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SIHANOUK SHOWN AS HAVING ALWAYS SUPPORTED FIGHT AGAINST THE U.S.

[Article by Dieu Binh: "Living And Dying Side By Side, We Will Surely Be Victorious"; Hanoi, Nhan Dan, Vietnamese, 26 May 1970, p 3]

The more fervently a nation values its independence and genuine freedom the more fervently it supports the struggle of other nations for their independence and genuine freedom.

President Ho, the endlessly respected and loved great leader of our people, taught us: "There is nothing more precious than independence and freedom". Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, the great patriot, the wise leader of the Cambodian people, has stressed upon his countrymen: "If you have weapons use them, if you have sticks use them, the Cambodian people will resolutely protect their independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity".

The friendship of neighbors and that of those living and dying side by side closely unites the Vietnamese and Cambodian people. This friendship originates mainly from legitimate national pride and a warm love of Fatherland, a love of freedom and common rights which is always burning in the hearts of the people of each country, and a deep hatred of imperialist aggressors and their lackey cliques.

Vietnam and Cambodia are close neighbors, share a common life on the Indochina Peninsula, and have had long economic and cultural relations. The people of both countries have gone through the stages of heroic struggle against the aggression of colonialist cliques for their independence and freedom and have gained glorious victories. But the U.S. imperialists are recklessly acting against the people of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos and are attempting to put a new yoke of their colonialism on the Indochina Peninsula.

The plan of the U.S. imperialists against the people of the three countries is a unified one: use Indochinese to attack Indochinese, use the country of Vietnam as a springboard for attacks on Cambodia and Laos, and also use Laos as a springboard against Cambodia and Vietnam. The plots of the U.S. are very dangerous but they cannot make the people of our three countries submit. On the contrary, the more they escalate their war of aggression the more heavily they will be defeated, the more they will contribute to, contrary to their wishes, causing what Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk called: "consciousness of Indochina", that is to say the realization by the people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos of the need for strong relations to unite the three countries before their common enemy, the U.S. imperialists. Examining the extremely grave situation brought about recently by the U.S. escalation of their war of aggression into Cambodia, we more clearly see that that unity is a historical necessity, an invincible force, and a factor in deciding the common victory of the people of Indochina in the work against the U.S. for national salvation.

Today, amidst an enthusiastic welcome by all the people of Hanoi for Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, members of his staff, and envoys who have brought the deep friendship of seven million Cambodian people to our people, we look back and happily see more clearly than ever before the firm roots of a friendship in battle which has been formed and challenged in the flames of the struggle against U.S. imperialist aggression, a friendship which is bright and lofty.

Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk has said: "Concerning the Vietnam problem, our attitude is based on reality, but we clearly know that means the realities in Indochina".

We deeply admire the Cambodian people who, under the leadership of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, have long distinguished right and wrong in the smoke of fires lighted by the U.S. aggressor clique in South Vietnam. With the true heart of a great patriot, with the foresight of a wise leader of a people rich in the traditions of unyielding struggle and the moral law of Buddhism, Norodom Sihanouk has explained the nature of events in Indochina to his countrymen, telling them what is right, what is evil, who the enemy is, who their friends are, what must

be done, and the clear direction to be taken in the Indochina situation. He said: "The people of Indochina are resolutely against the U.S. imperialists and will not be suppressed by them. The strength of the people is invincible. We have been victorious because our Cambodian people are of one heart and because the Vietnamese and Chinese nationals in Cambodia have united with our people and are determined to resist the imperialist clique and not allow them to strike Cambodia"(25 April 1965). In revealing the just nature and inevitable victory of the war of the people of Vietnam and the unjust nature of U.S. imperialist aggression, Norodom Sihanouk said: "The people of Vietnam are engaged in a just task. If we were the people of Vietnam we would fight as they are"(22 September 1965).

"Vietnam belongs to the people of Vietnam not to the Americans. The aggressor is not Vietnam. The people of Vietnam are not their own aggressors. The aggressor is the U.S.. Because of that the U.S. must get out of Vietnam"(21 January 1966).

The wisdom of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk goes beyond the scope of the Indochina Peninsula and clearly sees the international significance of the war of the people of Vietnam against the U.S. for national salvation.

"U.S. escalation in Vietnam is only a preparation for other escalations in different places in the world. In regard to that, we must realize that if we do not help the people of Vietnam and the people of Indochina in general then in reality we encourage the clique of aggressors"(6 October 1965).

The Chief of State has spoken about all that is disdained by the Cambodian people and the people of Indochina concerning the U.S. robber clique. "The U.S. imperialists are worthy of disdain. They are selfish, they separate the races, and are bloodthirsty by nature. They will surely be defeated"(8 November 1965). The clear-cut attitude of the Cambodian people "stands in the socialist camp, resolutely participates in the struggle of the people of the world against imperialism, and is determined to never retreat"(17 May 1965). In that struggle

"even if we have to endure difficult challenges, we will resist with the firm confidence that the imperialist clique will be ineffective and unable to break the unity of the nations of Indochina"(December 1965).

Those wise realizations of the respected and loved leader of the Cambodian people are the firm foundation of the sympathy and strong support of the Cambodian people for the undertaking of our people against the U.S. for national salvation.

Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk has not stopped strongly condemning the barbarous war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists and has not stopped trying to strengthen the unity of the three countries in Indochina and between the people of Cambodia and Vietnam. The Indochina Conference, summoned in March 1965 by the Chief of State, was a milestone on the road of solidifying and expanding the fighting unity of the people of the nations of Indochina. With new deep sympathy the Cambodian people followed the fight of our people in both South and North Vietnam, expressed their delight at our victories, and have violently condemned the barbarous criminal actions of the U.S. pirates against our people. Speaking about the feeling and thoughts of the Cambodian people, Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, in his country, outside it, and in newspapers and magazines, always concerns himself with encouraging our people and exposing the face of U.S. imperialist aggression.

