

## SIHANOUK DISCUSSES U.S. AGGRESSION, RGNUC-U.S. RELATIONS

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[By Jean Thorval]

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 13 (AFP)--The United States will not be able to hold out in Cambodia beyond 1976, visiting Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia told AFP here today.

"To avoid celebrating in dishonor the bicentennial of their independence next year, the United States of America would do better to quit this year in Cambodia," said the prince, head of the Royal Government of Cambodian National Union (RGNUC), who was here for the Tet lunar new year holiday.

During his visit, he has reviewed the political and diplomatic situation with North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong and the military prospects in Indochina with Defense Minister General Vo Nguyen Giap. He also met with RGNUC Special Advisor Ieng Sary, who was passing through Hanoi.

"The United States still [words indistinct] to achieve peace with honor," Prince Sihanouk said, stressing that the "Cambodian patriots" did not intend to give the Americans the impression of being defeated.

"We realize that they want to leave with their heads held high. That is why we offered them a plan which would enable them to restore peace with honor," the prince said.

"We consider that the Cambodian conflict is not a civil war, as the Americans affirm, it is a war of American aggression," he said, adding that the "Cambodian resistance" would be willing to forget such distinctions if Washington would "drop (Cambodian President) Lon Nol and his clique."

"We are ready to forget the past and preserve good diplomatic relations" with the United States, the prince said.

On the stepped-up U.S. airlift to Phnom Penh, Prince Sihanouk said opponents of the government in Phnom Penh were "not at all impressed with this new U.S. war effort" but that they deplored the "thousands of dollars spent to ruin a country, whose balance of trade was up till now satisfactory, at a time when, according to the United Nations, the specter of famine hangs over Southeast Asia."

He went on: "We have the human and material means to meet this American challenge and struggle against the United States. Assuredly, we are setting a bad example for certain Asian states, who are American satellites.

"But we are reaching beyond the framework of Indochina.

We are also setting a bad example--in our view, a good example--for other countries of the Third World still under the yoke of imperialism and neocolonialism."

Prince Sihanouk estimated that Cambodian Government forces now numbered no more than 120,000 to 130,000, of whom only about 20,000 were "fully seasoned fighters."

"What Lon Nol will be lacking is not dollars as much as cannon fodder that can fight," he concluded. "We, over the years, have gathered more and more elite units. The future is ours. Lon Nol is so short of men that he had to empty the jails and send common prisoners to the front."

Frightened by the strong public protest, U.S. Consul in Udon Thani Bigelow hastily issued a statement expressing regret over the incident and handed the four U.S. servicemen over to the Thai police for investigation. However, the four U.S. servicemen denied the charge, saying they did not beat Mr Luchai, but only held him.

At about 1600 approximately 1,000 people gathered at Thung Si Muang, denouncing the U.S. bases and U.S. servicemen who challenge Thai laws. They wanted Bigelow to apologize to the Thais in all newspapers and over all radio stations and to promise this in person. Bigelow did not show up. At 1800 the ralliers demonstrated in front of the U.S. Consulate, calling on him to come out for talks. Silence from the consulate. The people then indignantly threw stones at the consulate, breaking its windows. At about 2000 Bigelow finally appeared and apologized for the incident caused by the U.S. servicemen. The demonstrators then dispersed.

## Says Red Khmers Hold No Missing Journalists

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[Text] Hanoi, Feb 13 (AFP)--The Red Khmers fighting the government of Marshal Lon Nol in Cambodia are not holding any of the 23 newsmen missing in Cambodia since the war began there in 1970, Cambodia's former ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here today.

Prince Sihanouk, who is in Hanoi for celebrations marking Tet (the lunar new year), said he had received a large amount of correspondence on the newsmen asking for his help in tracing them.

Most of the missing newsmen disappeared in 1970. They include four Americans, a Canadian, eight Japanese, six Frenchmen, one Australian, an Austrian, a West German and a Swiss.

