

II. 22 May 70

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COMMUNIQUE DEFENDS APPEAL FOR MILITARY AID

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 21 May 70 D

[Communique of the salvation government]

[Text] In an article published by PRAVDA on 10 May, (Igor Balayev) groundlessly stated that the U.S. aggression in Cambodia has made the Southeast Asian situation more tense. This is untrue as far as Cambodia is concerned. We wish to point out the following:

1--It is the Viet Cong and Viet Minh that are the aggressors in Cambodia. People have begun to realize that under the rule of Sihanouk--the former chief of state of Cambodia who was legally ousted on 18 March--Cambodian peace and neutrality were a sham because Sihanouk allowed the Viet Cong to establish military bases on Khmer territory. For more than 3 years Sihanouk's Cambodia provided the Viet Cong with all sorts of supplies--arms, munitions, medicines, food, equipment [words indistinct]. This harmed the Cambodian economy and especially its trade balance. Moreover, our peaceful people in border areas were victims of the Viet Cong's barbarous acts. Therefore our people staged anti-Viet Cong demonstrations in Sway Rieng on 8 March and in Phnom Penh on 11 March to request the Viet Cong and Viet Minh forces to withdraw from Khmer territory and to respect Cambodian territorial integrity in accordance with the firm pledges of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese governments. Despite these pledges the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops launched guerrilla attacks against us and committed savage acts against our civilian population. These events have occurred since 26 March. Though the Cambodian Government has issued appeals for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese have continued aggression against us in violation of international law--especially the U.N. Charter--the 1954 Geneva agreements, and the 1955 Bandung conference principles.

2--Being a victim of aggression, Cambodia must defend itself. In conformity with its policy of independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity, Cambodia has been forced to use arms to defend itself against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese aggression, since its proposal for a peaceful settlement of the conflict has proved in vain. To insure its survival against an enemy who is well trained militarily and whose strength and armament are superior, Cambodia has the right to ask friendly countries for help. In addition, [words indistinct] dated 4 November 1967 on Cambodian neutrality and in accordance with the (main principles) of the 1954 Geneva conference, Cambodia is entitled to appeal to the great powers for help whenever it falls victim of aggression. It was in conformity with these rights that the salvation government, led by His Excellency Lon Nol, issued a communique on 14 April calling on all friendly countries, regardless of ideology to provide equipment, arms, and economic aid on an unconditional basis. Many countries which are true friends of Cambodia have answered this urgent appeal of our country. As for the socialist countries, a number of them who are not true friends have either cooperated with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese or shown a pro-Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attitude. Under these circumstances certain countries which, though fully aware of neutral Cambodia's situation as a victim of aggression, have unjustly shown themselves unsympathetic to Cambodia. This is because they have already sided with the other camp.

3--The United States has not launched aggression on our country. Due to the intervention of U.S.-South Vietnamese forces at the frontier and in certain areas where the Viet Cong

troops bases existed, the aggressive acts of the Viet Cong and Viet Minh against Cambodia have been completely thwarted in certain regions. In less than two weeks, the U.S. forces have discovered and destroyed important depots of the Viet Cong on Khmer territory. These depots were situated in secret underground bunkers which the Viet Cong built at the time the traitor Sihanouk was still in power. According to the latest information given by the Americans, they had discovered more than 7,000 individual arms, 1,000 mortars and field pieces, over 8 million cartridges, grenades, and gun shells, and more than 2,000 tons of rice. We are deeply moved by these figures which prove that with Sihanouk's connivance the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese concealed on Khmer territory huge quantities of arms in order to transform peaceful and inadequately armed Cambodia into their satellite, to use these bases to attack the neighboring countries, to push Cambodia toward the Red camp against Cambodia's will, and to drive Cambodia into war although Cambodia is neutral. In view of these facts, people of good will will clearly realize that it is not the United State but the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese--with their protectors standing behind--who have committed aggression against Cambodia. The Viet Cong and Viet Minh communists are the only aggressors against Cambodia; it is they who are creating political trouble in Southeast Asia. If they stop their criminal acts peace will surely be restored in our country. The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong are revealing themselves as imperialists and expansionists.

COMMUNIQUE EXPLAINS ADMINISTRATIVE, DEFENSE MEASURES

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodia 1300 GMT 21 May 70 D

[Recorded communique of the salvation government, read by Lon Nol]

[Text] In conformity with the opinion of the majority of Cambodians, the work to transform our country into a republic is progressing. To this end, a central committee has been set up with branches in all provinces in order to take the necessary administrative measures, even in areas where fighting is taking place. The central committee is employing only solid Khmer citizens in its work to lead the country toward a purely republican regime. As you know, the former provincial guards have been reintegrated in the regular forces. The municipal police is being transformed into infantry to defend our cities. The constabulary has been dissolved and transformed into military police composed of honest youths selected from thousands to represent our authorities and to cooperate with our students in patrol missions in conjunction with soldiers and self-defense forces. These (?youths) also act as traffic policemen.

