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SAIGON VIEWS ON CAMBODIAN SITUATION AFTER BOMBING HALT

Saigon Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 15 Aug 73 S

[Commentary]

[Text] The U.S. bombing raids in support of the army of the Khmer Republic will end at midnight on 15 August, after they have been continuously carried out for 160 days in support of the young Khmer Republic's resistance against the North Vietnamese communists, who have described their war of aggression in Cambodia as a civil war between the communists and the nationalists.

Thus, one side will be deprived of a factor instrumental in maintaining the balance of forces, whereas the other side's pressure-exerting strength will remain intact. How do our RVN people conceive of the situation in the Khmer Republic, a situation that all of us are concerned about?

Officially, the RVN view was expounded quite fully by Acting RVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Phu Duc in an interview he granted to REUTER yesterday. He said: The United States has carried out bombing raids in support of the army of the Khmer Republic, merely because the North Vietnamese communist forces have invaded this nation. Now that the U.S. bombing will end at a time when the North Vietnamese communist aggressor forces have not only remained in the Khmer Republic but have also intensified their aggressive activities, the bombing halt would put the Khmer Republic Government in a more difficult position.

Summing up his view, the acting RVN foreign minister said the RVN could maintain its friendly relations with any government in the Khmer Republic, provided that the North Vietnamese communist forces pull out of that nation and let the Cambodian people exercise the right to shape their own future. Directly viewing the origin of the war in the Khmer Republic, the acting foreign minister clearly expressed our government's unchanged view regarding the Cambodia problem.

Some people, because of their personal interests, might have regarded the armed conflict in the Khmer Republic as a civil war among various opposing political factions in that small and peace-loving nation. These people's allegations sounded like communist allegations.

The RVN has not twisted the truth about the armed conflict in the Khmer Republic. In the REUTER interview, Acting RVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Phu Duc stressed that the present war in the Khmer Republic is not an internal struggle among various Cambodian factions, but rather is a war premeditated and waged by the North Vietnamese communists. Elaborating on this, he said the Khmer Rouge faction has no real strength, because it is divided internally, and the professed Sihanouk supporters possess an insubstantial numerical strength.

Thus, we must squarely face the following fact--the presence of large numbers of North Vietnamese communist troops, who have actually run the war in the Khmer Republic. The number of North Vietnamese communist troops operating in the Khmer Republic, according to the most reliable estimate, is 40,000. Therefore, in assessing the facts that have emerged in the agonizing Cambodian nation, the RVN has consistently drawn a line of distinction between the Cambodian people's internal political problems and the war of aggression waged by the North Vietnamese communists on Cambodian territory. As far as the Cambodian people's internal political problems are concerned, we deeply appreciate the difficulties encountered by the Khmer Republic, a regime that has sided with us and a nation that is closely related to the RVN geographically.

Militarily, whether or not the Khmer Republic's military difficulties truly reflect the real balance of forces among the opposing Cambodian forces themselves requires more critical consideration.

Politically, the RVN is not intent on meddling in the manner in which the Cambodian people will shape their own future. This view, which we have reiterated on many occasions, was vividly reflected in the acting RVN foreign minister's statement that the RVN could maintain friendly relations with any government in the Khmer Republic.

Apart from the Khmer Republic's internal political problems, we can in no way resign ourselves to considering as a fait accompli or as unchangeable any developments connected with the bloody hands and the expansionist ambitions of the North Vietnamese communists in Cambodia. Acting RVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Phu Duc unequivocally expounded this RVN concern to REUTER yesterday. He said if the North Vietnamese communist troops continue to remain illegally in the Khmer Republic after the United States ends the bombing in support of the army of the Khmer Republic, this illegal presence constitutes a challenge not only to the RVN, but also to the free world as a whole.

The RVN view regarding the Khmer Republic problem is unequivocal. It is a realistic outlook based on the Geneva agreements on Laos and Cambodia and the 27 January Paris agreement. The principles of respect for the Khmer Republic's independence, neutrality and territorial integrity is an inviolable principle.

The total withdrawal of foreign forces from the Khmer Republic, in accordance with Article 20 of the 27 January Paris agreement, represents another principle that must inevitably be implemented, so as to respect the Cambodian people's right to solve their own internal problems. In fact, the North Vietnamese communists so far have not respected these fundamental principles, despite their written commitments to respect them.

Outsiders who are not affected in any way by the life-or-death trials inherent in the situation in the Khmer Republic threatened by foreign aggression--and who are therefore insensitive to the pressure of aggression spreading east and west of invaded Khmer territory--certainly have the right to advance any views whatsoever, including their obdurate denial of undeniable reality. As far as we are concerned, we hold that until the North Vietnamese communist expeditionary, aggressor forces respect the Khmer Republic's independence, neutrality and territorial integrity, specifically respect Article 20 of the Paris agreement and allow the Khmer people to freely shape the future of their own country, these forces' illegal presence in the Khmer Republic continues to exert strong pressure on a flank of the RVN nation and territory, the real target of North Vietnamese communist aggression.

We already have maintained vigilance. Faced with the turning point arising in the situation after the army of the Khmer Republic is deprived of U.S. air support, we must certainly be more vigilant than ever before. The communists are inherently greedy and tyrannical men cherishing expansionist ambitions. A clue to their expansionist strategy has loomed large.

Until the North Vietnamese communists display good will and leave the three Indochina countries, excluding communist North Vietnam, alone so they can freely shape their own future, the best course of action for us is to strengthen our defense and maintain maximum vigilance in order to defend ourselves.