Prince Sihanouk said he had personally conferred with Red Khmer leader Khieu Samphan, who is vice premier and minister of defense in the prince's Cambodian Royal Government of National Unity (RGNUC) on the missing men.

"Khieu Samphan told me that after several investigations he was able to state that no foreign journalist was in their hands," the prince said. "Those who had been captured by the Red Khmers were all set free. The others were not seen." The prince added that the North Vietnamese "gave me the same reply."

"I cannot do any more," Prince Sihanouk declared. "I can inform myself but I am not the deus ex machina of this imbroglio."

"I understand that the disappearance of men is a cause for painful anxiety not only for their families but also the larger family of journalists."

"In Peking," Prince Sihanouk added, "I can only keep myself informed and transmit the replies that are given to me. Investigations have been made. The replies are definite. I hope that people will ask me no more questions on this subject."

## PHAM VAN DONG RECEIVES IENG SARY IN HANOI

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[Text] Hanoi VNA February 13--Premier Pham Van Dong has received Ieng Sary, special advisor of the vice-premier's office of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, now on a visit to Vietnam.

Ieng Sary informed him of the great all-round victories of the Cambodian people, particularly their wonderful exploits since the beginning of this year. He reaffirmed that Cambodian-Vietnam solidarity and friendship will last forever.

Premier Pham Van Dong warmly welcomed the Cambodian people's brilliant victories and expressed the belief that the Cambodian people's resistance will certainly win complete victory. He pointed out: "The people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are determined to strengthen solidarity with the Cambodian people and continue supporting them until final victory."

The reception took place in cordial and friendly atmosphere.

## HANOI NOTES NEW THAI PREMIER'S CLOSE U.S. RELATIONS

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[Text] According to Bangkok sources, on 13 February, with a vote of 133 out of a total 269 the Thai National Assembly elected Prince Seni Pramot as the new prime minister.

Prince Seni Pramot, 70 years old, is leader of the Democrat Party. From 1929 to 1940, he was a lawyer in Bangkok and about 30 years ago he served as prime minister.

UPI has remarked: Seni Pramot is a civilian with close relations with the United States.

## ADDITIONAL C-130S FOR PHNOM PENH DUE IN THAILAND

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[Text] REUTER reported on 13 February that the first new batch of U.S. planes to be used to intensify the supply airlift to Phnom Penh might arrive in Bangkok by the middle of next week. The first group of pilots flying additional C-130s provided by the U.S. Air Force would probably leave the United States for Thailand on 13 February and others will continue to arrive this week.

The additional U.S. aircraft and pilots sent to Thailand are aimed at mounting a supply airlift of 10 to 28 flights per day in support of the Lon Nol clique, according to a contract that the U.S. Defense Department has signed with the Bird Airline. Under this contract, pilots of Bird Airline will fly U.S. Air Force C-130s from the U.S. airbase in U Taphao, Thailand, to Phnom Penh.

The U.S. Defense Department stated on 12 February that it would continue to fly rescue missions in support of the U.S. lackey clique in Cambodia until a military buildup has been completed. These actions of the U.S. authorities once again expose the insidious U.S. scheme to continue the military involvement in Cambodia in order to maintain the rotten Lon Nol clique and oppose the Cambodian people.

## NHAN DAN HAILS DELHI CONFERENCE ON IMPERIALIST BASES

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[Text] Hanoi VNA February 14--The paper NHAN DAN today warmly hailed the current week of action against imperialist military bases in the Indian Ocean.

An article written by Nguyen Mai, head of the delegation of the Vietnam Peace Committee to the New Delhi conference in November 1974, exposes the scheme of U.S.-led imperialist countries to maintain a dense network of military bases in the Indian Ocean to control this zone, grab its natural resources and push back the national liberation movement.

The article strongly condemns the U.S. for its recently construction of a nuclear base on Diego Garcia Island.