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NORTH VIETNAMESE STATEMENT ON CAMBODIA. JANUARY 30, 1973

[Text] At a time when all progressive mankind is displaying the highest elation and enthusiastically hailing our people's great victory won through the signing of the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam, in Phnom Penh, a helpless and isolated island in the middle of the impenetrable siege of the Cambodian revolution, the U.S. puppet reactionaries have not stopped uttering strange discordant allegations and vile slanders against our people. On 27 and again on 28 January, puppet president Lon Nol in messages over Phnom Penh radio distorted the spirit and letter of the 27 January 1973 Paris agreement, brazenly slandered the DRV and the PRGRSV by claiming that they have committed aggression against Cambodia, and demanded that our people put an end to this so-called aggression.

This is indeed a brazen act of changing white to black, and an evil trick designed to cover up the U.S. imperialists' aggression in that country. The American lackeys in Phnom Penh, however, have acted in vain. The actual situation in Cambodia has completely refuted their distorting allegations and vile slanders.

For a long time now the whole world has clearly known that it is the U.S. imperialists who have intervened in and invaded Cambodia and the other countries in Indochina. It was the U.S. imperialists who instigated the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak lackeys to stage the reactionary coup d'etat on 18 March 1970 against the Cambodian people in an attempt to eliminate Cambodia's independence and turn this country into a new-type U.S. colony and a springboard against the resistance of the Vietnamese and Lao peoples. The whole world knows very well that it was precisely the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique which let the wolf enter the house by bringing U.S.-Saigon puppet troops into Cambodia to ravage its land, causing untold misery and death to its people.

This challenge by the country-stealers and country-sellers promptly met with the Cambodian people's strong answer. Under the leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia, headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, and of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (RGNUC), headed by Samdech Penn Nouth as prime minister and Mr. Khieu Samphan as deputy prime minister, the Cambodian people have waged an extremely valiant struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys to liberate their fatherland and have registered one brilliant victory after another in all fields—military, political and diplomatic.

The Cambodian armed forces and people have been continuously strengthening their position of initiative and offensive, stepping up their people's war, pushing the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique back toward their den in Cambodia, and inflicting upon the enemy troops heavy and disastrous defeats, particularly in the case of the failure of the Chen La II military operation, which represented the utmost effort of the U.S.-Phnom Penh puppets in their Khmerization of the war plan.

The prestige of the Cambodian revolution has been steadily enhanced. Many personalities, intellectuals, monks and patriotic militarymen have left the zone temporarily under the control of the enemy to join the liberated zone and to directly participate in the war of resistance. Many groups of peasants and farmers have bravely crossed enemy lines or left concentration camps and returned to their liberated native lands.

On the international stage, the prestige of the Cambodian revolution has also steadily risen. Over 30 countries have established diplomatic relations with the RGNUC. The fact that the conference of the foreign ministers of nonaligned nations held in Georgetown in August 1972 recognized the RGNUC delegation

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as an official member of the conference constituted convincing proof of the considerable prestige of the just and victorious struggle of the Cambodian people. On the contrary, the fact that the delegation of the Phnom Penh puppet regime was not allowed to participate in the same international conference also showed very clearly the highly isolated position of the U.S.-puppets on the international stage.

Resorting to vile accusations against our people, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique has striven to cover up the above-mentioned irrefutable facts involving Cambodia and the U.S. war of aggression against that country. At the same time, they have also tried to hide their country-selling crimes. However, the more they accuse others and distort the truth, the more they will expose their true features to public opinion at home and abroad. Despite the fact that it has been dolled up by every possible means by its American masters and nurtured with dollars and weapons, the corpse of the so-called Khmer Republic has come to its last gasps.

Our people are resolutely determined to reject the above-mentioned slanderous and vile arguments of the Lon Nol clique, and they demand that the Americans end all of their involvement in Cambodia and respect the fundamental national rights of the Cambodian people as the 27 January 1973 Paris agreement has stipulated. The people and Government of the DRV have always respected the fundamental national rights of the Cambodian people, that is, the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Cambodia. Our stand is unchanged.

All of the slanderous arguments and vile tricks of the Phnom Penh puppets against the Vietnamese people will end in pitiful bankruptcy, as will their acts in serving as U.S. lackeys.
