

CAMBODIA

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## ✓ LON NOL DEFECTIONS, NUFK VICTORIES OUTLINED

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[Text] Tens of battalions and companies and thousands of officers, troops, policemen, self-defense agents, and civil servants in the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak administration returned to the Cambodian revolutionary forces. The Lon Nol-Matak clique invited the elephant to trample on the ancestral tomb. It left the door open for the U.S. aggressors to move in and invade and destroy Cambodian territory on a large scale. It has thus clearly exposed its face as a traitor and U.S. lackey who has opposed the policy of independence, peace, and neutrality of the Cambodian kingdom and the national interests of the Khmer people.

Clearly realizing the dark scheme of the United States and the coup d'etat-engineering Lon Nol-Matak clique, and responding to the sacred national salvation appeal from Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, and the National United Front of Kampuchea [NUFK] and Royal Government of National Union, the Khmer people have arisen to oppose the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the traitorous Lon Nol-Matak clique. According to a recapitulative report from the NUFK Information Office, in the past 2 months, the Cambodian people and people's liberation armed forces continuously arose, vigorously fought and attacked the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak clique's forces, liberated many large areas, set up a people's administration in many provinces and districts and hundreds of villages and hamlets, annihilated or disintegrated over 24,000 enemy, including nearly 2,000 Americans, destroyed, partially destroyed, or disintegrated 28 battalions and many command posts and military sectors, and seized over 10,000 rifles, hundreds of vehicles, and over 600 (?trunks) of ammunition and war equipment.

Also in the past 2 months, listening to the voice of a just cause and the national salvation appeal from Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, NUFK, and the Royal Government of National Union, tens of battalions and companies and thousands of troops quit the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak administration and enrolled in the Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces. At Mondulhiri, hundreds of officers, troops, and policemen in Sre Khtum and (Ram) on 13 and 15 April made public their separation from the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak clique. In the (Camprana) post alone, two platoons arose, destroyed the post, and went to the liberated areas with all their weapons. On 27 April, over 450 troops in Minot left the enemy ranks and went to the liberated areas with all their rifles and ammunition to participate in opposing the Americans and the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak clique. Not resigning themselves to being forced by the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak clique to shoot at and kill their compatriots and relatives, officers and troops in many companies and battalions joined the people's liberation armed forces with their weapons so as to fight the Americans for national salvation. Other servicemen were confused and completely lost their combat spirit.

In Takeo Province alone, in 9 days--from 11 to 19 April--the Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces besieged and forced to surrender or withdraw over 40 posts, disintegrated thousands of enemy, and seized thousands of rifles. At Sisophon, in Battambang Province, on 2 May hundreds of officers and troops quit the ranks of the Lon Nol-Matak clique and went to the liberated areas with their weapons to participate in combat alongside the people. In the town of (Phong Ra Bek), on the night of 2 and 3 May, the Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces besieged the regional military sector, explained the just path of the NUFK and the Royal Government of National Union to the officers and troops in the post, and called on them to stand up to oppose the Lon Nol-Matak clique. Not listening to this call, a number of stubborn commanding officers forced the troops in the post to resist the people's liberation armed forces. As a result, the post was destroyed and nearly 450 servicemen were killed, including the post commander. 50 men became POW's.

On the same day, the Cambodian people and people's liberation armed forces besieged and called for the surrender of troops in the (Muong Sau) post, near the (Phong Ra Bek) military sector. There, Buddhist monks also called on and persuaded the troops and officers to surrender. Listening to the just call, at 1700 hours, all officers and troops in the post returned to the people with nearly 200 rifles and their entire war equipment and participated in opposing the Americans and the reactionary Lon Nol-Matak clique.

In Kratie Province, in 3 days alone--from 6 to 8 May--over 1,500 troops and officers, responding to the appeal from the NUFK and the Royal Government of National Union, arose and, together with the people's liberation armed forces, fought and occupied various positions in the provincial capital and punished the reactionaries who stubbornly opposed them. These officers and troops enrolled in the ranks of the Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces with over 2,000 rifles of various types and a great quantity of ammunition.

At Prey Veng, on 8 May, a battalion in the Prey Veng military sector enrolled in the people's liberation armed forces with all their weapons. On the same day, hundreds of troops, officers, civil servants, policemen, and self-defense agents left the Lon Nol-Matak ranks for the liberated areas and participated in the resistance or went home to earn a living. At (Candul), on 11 May, the majority of officers and troops in the 93d battalion enrolled in the liberation armed forces with all their weapons. At Stung Treng, on 16 May, when the Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces destroyed three enemy battalions and disintegrated many other battalions in the Stung Treng provincial capital, over 1,000 officers and troops in the Lon Nol-Matak armed forces defected to the revolutionary ranks.

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