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INFORMATION MINISTRY ON 'WAR CRIMES' COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

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[Khmer Republic Information Ministry statement--date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In a resolution passed at its recent third conference, the so-called "Committee in Charge of Investigating U.S. War Crimes" blamed the United States for using outlawed weapons in Indochina. The committee supported the North Vietnamese, claiming that they are "war victims" and, therefore, are entitled to war indemnities. In view of this display of bad faith and injustice, the Information Ministry of the Khmer Republic deems it necessary to state clearly the following points:

1. In the Khmer Republic, only the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong have used outlawed weapons. They have not hesitated to use shells containing toxic gas in their attacks against the Khmer Republic armed forces and civilians, as was the case in 1971 along Routes 5, 6, 7 and in other areas, and again this year, along Route 1. Moreover, the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong aggressors have used 122-mm rockets to pound our populated areas.
2. On the other hand, the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong's violation of (?war conventions) in the Khmer Republic are countless. They have massacred people, burned down houses, schools, hospitals, monasteries and ambulances, captured and killed local journalists, and destroyed Khmer cultural sites--thus violating and trampling upon the Hague treaties--and they have committed all kinds of terrorist acts in order to frighten civilians. Therefore, the victims of the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong's barbarous acts are the ones who have the right to claim compensation. Because it is the Khmer Republic who is the victim, we will exercise this right when the occasion arises in order to compel the North Vietnamese to pay compensation to Cambodia.
3. We wonder on what basis this committee dares propose that the victim countries in Indochina should refuse aid from friendly countries. This aid is necessary for the victim countries to defend themselves against the North Vietnamese aggressors. Also, the justice-loving people in the world are surprised that, in order to end the Indochinese war, this committee does not advocate an end to the supply of arms to North Vietnam. And they wonder why it does not request that the aggressor troops withdraw from the countries that are the victims of aggression.

Finally, the Information Ministry of the Khmer Republic must expose the unjust and dishonest acts of the committee--a propaganda tool for the benefit of the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong aggressors--which wants to deceive world opinion and hide the aggressive acts of the North Vietnamese in the Khmer Republic and other countries in Indochina.