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N O R T H V I E T N A M

## ✓ SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK STRUGGLE AGAINST COUP VOICED

## NHAN DAN Commentator's Article

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1115 GMT 24 Mar 70 S

✓ [NHAN DAN 24 March commentator's article: "Cambodia's Just Struggle Will Certainly Be Victorious"]

[Text] On 20 March, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state of the Kingdom of Cambodia, now in China, issued a statement expressing his attitude toward the recent coup in Phnom Penh and the Khmer people's struggle to protect independence and national sovereignty and oppose the U.S. imperialists and the pro-U.S. extreme-rightist group.

Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk stated: "The 18 March 1970 coup d'etat staged by the extreme rightists was illegal, because the Cambodian Constitution does not have any provision for the deposition of the head of state by the government or the parliament or even the Council of the Kingdom. This deposition must be decided by a national referendum whose validity cannot be contested."

The Cambodian Chief of State completely rejected all the reasons put forward by the coup makers, who allegedly said that Cambodia is "in grave crisis" and that "the motherland is in danger" caused by the Chief of State's betrayal and by the Vietnamese.

Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk pointed out that all the coup promoters' allegations were deceitful because "the country has long been in a state of peace and undeniable political stability." The Chief of State denounced: "It is the coup group itself which deliberately undermined peace and political stability in the country, by organizing with its hatchetmen many demonstrations, said to be spontaneous, to ransack the Vietnamese embassies and agencies and terrorize Vietnamese nationals." The Chief of State stressed: "These acts were subversive, racist, ultranationalist and, to be precise, fascist, these acts were aimed at meeting the personal ambitions of the coup makers and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency."

Dealing with his attitude toward the present situation in Cambodia, Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk declared that he "still legally leads the Khmer state and will, together with the Cambodian people, wage a struggle from outside and inside the country to obliterate the coup d'etat and restore legality and democracy." The Chief of State was firmly convinced that the reactionary clique of the extreme right, lackeys of the U.S. imperialists, will be overthrown in the near future, that the Khmer people will be liberated from the oppression by the bourgeoisie and the treacherous princes and their U.S. masters, and that Cambodia will be endowed with a regime truly rooted in the people.

Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's statement has elucidated the Cambodian situation and pointed out the cause and true nature of the coup as well as the activities against Vietnam by the pro-U.S. extreme rightists.

The 18 March coup was masterminded by the U.S. imperialists. This is too obvious. It is the greatest crime in the hostile activities carried out systematically by the Americans against Cambodia for more than 10 years. It is aimed at abolishing the policy of peace and neutrality and the independence of Cambodia and thereby transforming this country into a neocolony, a military base, and a springboard for the Americans to invade other Indochinese countries.

The U.S. plot to stage a coup in Cambodia has long been obvious. The subversive upheavals by Dapp Cmuon, Sam Sary, and Son Ngoc Thanh, the bombing at the Royal Palace, and the occupation of the Preah Vihear temple of Cambodia by the ~~Thai~~ troops were organized and commanded by the Americans.

Since he acceded to power, Nixon has, on the one hand, talked about peace and friendship and, on the other hand, has had U.S. and puppet troops launch provocative attacks, has sent aircraft to bomb and strafe Cambodian territory, and has assembled and incited the pro-U.S. ultrarightist forces to oppose Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and Cambodia's policy of peace and neutrality. Western public opinion, with concrete proof, has also said that the Americans were involved in the coup.

The 18 March coup was the U.S. imperialists' frenzied act against the Cambodian people and at the same time against the Vietnamese and Laotian peoples. It reflects the Nixon doctrine of using Asians to fight Asians and here using Indochinese to fight Indochinese.

The fact that the coup's leaders are directing the spearhead of criticism at Vietnam is aimed at concealing the U.S. subversive acts and creating division and enmity between the Vietnamese and Cambodian people. This argument is also aimed at preparing for the use of Cambodia by the Americans to oppose the Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle.

The coup d'etat in Cambodia once again clearly shows the extremely reactionary policy of the Nixon administration, which despite heavy setbacks is still trying by every means possible to expand and prolong the aggressive war in Indochina. The aforementioned situation clearly bares the deceitful arguments of the pro-U.S. ultrarightist clique. The promoters of the critical situation in Cambodia are the U.S. imperialists and the coup's leaders.

The traitors to the country who are causing danger to the fatherland are the pro-U.S. coup leaders, as Prince Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk has clearly pointed out. These persons want to justify their ugly acts and are trying to find an excuse to repress the Cambodian people and patriotic forces. But their deceitful arguments clearly show a truth which is known to everybody, and this truth also completely rejects the slanders of the pro-U.S. ultrarightist clique in Cambodia against the Vietnamese people. They only repeat the old U.S. argument that Vietnam invades Cambodia. They brazenly state that Vietnam is an enemy of Cambodia. But the Cambodian people have clearly realized that their most dangerous enemies are the U.S. imperialists and those who follow the Americans to oppose Cambodia's independences.