SAIGON COMMENTATOR: RVN, CAMBODIA PEACE CLOSELY LINKED

Saigon Domestic Television Service in Vietnamese 1300 GMT 16 Aug 73 S

[Commentary]

[Text] Our country always pursues a policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of friendly countries, because we do not want any foreign interference in our own internal affairs. We also pursue a policy of winning more friends and establishing amicable relations with all friendly nations in the world, especially the free world. We have further strengthened these relations with the neighboring countries sharing the same ideal with us and threatened by the same danger of communist aggression.

The RVN Government has many times asserted this open-hearted and amicable foreign policy. This means that despite all necessary changes in the current situation, the main features of this policy remain unchanged. This is proved by our viewpoint regarding the latest developments in Laos and Cambodia, our two neighboring countries.

Following the end of all U.S. bombing in Cambodia on the afternoon of 15 August 1973, world opinion is now awaiting some developments on the Indochina peninsula in the days to come and the RVN reaction to the present situation in this part of the world.

One day prior to the halt of U.S. bombing raids in Cambodia, in an interview granted to REUTER correspondent Peter Sharrock, Acting RVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Phu Duc stated that the RVN would maintain friendly relations with any subsequent Cambodian government after the North Vietnamese communist troops withdraw from Cambodia. In his opinion, there would no longer be problems for the RVN if all North Vietnamese communist troops were withdrawn from Cambodia and if the Cambodian people could exercise their right to self-determination in deciding their own future. However, if these troops continue to occupy Cambodia, this would pose a challenge not only to the RVN but also to the free world.

One wonders whether peace and a stabilized situation can be achieved through the negotiations with the communists and whether a free country can safeguard its independence and neutrality on the basis of a commitment by the Hanoi regime.

The RVN acting foreign minister also held that the cessation of U.S. bombing in the Khmer Republic would certainly cause many difficulties to the armed forces of the Khmer Republic and to the government led by President Lon Nol. However, the situation certainly will not change in several days or a few weeks.

The fact that the announcement of a deadline for the cessation of the bombing was not accompanied by a forced withdrawal of troops on the part of communist North Vietnam is a disadvantage to the anticommunist forces. The RVN acting foreign minister stressed that the concern of the Republic of Vietnam for the situation in the Khmer Republic was not based on the prospect of the establishment of a new government, but on the illegal presence of the North Vietnamese communist troops there. He reasoned that the main aspect of the Khmer Republic problem lies in that very point, and not in the conflicts between the various Cambodian parties. Deposed Chief of State Sihanouk himself failed in rallying a considerable force there. The Red Khmer force is also subject to serious internal division and can only exist with the support from the North Vietnamese communist troops. As everyone knows, the North Vietnamese communist troops do not have any right to stay in the Khmer Republic's territory. Their presence is a brazen violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreement, the Paris agreement of 27 January, and the joint communique of 13 June 1973.

Also according to the RVN acting foreign minister, in the eyes of the North Vietnamese communists, the Republic of Vietnam, the Kingdom of Laos, and the Khmer Republic are parts of a continuous military front.

As everyone knows, the Cambodian communists' subordination to the North Vietnamese communist troops is obvious and undeniable, and the presence of these troops in Cambodia for many years is also undeniable and as clear as the sight of fire.

Recently, (Hinh Chit), 29 years old, leader of a Cambodian communist battalion, who had rallied to the Government of the Republic of Cambodia, revealed that the North Vietnamese communist troops had been under the command of Gen Nam Long, and more than 6,000 Cambodian communist troops had been encircling Phnom Penh followed closely by about 2,000 North Vietnamese communist troops. He also revealed that he was trained in Hanoi and had contacts with and received orders directly from Nam Long, adding that communist North Vietnam had taken advantage of the Sihanouk label in its scheme to annex Cambodia and that this was the reason he had quit the communist troops' ranks and rallied to the Cambodian Government.

Recently, the information minister of the Khmer Republic asserted that as long as the North Vietnamese communist troops remained in Cambodia, the Cambodian communists would continue to be under their control and be unable to negotiate freely.

As we know, the RVN and Cambodia are as closely related as lips and teeth. President Thieu has many times told foreign newsmen that perhaps communist North Vietnam has now rearranged its annexation objectives. Previously it aimed first at South Vietnam. But following its serious defeat, it has reversed the order; Laos and Cambodia must be annexed first and used as a springboard from which to annex all of Indochina. For this reason the RVN has followed closely the situation in both countries.

Our competent circles have asserted that when our neighbor's home is on fire, we cannot stand by and watch communist North Vietnam do anything it wishes, and that we will carefully consider the proposal for aiding Cambodia if we receive it, because there are now several hundred thousand Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. Also, the North Vietnamese communist troops presence there really affects our security.

After 15 August, the situation in Cambodia might become tense but not hopeless, because the Khmer Republic people and government will resolutely continue to oppose the communists with their own capabilities, because the United States will continue to support its friendly allies with all means, and because we will not sit by idly and allow the North Vietnamese communists to continue the war, sabotage peace, and brazenly and seriously violate the 27 January 1973 Paris agreement. Does not the fact that the communists troops have not yet dared a direct attack on Phnom Penh relate to this point?

COMMUNISTS SAID READY TO BLOCK RVN RESETTLEMENT

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[Text] A reliable source said the communist aggressors are building up their military units to support their scheme to foil our government's effort to return our compatriots to their former locales to make a living.

The same source added that the communist aggressors had also instructed their men to terrorize and force our village and hamlet cadres to support their scheme. In addition, to implement their rainy season plan, the communist aggressors have instructed their armed forces to attack and occupy entire villages, districts, and provinces and then herd people into the newly occupied areas to form combat villages, with people living inside to support their propaganda about their land control in South Vietnam.