

V. SIHANOUK ADDRESSES NEW YEAR
MESSAGE TO KHMER NATION

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Peking, April 14 (HSINHUA)--Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, addressed here today a special message to the Khmer Nation on the occasion of the Khmer New Year.

The message said, on this jubilant day of our New Year, I have the honour to extend ardent wishes to Her Majesty the Queen, the Buddhist clergymen and the beloved people of our Kampuchea for their good health and victory over the adversity brought about by the capital crime of treason of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and their ilk and the neo-colonialist aggression of U.S. imperialism.

I know perfectly well that the best New Year "gift" the people of our country dream of is peace, the peace which has disappeared and become unattainable since the evil date March 18, 1970 (when the sinister coup was staged by Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Cheng Heng and In Tam), the message said.

Since that March 18, our country and people have been plunged (by the Lon Nol clique and its U.S. master) into the greatest misfortune, the greatest sufferings, the greatest destruction and the greatest humiliation in the history of our country.

Nevertheless, the solution to the problem of restoring peace in Cambodia is easy provided that we the Khmers refuse to accept the principle of peace without national independence.

Our people used to tell me that it is not worthwhile to live without national independence.

Consequently, we may say that peace will be acceptable to the Khmer people only when Cambodia recovers its total independence, neutrality and territorial integrity as in the days before the coup d'etat of March 18, 1970.

Otherwise, it is absolutely necessary that our people continue, under the banner of the N.U.F.C., their armed struggle against U.S. imperialism and the gang of super-traitors of Phnom Penh without compromise or retreat until these enemies of independent and neutral Kampuchea are totally swept away from the soil of our country. The day of the final defeat of these enemies will also be the day for the restoration of peace justifiably desired by the people of our country.

The grand military "expedition" of the United States in lower Laos, the message said, ended up in an ignominious total defeat before the sisterly people's forces of our P.A.F.N.L., the gravest, the most ruinous and demoralizing defeat that the aggressive armed forces of Nixon and Thieu-Ky ever suffered.

After his numerous mercenaries suffered the terrible defeat in lower Laos, on Highway 9 and in Khe Sanh, Nixon's popularity has descended to such a depth that it cannot be lowered any further, and his unpopularity (has--Ed) risen to the highest.

Therefore, the message added, our Khmer nation may reasonably draw the conclusion--

Firstly, that the Americans, patrons of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Ngoc Thanh, will never vanquish the Indochinese (Khmer, Vietnamese and Lao) peoples;

Secondly, that the day the Americans can no longer use their armed forces to directly intervene against our people's forces will mark the end and ineluctable death of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak regime; and

Thirdly, that the day the "Republic" of these big traitors dies will see the reestablishment ipso facto of peace in the whole of Cambodia on the basis of national independence, neutrality, democracy and territorial integrity of our fatherland.

The key to the problem of restoring peace and national independence in Cambodia lies in the elimination of U.S. imperialism from the Khmer soil, that is to say, refusal to supply it with "cannon-fodder" or cooperate with it politically and rejection of its neo-colonialism; in the repudiation of the fascist regime of Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Cheng Heng-In-Tam-Ngoc Thanh; and in the return of the traditional policy of total independence and non-alignment of our country.

Therefore, if the people in the zone yet to be liberated in Cambodia desire a quick return of peace there, they should have the courage to overthrow one way or another (non-violent or violent) the present regime of Phnom Penh and put an end to the military, political and other cooperation with U.S. imperialism.

The message said, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak mercenaries should refuse to die for the traitors and their imperialist masters and turn the barrels of their guns against the latter. They should rally to the N.U.F.C. where they will be welcomed.

The message said, the three Indochinese peoples will certainly win final victory over U.S. imperialism and its lackeys and sub-lackeys.

The message said, the N.U.F.C. is the unique and irreplaceable symbol of independent Cambodia. It is the Khmer people themselves.

That is why it is immortal, That is why the enemy can never defeat it, nor can they kill it.

That is why it will certainly eliminate the traitors Lon Nol-Sirik Matak to the last man and, after the elimination of these bestial traitors, it will bring to our Khmer Nation : peace in honour, national independence, neutrality, democracy and territorial integrity, peace which all of us justifiably desire.