No wicked scheme of the enemy can divide the Vietnamese and Cambodian people, the age-old neighbors and comrades-in-arms in the struggle against the common enemy, the U.S. imperialists. The Vietnam-Cambodia friendship which has been forged in the struggle is growing ever more strong and developed. Nothing can break this friendship. Our people are firmly continuing to build the "good neighbor" relations and lasting solidarity with the brotherly Cambodian people for the sake of the interests of the two countries, of the Indochinese people, and for the sake of the peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

Now, as in the past, our people have always and firmly supported the Cambodian people's struggle for the defense of their independence and national sovereignty and their policy of peace and neutrality against the lackeys of the U.S. imperialists, the just struggle of the Indochinese people, and an active part of the world people's struggle for peace and national independence against the warlike U.S. imperialist aggressors.

Prince Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's statement on 20 March clearly reflects his determination together with the Cambodian people to carry out a struggle against the Americans and the pro-U.S. ultrarightist clique, for the defense of the Cambodian independence and national sovereignty. This sacred struggle will certainly be warmly supported by the Indochinese people and the independence and freedom-loving people worldwide.

V Hanoi Radio Commentary

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 1750 GMT 23 Mar 70 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 23--Voice of Viet Nam radio today voiced warm welcome to the statement of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of the Kingdom of Cambodia, issued to the press in Peking on March 20, 1970.

In its commentary entitled "The odious nature of the U.S. imperialists and Cambodian coup makers has been exposed", the radio said: That important document has shed more light on the dark schemes of the U.S. imperialists and the pro-American extreme-rightist clique in Cambodia, helping public opinion to see more clearly the character of the coup and the tricks played by the coup group.

On the character of the coup, Head of State Norodom Sihanouk noted that the March 18 coup is "illegal, arbitrary, anti-constitutional" staged under the command of the C.I.A. Those who made this "deliberate coup" are "the reactionary clique of the extreme-right, lackeys of the American imperialists", who "oppress the people and are leading the nation to war and the abandonment of its independence."

What is their aim? according to Head of State Norodom Sihanouk the aim of the coup is to "establish a dictatorship of unlimited duration" "in the interest of the American imperialists." Everybody knows that during the recent days, to cover the (?interventionist) and dangerous manoeuvre of the U.S. imperialists in Cambodia, the coup makers have unleashed a hectic campaign against the Vietnamese people, tried to sow enmity between the two nations of Vietnam and Cambodia. That odious trick has been laid bare by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk who said that the coup group has "incited my countrymen to attack Vietnamese civilians and even their places of worship by racist, ultra-nationalist and, to be precise, fascist [maneuvers], demagoguery and subversion."

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk refuted such fallacious charges made by the coup makers as: the Head of State had betrayed the fatherland and the people, the Vietnamese people who are resisting the U.S. aggressors had invaded Cambodia, and "the fatherland is in danger."

The above denouncements by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk have exposed before public opinion the vicious policy of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen who want to sow discord between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples with a view subsequently to dominating the peoples of both countries. The Khmer people, who have seen through the U.S. imperialists' schemes, will certainly distinguish between friend and foe and unite with the Vietnamese people to spearhead their struggle against the common enemy, U.S. imperialism.

Exulting at the showdown by its henchmen, the U.S. hurriedly recognized the coup makers as "legal government" in Cambodia so as to encourage and support them. But Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has severely warned them as follows:

"I draw the attention of all the governments having diplomatic relations with us. . . before this unjustified" deposition "to the unfortunate consequences that might arise from a formal recognition on their part of the new regime born of a veritable coup d'etat and an abject betrayal . . . the recognition of such a regime has a significance of opposing the legality and Constitution of Cambodia and the Khmer people."

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk pointed out that he himself has no ambition for power and he would resign from his supreme position once Cambodia is liberated from the yoke of U.S. imperialism and its stooges. But at the present time, because the coup makers want to sell out Cambodia to the U.S. imperialists, therefore his task is to join in the sacred struggle which the whole Khmer people will carry out from foreign countries or right in the country so as to get rid of this coup d'etat group and restore legality and democracy.

The radio went on: "The Vietnamese people warmly welcome the March 20 statement of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk. So far, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has always pursued a policy of solidarity and friendship with the Vietnamese people, in the interest of the struggle of the two nations against the common enemy, the U.S. imperialists. The recent events in Cambodia have borne out the judiciousness of that clear-sighted policy. The March 20 statement of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, which lays bare the U.S. imperialists' scheme to sow discord between the two nations, will contribute to further strengthening the militant solidarity between the peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia. [quotes as received]"

Together with the broad public opinion the world over, we energetically condemn the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen for having staged the coup d'etat on March 18 against Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer people with the aim of abolishing the independence and sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia. We resolutely support the just struggle being carried out by Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer people to negate the coup and safeguard the independence and the policy of peace and neutrality. The U.S. imperialists are very wicked and perfidious, but they will certainly meet with failure in Cambodia, just as they have met with failures in Vietnam and Laos. As Head of State Norodom Sihanouk pointed out, "The downfall in the near future of the reactionary clique of the extreme-right, lackeys of the American imperialists, is inevitable."

We are convinced that the Khmer people, with their tradition of indomitable struggle with their experience in fighting against the U.S. imperialists for decades and the wholehearted support at present by the progressive public opinion in the world, will certainly overcome all difficulties and obstacles and gain final victory in their just struggle.