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REPORTAGE ON CAMBODIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE HELD IN PARIS

RGNUC Delegation Arrives in Paris

Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 0330 GMT 5 Dec 73 B

[Text] According to a report by a VNA correspondent in Paris, a delegation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia led by Thiounn Prasith, minister in charge of coordination of the efforts of struggle for national liberation, arrived in Paris on the evening of 1 December to attend the International Conference for Solidarity with the Cambodian People.

Minister Thiounn Prasith issued a statement, pointing out that the International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People held in Paris by 52 French organizations and representatives of the Stockholm conference is convincing proof of the support for the Cambodian people by the world peoples, particularly the French and American peoples. The Cambodian people, the statement pointed out, are bound to win complete victory in carrying out the five-point declaration issued by Prince Norodom Sihanouk on 23 March, 1970.

Conference Opens 8 Dec

Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT 9 Dec 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 9--The International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People, convened in Paris at the initiative of 52 French organisations for solidarity with the Indochinese peoples and the Stockholm conference on Vietnam, opened on the morning of December 8, according to our correspondent in the French capital. The conference was attended by 300 delegates of 45 countries from all continents and 16 international organisations.

In his message to the conference, which was read out at the opening session, Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk strongly condemned the U.S. and the Lon Nol clique, who had seriously violated Article 20 of the Paris agreement on Vietnam bearing relation to Cambodia, while slandering the DRV and the PRG and defaming the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union. He stressed that the Cambodian question could be settled correctly only if the U.S. stopped supporting the reactionary Lon Nol clique.

Addressing the conference, Minister Thiounn Prasith, head of the RGNUC delegation, said: Though the Nixon administration was forced to stop its extermination bombings against the Cambodian people on August 15, 1973, it is still doing all it can to "Khmerize" the U.S. aggressive war in Cambodia by using its henchmen to oppose the Cambodian people, keeping U.S. advisors in disguise in Cambodia to command Lon Nol's puppet army, bringing in thousands of Thai and Saigon troops, plotting to split the ranks of the resistance forces, and to isolate the Cambodian people from the friends of peace, democracy and progress in the world, slandering the DRV and the PRGRSV, with the ultimate goal of compelling the RGNUC and the NUFC to "compromise" with the Lon Nol clique of traitors in Phnom Penh and materializing U.S. neo-colonialism in Cambodia.

After bringing out the great victories of the NUFC and the RGNUC on the military, political and diplomatic fronts, the minister pointed out that the people's administration represented by the NUFC and the RGNUC has unceasingly consolidated and has expanded its influence over more than 90 percent of the territory embracing 80 percent of the population of Cambodia.

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He went on: "The stand of the NUFC and the RGNUC has been clearly defined in the March 24, 1970 declaration of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the NUFC's political program and recently reaffirmed at the national congress held in the liberated area from July 19 to 21, 1973." The minister said that the Cambodian problem, which arises from the U.S. aggression and the betrayal of a group of traitors, could only be settled by putting a complete end to the U.S. aggression and discarding all the top henchmen of the U.S. such as Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh, In Tam and Cheng Heng, and their fascist regime.

In their speeches, Thongchan Oupravan, Minister Nguyen Van Hieu and Minister Phan Anh, respectively head delegates of the Lao Patriotic Front, the PRG of the Republic of South Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, condemned the U.S. aggression against the Cambodian people as well as the Lao and Vietnamese people and reaffirmed the unbreakable militant solidarity of the Lao and Vietnamese peoples with the fraternal Cambodian people in their struggle against the common enemy.

LPF Delegate's Welcoming Speech

PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY [Clandestine] in English 0926 GMT 11 Dec 73 B

[Text] Sam Neua December 11 (KPL)--At the International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People held in Paris on December 8 and 9, Mr. Thongchan Oupravan, member of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee and head of the front's delegation, delivered a speech of welcome.

