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LEADERS TURN OUT TO SEE OFF DEPARTING SIHANOUK

Hanoi VNA in English 1605 GMT 15 Feb 75 BK

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 15 -- Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, Princess Monique Sihanouk, and their entourage left Hanoi today after spending the lunar new year festival in North Vietnam.

At the government guest house in the city, they were sent off by Truong Chinh, chair-man of the DRV National Assembly Standing Committee who wished them bon voyage and the armed forces and people of Cambodia many more and yet bigger victories in their great cause for a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic Cambodia.

In his reply, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk praised the warm, sincere, unalloyed friendship between Cambodia and Vietnam and declared that it is an honour for the Cambodian people to have the Vietnamese people for brothers in the common struggle against the same enemy—the U.S. imperialists.

The Cambodian head of state warmly hailed the great achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in national reconstruction, and wished them more brilliant ones. He said he believed the friendship and militant solidarity between the two peoples would further develop.

The distinguished Cambodian guests were accompanied to Gia Lam airport by Premier Pham Van Dong; General Vo Nguyen Giap, vice-premier and minister of national defence, and his wife; Nguyen Duy Trinh, vice-premier and minister for foreign affiars, and his wife; Hoang vuoc Viet, member of the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Phan Trong Tue, vice-premier and president of the Vietnam-Cambodian Friendship Association; Hoang Minh Giam, minister of culture and vice-president of the Vietnam-Cambodian Friendship Association; Phan Hien, vice-minister for foreign affiars; Tran Duy Hung, mayor of Hanoi; and Nguyen Thuong, DRV ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia and his wife.

Also going with them to the airport were Le Khoan Hong, acting head of the Special Representation of the Hepublic of South Vietnam in the DRV; Ieng Sary, special advisor to the office of the vice-premier of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia; and Cambodian Ambassador Sien An and his wife.

Also present were Khamphay Boupha, ambassador of the (ingdom of Laos and head of the representation of the Lao Patriotic Front in the DRV, the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors; other members of the diplomatic corps in Hanoi, and representatives of mass organisations in Hanoi and the population of the capital city.