The Chief of State and the Kingdom's government, following the leadership of President Ho, were some of the first to recognize the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government for the Republic of South Vietnam as the legitimate representatives of the people of South Vietnam. The more the U.S. pirates promote their war of aggression in our country and increase their threats, instigation, and destruction of Cambodia the more strongly the Cambodian people and their respected and loved leader will support and help our people. The Chief of State has said: "Due to the feeling of unity of all nations after the Indochina Conference, Cambodia must reserve all its support for its Vietnamese friends. Whatever Vietnam accepts or rejects Cambodia will do the same"(9 September 1966).

Our just stand always has the complete support of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian people. He has not stopped condemning each step in the U.S. pirates' escalation of the war and each of their malicious plots against our people. He has exposed many of their acts "to negotiate peace" aimed at gaining the goals of their aggression at the conference table which they cannot possibly win on the battlefield. The Chief of State has said: "If there are negotiations, they will be within the scope of U.S. troop withdrawal and not the independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Vietnam. Cambodia would rather die than accept negotiations on its independence and territorial integrity. The same is true for the people of Vietnam"(24 February 1967).

Expressing the determination of the Cambodian people against the U.S. imperialists and at the same time highly evaluating the war of resistance of our people, the Chief of State declared: "The U.S. considers itself as 'the nation having the largest military and the richest economy in the world' but it is not and will never defeat the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. That fact proves that when a small nation is resolved not to retreat in the face of an unjust force it is invincible. Concerning my part, the Cambodian people have drawn and are still drawing strength from that resistance to fight unyieldingly for the continued life of my Fatherland and territorial integrity"(7 December 1967).

Our people are particularly grateful for the noble feeling the Cambodian people and Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk have for the great President Ho Chi Minh. When he was alive, our respected and loved President Ho was always concerned with building and solidifying the fighting unity of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia. He highly valued Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk's large contribution to the struggle of the people of Indochina against the aggression of the U.S. imperialists and to the building of a strong unity between the people of Vietnam and Cambodia. When President Ho died, Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk led a delegation from his country to take part in the funeral ceremony. Our people will always remember his eloquent words: "Allow me to express the tender feeling and respect of the Cambodian people for President Ho who will always

be a brilliant symbol of patriotism, an immortal and respected hero of all peoples of all nations against imperialism and of all nations holding independence, common rights, and human dignity in high esteem". Those most sincere words could only come from the heart of a great patriotic warrior, a warrior friend of our people.

The great, sincere, important, and highly valued support of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian people for our people is not only expressed in spirit, politics, and material. That great support is expressed primarily by Cambodia's policy of peace and neutrality put forth by Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and the resolute fight and bravery of the Cambodian people to protect that policy and their independence, peace, neutrality, and national honor against the clique of U.S. aggressors and their lackeys. Following that wise policy, the heroic Cambodian people have not stopped fighting for victory in their undertaking to protect and construct the Fatherland and to develop friendship among all the people in the nations of Indochina. That correct policy is due chiefly to the fact that the U.S. imperialists have sought ways to act against Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk who has tirelessly cultivated the fighting unity of the people of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. But the U.S. imperialists toil in vain. It is exactly as Premier Pham Van Dong pointed out in his message to Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk on 19 March 1970: "Examination of recent events in Cambodia shows that the policy of peace, neutrality, friendship, and fighting unity with the people of Vietnam which you have always followed is even more correct than ever before".

The U.S. imperialists and their Thieu-Ky and Lon Nol-Matak cliques seek to sink the independence of Cambodia and Vietnamese-Cambodian friendship in a sea of blood. Once again Nixon's bloodthirsty clique has counted on complacency. With the brilliant success of the high level Indochina Conference, the emergence of the Cambodian Front of National Union with Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, and the government of the United Kingdom of Cambodia the fight against the U.S. for the salvation of the three nations in Indochina has, supported by all progressive people, expanded into a new phase, one more difficult and fierce but has also advanced closer to victory.

Using their maxim of "divide to conquer", the U.S. imperialist aggressor clique is ordering the Lon Nol-Matak clique to massacre Vietnamese nationals and plot to use Saigon's puppet troops of the Thieu-Ky clique to brutally treat and carry out a lengthy occupation of the country of Cambodia. They seek to create national hatred between the people of our two countries. But the people of Cambodia as well as Vietnam understand that Thieu-Ky and Lon Nol-Sirik Matak are lackeys of the U.S. imperialists. They do not have a Fatherland; they have lost all their identity. Together with the clique of U.S. aggressors, they are the common enemy of the people of Vietnam and Cambodia. In his message to Nguyen Huu Tho on 28 March 1970 Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk spoke about the determination and unshakeable confidence of the 7 million Cambodian people: "We Cambodians in complete agreement with our friends declare that we, side by side with the people of Vietnam and Laos, will support and provide mutual help in the fight against our common enemy and their traitorous lackey clique until final victory".

The people of Vietnam are extremely grateful for the generous support which the Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian people always have for the struggle against the U.S. for the salvation of Vietnam. We vow to continue to maintain and strengthen our friendship and neighborly relations with the Kingdom of Cambodia in keeping with the policy put forth by our party and government. Encouraged by the victories of our army and the Cambodian people and the state visit of Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, our people in both Vietnams together with the people of Cambodia and Laos are determined to gain the final victory, fight until complete victory, and sweep the U.S. aggressor clique out of Indochina.

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