After expressing his greetings to the conference, Thongchan Oupravan severely condemned the U.S. imperialists for their aggressive war against Cambodia during the past 3 years and for their prolongation of the war in an attempt to materialize U.S. neo-colonialism in this peace-loving and neutrality-oriented country. He warmly praised the heroic struggle of the Cambodian people under the leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and praised the victories recorded by the Cambodian people in all fields.

Thongchan Oupravan continued: Along with the frantic pursuit of its war of aggression in Cambodia by a handful of traitors--Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Cheng Heng, Son Ngoc Thanh, In Tam and Sosthene Fernandez--henchmen of the U.S., for nearly a year now, the Nixon administration has continuously and systematically violated the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam and the Vientiane Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos. At the same time, it has given active support militarily, as well as politically and economically, to the Thieu clique in South Vietnam and the ultra-rightist reactionaries in Laos who have not ceased to launch nibbling attacks against the liberated zone in South Vietnam and in Laos, using all ways and means to sabotage, obstruct and delay the implementation of the Paris agreement on Vietnam and the Vientiane agreement on Laos.

In the other parts of the world, the U.S. imperialists, who only made concessions where the struggle of the peoples forced them to take other ways, still persist in their counter-revolutionary activities.

Of late in Chile, they staged a reactionary coup to overthrow the legal government of Dr Salvador Allende. In the Middle East, they instigated Israeli Zionism to resume its brutal aggression against the Arab countries, etc....

We take this opportunity to vehemently denounce and condemn all these schemes of intervention and aggression of the U.S. imperialists against our country as well as the other parts of the world. We reaffirm our strong support to and firm solidarity with all the friendly peoples, victims of imperialist aggression, and who are unflinchingly struggling for their sacred national rights.

In their struggle, these peoples are supporting one another. Moreover, the struggles of the peoples of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia are very closely bound together. For that reason, we consider that all the victories of the Lao people cannot be thought of separately from the support and assistance of the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world. We sincerely thank them for their (aid and assistance). That is why we highly appreciate the struggle and achievements recorded by the Khmer people, which are positively contributing to the cause of our people. While reiterating our deep gratitude to Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, to the National United Front of Cambodia and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and to the Khmer people for their inestimable support and sympathy reserved for the Lao people's struggle, we always live up to our commitments made at the Summit Conference of the Indochinese peoples. Solidly standing behind the fraternal Khmer and Vietnamese peoples in their struggle, we will strive resolutely for the total and strict implementation of the Vientiane Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord and of its protocol, for building a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral, unified and prosperous Laos, thus contributing to making the Indochinese Peninsula a zone of genuine peace comprising three sovereign and independent countries: Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

We are firmly convinced that no matter how the situation develops, and for all the barbarity and perfidy of U.S. imperialism and its Phnom Penh lackeys, the Cambodian people, with their tradition of indomitable struggle, and enjoying the militant solidarity of the fraternal Lao and Vietnamese peoples, and the strong support and sympathy of the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world, will triumph.

We hope and believe that this conference will give a vigorous impulse to the international movement of solidarity, support and assistance to the Khmer people. We earnestly call upon all the delegates present here, all the governments, all the peoples, all the organizations and personalities, to intensify their actions in support of the Khmer people's struggle. We demand that the U.S. imperialists and their valets immediately and unconditionally stop their intervention [in] and aggression against Cambodia, and that they cease at once their support to the Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh, In Tam, Cheng Heng, and Sosthene Fernandez clique of traitors.

To conclude, we convey to the conference the best wishes for success.

Long live an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous Cambodia in her territorial integrity. Thank you for your attention!

Declaration Adopted 9 Dec

Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT 11 Dec 73 B

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 11--The International Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People held in Paris adopted Sunday [9 December] a declaration supporting the Cambodian people.

