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GOVERNMENT DENOUNCES N. VIETNAMESE USE OF TOXIC GAS

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1218 GMT 30 Aug 72 D

[Statement of the Government of the Khmer Republic; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] After using heavy tanks against our national defense forces during August, the North Vietnamese invading forces are now using toxic gas, such as in the operation in the Tonle Sap Big Lake region, since 28 August.

The Government of the Khmer Republic, therefore, today denounces the escalation by North Vietnam in its war of aggression against our country, an independent and peace-loving state. Based on facts observed during the past several days, it is certain that the North Vietnamese forces are escalating their offensive because, after they used numerous rockets to bombard Phnom Penh city and massacre its civilian population, they used tanks and toxic gas bombs. In using toxic gas bombs--a weapon banned by international law and conventions approved by all civilized countries--the enemy has reached a new level of crimes.

The Government of the Khmer Republic wishes to call to the attention of other countries and of international public opinion this dangerous escalation of violence perpetrated by North Vietnam. They want to smash at all cost the national struggle of the Khmer people who are fighting, essentially, to escape from North Vietnamese domination.

Now more than ever, effective, compulsory international action should be taken to put an end to the illegal aggression being carried out by North Vietnam against the Khmer Republic and other neighboring countries.