

IV. 4 Sep 73

C A M B O D I A

CAMB
ASIA
FILED 1 SUBJ.
DATE SUB-CAT.
9/73

SIHANOUK REVEALS DRV 'RESUMPTION' OF MILITARY SUPPLIES

Hong Kong AFP in English 1809 GMT 1 Sep 73 B--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Peking, Sept 1 (AFP)--Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia revealed to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that North Vietnam had resumed its supply of munitions to the "people's forces" which would launch a general assault on Phnom Penh during the next dry season, between December and May. The prince denied, however, having made a statement recently attributed to him in which he reportedly said that this offensive would be carried out "with direct military support from North Vietnam."

He reaffirmed that there was not and there would not be in Cambodia "any National Liberation Front or North Vietnamese unit taking part directly or indirectly in our national war of liberation against U.S. imperialism and the clique of the puppet Lon Nol."

Prince Sihanouk said that following recent talks here with North Vietnamese leaders, "the munitions are starting to arrive." He has always maintained that these deliveries were broken off in January after the signature of the Vietnam peace agreement in Paris.

The prince said, "Compared with the munitions and equipment which Nixon is giving to Lon Nol, the amount is still very small, but our North Vietnamese friends are already starting to resume deliveries. We managed to convince them that they were not violating the Paris accords since the Americans have already been ignoring Article 20 of those agreements for a long time.... They are inundating the Lon Nol regime with an uninterrupted flood of tanks, new planes, new cannon."

Prince Sihanouk said the "people's forces" in Cambodia were using part of the arms for the current fighting and stockpiling the rest for the attack on Phnom Penh.

He said he was leaving tomorrow for the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Algiers "as a virtual victor," assured of the support of most of the participants, and expressed the hope that the conference would recognize his government as the only legitimate government of Cambodia and adopt a resolution condemning the present regime in Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk said that Marshal Lon Nol had sent the conference a letter stating that Sihanouk, in exile, had neither territory nor influence in Cambodia. The prince noted, however, that even the American press recognized that the "resistance forces" were in control of 80 percent of the country.

He said that he intended to sit with the "left wing" group at the Algiers conference.

However, he noted a message sent to the conference by Soviet party leader Leonid Brezhnev calling on the participants to concentrate on the fight against imperialism rather than that of the poor countries against the rich. Prince Sihanouk said, "he cannot prevent the non-aligned countries from concentrating their attack on the rich countries, which exploit our resources without giving adequate compensation."