The declaration stressed that the Phnom Penh regime, installed by a CIA-fomented coup, was just an instrument of U.S. imperialism, and that this regime had never been accepted by the Cambodian people, who only recognized as legal and legitimate the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, which was controlling more than 90 percent of the national territory and more than 80 percent of the population. The declaration condemned the Nixon administration, which, regardless of its commitment to cease bombing Cambodia as from August 15, 1973, was going on with its barbarous war of aggression against Cambodia, an independent, peaceful, and non-aligned country. The declaration acclaimed the brilliant successes obtained by the Cambodian people in the military, political and diplomatic fields, while denouncing the manoeuvres of the Nixon administration to mislead the public in the United States and in the world. It affirmed the total support of the conference for the just struggle of the Cambodian people under the leadership of the NUFC and RGNUC and demanded an immediate end to the U.S. war of aggression in Cambodia.

The conference called on all peoples, including the American people, all forces of peace, democracy and progress, and all democratic organizations, national and international, to urgently strengthen their moral, political, and material aid to the just struggle of the Cambodian people, and multiply their initiatives for:

1. The unconditional, total, and immediate cessation of the aggression and intervention by the United States and its valets from Saigon and Bangkok.
2. The immediate withdrawal of all the experts, mercenaries and the other military personnel and material, as well as the termination of all aid and support to the Phnom Penh puppet regime.
3. The severance by all countries advocating peace, independence, democracy, and progress--if this has not yet been done--of all relations with the Phnom Penh regime, the de jure recognition of the RGNUC as the sole legal and legitimate government of Cambodia, the restoration to this government of its legitimate rights at the United Nations, and the expulsion of the representatives of the Phnom Penh regime therefrom, and
4. Respect for the fundamental national rights of the Cambodian people so that they may freely solve their internal affairs without foreign interference, in conformity with the five points of the March 23, 1970 declaration of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the NUFC, which declaration has been developed in the political programme of the NUFC and solemnly reaffirmed by the national congress taking place from July 19 to July 21, 1973 in the liberated zone of Cambodia.

The Cambodian people's cause is the cause of all peoples. Struggling for their own freedom, they are fighting for freedom for all of us, the declaration pointed out.

Besides, the conference made the following recommendations:

1. To inform the world public of the gravity of the situation in Cambodia following the U.S. aggression there and call on it to:

- Make public and broadcast the document of the NUFC,
- Publish the documents, articles, studies and others, materials in newspapers, magazines, and other publications,
- Prepare posters on events related to this war,
- Organize new conferences and meetings, and
- Denounce the use of U.S. bases in different countries.

2. To support the Cambodian people's struggle by

- Appealing to all peoples to demand that their governments if they have not yet done so to recognize the RGNUC and work for the restoration to it of its legitimate rights at the UN,
- Creating and developing in different countries committees for active support to the Cambodian people's struggle, and the friendship associations to unite with Cambodia, and
- Providing financial and material aids for the Cambodian people....

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO COPE WITH OIL PRICE HIKES

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0730 GMT 12 Dec 73 D

[Text] The measures taken last month by the Arab petroleum exporting countries, first to increase the price of fuel oil and then to cut production, have caused panic and confusion throughout the world and led to an unexpected and rapid rise in the prices of all consumer goods and freight costs. The Khmer Republic, which has already been hard hit by the war, is even more acutely affected by this price hike. The cost of recently imported fuel oil is about 110 percent higher than the effective price last September.

Since our national budget shows a deficit and is therefore unable to bear the increase in the petrol price, as stipulated by our government's policy of floating prices to accommodate consumers demand, and since there would be smuggling of fuel oil if we maintained a lower price for petroleum than in neighboring countries, the High Political Council has decided to set the price of petrol at a new rate in accordance with the proposal of the interdepartmental commission in charge of coordinating economic and financial affairs.

In order to alleviate the burden of the new prices, the government by the order of the High Political Council has ordered all competent authorities to ease the checking of all convoys of goods and foodstuffs, lift taxes on imported meat, vegetables and rice, organize fishing on the Tonle Sap River in the areas near kilometers 6 and 7 in order to provide consumer associations with cheap fish, lower the price of 40-page notebooks from 11 to 7 riels, increase funds for the 1974 budget in order to raise the salaries of civil servants and scholarships for students, implement oil conservation measures, set up a commission to enforce the austerity policy regarding oil consumption as well as goods and foodstuffs in all areas, and so on.