The central committee has nominated political advisers for the army and military police, our fighters, to investigate the short-comings of the royalist regime which hamper progress in all fields of activity; to give advice and explain the benefits of the republican regime to which we are advancing; (?to discuss) political, economic, social, and financial measures to be taken in the future; and to explain the program of action which our authorities intend to carry out for the benefit of poor compatriots having neither houses nor villages and also for those who depend on others to make a living.

The central committee has also created a position in the national army called (krom puthik phiracha) [designation is in Pali language, an ancient language used in Buddhism akin to use of Latin in other religions]. Persons entrusted with this function will be selected from students of the secondary education of (puthik vittialay) [presumably a Buddhist institution].

Members [of this religious order] will live among our armed forces to explain the Buddhist religion to our soldiers so that the latter will realize the need to defend and maintain their religion against the Viet Cong and Viet Minh communists' scheme to dissolve religion. As for other problems still under consideration, the salvation government is studying them gradually and carefully.

Concerning the present special situation in our country, the United Nations has officially recognized our country under the salvation government and has categorically refused to recognize Sihanouk and his clique. This is a very great success for us on the international stage. Many diplomatic missions which recognize us are staying in Phnom Penh. We have exchanged relations with Thailand by reopening traffic between the two countries since 15 May. An international conference of 12 countries has just been held in Djakarta, Indonesia--which is a friendly country--to support our country, the victim of foreign aggression. All countries participating in this international conference made the following decision; to appeal to the United Nations to seek measures to reestablish peace in Cambodia, to call for an immediate end to the war and for withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cambodian territory; to call for a convening of all members of the 1954 Geneva international conference, and to request the ICC members to resume their mission in Cambodia.

The Djakarta conference entrusted the Indonesian, Japanese, and Malaysian foreign ministers with immediately contacting UN Secretary Thant, the U.N. Security Council, and the Soviet Union concerning the Cambodian problem. Many countries have contacted us and praised the unity of our students, youths, teachers, intellectuals, bonzes, administrative officials, civilians, and soldiers in building the nation and fighting the enemy during this critical period.

It must be noted that while attacking us fiercely, the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese aggressors are attacking Laos. There has been news that they are (?advancing) toward the eastern region of Thailand. We Cambodians have known that South Vietnam has long been at war with the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong. Therefore, the South Vietnamese have come to our country to repatriate the Vietnamese nationals to take care of them and also to prevent them from being recruited by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Communists to carry out subversive activities in our country. At present, the South Vietnamese have come to take home the Vietnamese nationals in Svay Rieng, Banam, Neak Loeung, Kompong Cham, Phnom Penh, and other provinces. While coming to repatriate their fellow countrymen, the South Vietnamese fiercely fought the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese in many areas. Today the Viet Cong and Viet Minh--our long standing enemy--are attacking in many areas of our country and their attacks are expanding. Though unprepared under Sihanouk's rule, our forces have valiantly fought the enemy on the battlefield and have won many victories. They have had to fight and withdraw temporarily wherever they are outnumbered by the enemy. They have fought well strategically and psychologically, and valiantly. As for our fighters in remote border villages, they must courageously wake up to the situation and must not be overly concerned about their houses and property.

The salvation government has also taken strict measures to repress a category of people who take advantage of the critical situation in the country to provoke acts of [words indistinct] in many ways [phrase indistinct].

To prevent our country from great dangers, on 16 May I convened the National Defense Committee to solve numerous problems facing our nation and to take important measures [words indistinct]

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The committee has decided that the government must ask friendly countries for arms and munitions in accordance with our country's neutral status and with the 1954 Geneva (agreement clauses about peace) so that they will help us resist the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces, whose attacks against our country have become increasingly grave. The government has already gotten in touch with the friendly countries so that they will come to help us.

HIGH COMMAND REPORTS RECAPTURE OF TOWNS

Kompong Cham Reoccupied

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 21 May 70 D

[Text] The Khmer Armed Forces spokesman said during his press conference this morning that Kompong Cham Province has been reoccupied by Cambodian forces, and that the Kompong Thmar bridge in Kompong Thom Province was sabotaged and damaged. Khmer forces were also reported fighting Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops in (Kraing Lovea) on 19 May. No significant incidents were reported in other regions according to the spokesman.

High Command Statement

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 21 May 70 D

[Text] In a statement dealing with AFP dispatches on 18 May, the Khmer National Armed Forces High Command stressed the following points:

- 1--Since the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese launched their offensive against Takeo, this town has never been occupied by the enemy.
- 2--While other areas such as Kampot and Takeo were (fencircled) by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, Kompong Som and its airfield have always been safe.

The high command takes this opportunity to point out that the Khmer forces in Takeo and Kampot, which include civilians, officials, and youths, have displayed courage in fighting the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese aggressors. The Khmer forces repelled many enemy assaults and were in numerous clashes. The Khmer forces inflicted heavy losses on the enemy--hundreds of killed and wounded and an important quantity of arms and munition seized. (One of the reasons for) this success was the effective action of the air and naval forces. With the support and aid of friendly forces, the Cambodian troops have again taken control of Kampot, Kep, Kompong Trach, Takeo, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and Kandal.