

Prince Sihanouk's Visit to China

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As they celebrated their 15th National Day, the Chinese people took great pride in the fact that the Cambodian Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, their close comrade-in-arms, had joined them for the festive occasion. Prince Sihanouk, his government and people have defied the brute force of imperialism. Their determination to fight against it has won the admiration and respect of the Chinese people.

Invited by Chairman Liu Shao-chi and Premier Chou En-lai, Prince and Mme. Sihanouk and their party arrived in Canton by train on September 26. They were welcomed by Vice-Premier Chen Yi, who, on behalf of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Chairman Liu Shao-chi and Premier Chou En-lai, made a special trip south to meet them. Prince Sihanouk's party also included a cultural and military delegation. This was the Prince's fifth state visit to China.

By Sunday morning, September 27, Peking was ready to give the Cambodian Head of State and his party a rousing welcome. All the leading national dailies carried special editorials to hail the profound friendship between the peoples of China and Cambodia. Huge portraits of the Cambodian leader stood at Peking's major crossings; red streamers bearing welcome slogans in Cambodian and Chinese hung over the boulevards between the airport and the Guest House; hundreds of thousands of children, students and civil servants, who lined the streets, formed a miles-long welcoming procession.

At 11:30 a.m. the special plane carrying the honoured guests, escorted by eight Chinese Air Force jet fighters landed at Peking airport, where they were greeted by Chairman and Mme. Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman Tung Pi-wu, Chu Teh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Mme. Chu Teh, Premier and Mme. Chou En-lai as well as a host of other Chinese leaders. After a 21-gun salute, the playing of the Cambodian and Chinese national anthems and the reviewing of the guard, Prince Sihanouk, in the company of Chairman Liu and Premier Chou, drove through the city in an open car to the Guest House, receiving the cheers of Peking's citizens. As the motorcade passed Tien An Men Square, hundreds of balloons were released by children there, making a colourful canopy in the sky under which waiting artists performed and armed militiamen, men and officers of the three services saluted the leader of the country resolutely fighting U.S. imperialist aggression and intervention.

That evening, Chairman Liu and his wife Wang Kuang-mei gave a banquet at the Great Hall of the People. In his speech Chairman Liu praised Cambodia for the notable achievements it made in developing its national economy and national culture.

Both Chairman Liu and Prince Sihanouk condemned U.S. imperialist armed aggression in Indo-China.

Chairman Liu Shao-chi said: "The peoples of the Indo-Chinese states and the whole world must maintain sharp vigilance against the U.S. imperialists' deliberate playing with fire by plotting to extend the war of aggression."

"China is a close neighbour of the Indo-Chinese states and a signatory to the two Geneva agreements. The Chinese Government and people absolutely will not sit idly by while U.S. imperialism wantonly tears up the Geneva agreements, endangers peace in Southeast Asia and spreads the flames of aggressive war to our side."

"We hold that the Indo-China question can be



Accompanied by Chairman Liu and Premier Chou, Prince Sihanouk acknowledges Peking welcome

settled only in accordance with the Geneva agreements and through a conference of the countries concerned with the Geneva agreements; no other way is of any avail. Together with the peoples of Indo-China, we shall struggle to the end to uphold the Geneva agreements and safeguard peace in Asia and the world."

Chairman Liu praised Prince Sihanouk for coming to the fore to uphold justice when imperialism and its followers whipped up an anti-China ballyhoo. He reaffirmed China's resolute support for the Cambodian people's just struggle in defence of their independence, neutrality and territorial integrity. "The Chinese people," he added, "will always remain the most reliable friends of the Cambodian people. Should the Kingdom of Cambodia become the object of armed aggression engineered by U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, the Chinese people would firmly stand on the side of the Cambodian people and give them all-out support."

Prince Sihanouk expressed regret that with the exception of China and a rare number of friendly governments "there are people who deliberately ignore the acts of aggression and threats to which Cambodia has been subjected by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet government of Saigon." **He unequivocally condemned U.S. attacks in the Gulf of Bac Bo and reaf-**

firmed Cambodia's all-out support for our brothers in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Prince Sihanouk, who is Honorary Chairman of the Cambodia-China Friendship Association founded recently in Phnom Penh, said at the banquet that his country "considers the People's Republic of China its No. 1 friend." He expressed thanks to China for its all-out support for Cambodia's independence and territorial integrity.

On the evening of September 28, Chairman Mao Tse-tung received Prince Sihanouk and his wife, and had a cordial and friendly talk with the distinguished guests. At the reception, Prince Sihanouk presented Chairman Mao with Cambodia's highest order. "On behalf of the Cambodian people and in my own name," he said, "I present you with the Order of the Grand Medal of Independence, the highest in Cambodia, to express our respect, thanks and admiration for you, our feelings of respect and admiration for Chairman Mao Tse-tung." Receiving the medal, Chairman Mao thanked Prince Sihanouk and the Cambodian people.

On September 28, Chairman Liu conferred with Prince Sihanouk in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

— by Our Correspondent