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NORTH VIETNAMESE STATEMENT ON CAMBODIA ON THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM,
FEBRUARY 1, 1973

On 26 January 1973, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia (NUFC), and Samdech Premier Penn Nouth and Vice Premier Knieu Samphan, on behalf of the NUFC and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (RGNUC), issued a statement clearly defining their correct position on Cambodia on the occasion of their hailing the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam. On 28 January 1973, Messrs Khieu Samphan, Hou Youn and Hu Nim—three ministers representing the interior part of the RGNUC—also issued a statement reasserting this position on Cambodia.

The statements clearly pointed out that the Cambodian people have always desired to live in peace and to adhere to their peaceful and neutral line, which has enjoyed extremely great sympathy and support from people the world over. However, the U.S. imperialists and the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Natak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique carried out a coup d'etat 18 March 1970, eliminating Cambodia's independence, peace and neutrality.

The Cambodian people have had to stand up to struggle (to wrest back) peace with independence, sovereignty and true freedom for Cambodia. But the U.S. imperialists have refused to give up their dark design of aggression against Cambodia and, furthermore, have entertained the scheme of destroying the liberated area and massacring the Cambodian people.

The statements issued on 26 January 1973 and on 28 January 1973 by the RGNUC exposed the just nature of the Cambodian people's anti-U.S. national salvation struggle and their correct stand, that is, that the Cambodian problem should be solved in keeping with the 23 March 1970 five-point declaration of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk with a view to building Cambodia as an independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous country with unity and territorial integrity.

To proceed toward restoring peace throughout Indochina, the Vietnamese people and the DRV Government are resolved to support this just struggle and correct stand of the Cambodian people. The United States should respect the Cambodian people's basic national rights. Cambodia's internal affairs should be settled by the Cambodian people themselves without foreign interference. Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk is the representative of the legitimacy, genuineness and continuity of the Cambodian state. The RGNUC with Samdech Penn Nouth as premier and Mr. Khieu Samphan as vice premier, is the sole legitimate and genuine government of the Cambodian people.

The Vietnamese people firmly believe that the just struggle of the valiant Cambodian people, under the leadership of the NUFC and the RGNUC, as well as the just struggle of the valiant Lao people, under the leadership of the NLHS, will certainly achieve glorious victories.

The fate of the three Indochinese peoples will always be closely linked. The love between Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos has been built up with blood in the course of the long struggle against the common enemy for the sake of the independence and freedom of each country.

Loyal to the joint declaration of the Indochinese peoples' summit conference, the Vietnamese people and the DRV Government are unswervingly determined to intensify solidarity with the fraternal Cambodian and Lao peoples to defeat all schemes of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, defend the basic national rights of the people of each country, and make the land of the three Indochinese countries really an independent and peaceful area.