immediately dismantle the U.S. neocolonialist system established in Phnom Penh and several other Cambodian cities.

Failing this, the NUFC, RGNUC, CPNLAF and Norodom Sihanouk will fight the enemy to death. We shall never accept any compromise with the traitors, his [as received] despicable lackeys.

The patriotic Cambodian people entrust us with the sacred, historic task of carrying the struggle of (total) national liberation to the end. We will not fail in our solemn commitment. Whatever difficulties we meet in the future (for we do not forget that we have as an adversary the super-rich power in the world and the best "equipped," the most cruel, the most cynical, the most immoral and the most obstinate imperialism of all times) and even if we have to fight and suffer for 10 or 20 more years we will never go down on our knees. We will never accept an "American peace". We swear before history, we will certainly achieve the "Cambodian peace".

