

IV. 10 Dec 74

C A M B O D I A

055971

CAMBODIA
FILE

~~FILE~~ ~~SUBJ.~~

~~DATE~~

~~SUB-CAT~~

LONG BORET PUTS CORRUPTION PROBLEM IN PERSPECTIVE

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1215 GMT 2 Dec 74 D

[Undated "excerpts" of an interview with First Minister Long Boret by the Voice of America--apparently recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is your impression as the prime minister of Cambodia on the decision of the 29th UN General Assembly session giving the UN seat to the Khmer Republic?

[Answer] The most important point of the decision of the 29th UNGA session concerning Cambodia is that the United Nations has appealed to all superpowers to help make possible the negotiations for peace and reconciliation between the two Cambodian sides. This, to me, is the most significant point, for it conforms with the will of the Cambodian people throughout the country and also conforms with the peace proposal put forth by our republic on 9 July 1974. In fact, this 9 July peace proposal has no other intention than the one just stressed by the United Nations saying that the United Nations, like the Khmer Republic, sincerely wants peace and sincerely desires to see the Cambodian people given back the peace they have lost for several years.

This resolution of the 29th UN General Assembly session has given the Cambodian seat to the Khmer Republic. I take this opportunity to thank all friendly countries for their active efforts to help defend the rights of our Khmer Republic in the United Nations. I express special thanks to countries in Asia for their unreserved support to our important cause.

[Question] Do you think that peace will be soon restored in Cambodia according to the resolution of the United Nations?

[Answer] Peace is possible only when each party concerned agrees to make concessions. This is a fact that all of us must know. As for our Khmer Republic, we have already advanced a most sincere proposal. Now all countries can judge the sincerity of the Khmer Republic--whether this proposal was made just for the purpose of winning the seat at the United Nations or whether it was truly aimed at achieving peace. So far our Cambodian brothers of the other side have not agreed to talk with us. But we are confident that the UN resolution may have some effect. Our people can hope that there will be talks in the future.

As I already told the U.S. press some 4 days ago or so, during my press conference prior to my coming to the United Nations, the question of corruption besets every weak country. With regard to Cambodia, the corruption question existed even before the change of the ruling system. Prince Sihanouk himself used to admit that this was a serious problem. And since the war broke out, it has become worse. Moreover, our government faces many problems. I told the press that we had many problems and we decided to solve the most urgent of them all.

I believe that in these circumstances our Cambodian people have an urgent desire for peace. Therefore, we have spent much time searching for peace. When we have achieved peace we will then try to deal with corruption. The government will fight corruption at all costs. The Government of the Khmer Republic is well aware of this problem.

I said that each of us must have a national conscience. Failing this, no amount of efforts can solve the problem. Meanwhile, let me say that despite the urgent peace question, the Government of the Khmer Republic with myself as the first minister has not overlooked this question of corruption at all.

LONG BORET RETURNS FROM UNGA SESSION 7 DEC

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0813 GMT 7 Dec 74 D

[Statement by First Minister Long Boret on arrival at Pochentong airport in Phnom Penh on 7 December--recorded]

[Text] Your excellencies and gentlemen, the diplomatic representatives in the Khmer Republic, your excellency the president of the senate, ladies, gentlemen, brothers and friends, students and schoolteachers whose delegations are present here: On behalf of the Cambodian delegation which was on a mission to the 29th session of the UN General Assembly, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to you for the welcome given to me and other delegates of our Khmer Republic who have accomplished their mission. I regret to say that the minister of foreign affairs and other members will still be busy with their work until the end of December. For this reason, on their behalf, I would like to express to you my appreciation for this welcome which serves as an encouragement to the members of our delegation, who are engaged in a bitter fight in defense of our republic's rights on the international scene.

On this occasion I am unable to make a report to the nation, but I promise to hold a conference on the Cambodian issue and report later to the nation in order to have your full understanding. Thank you and goodbye.

Reports to Lon Nol

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0730 GMT 8 Dec 74 D

[Text] After receiving a warm welcome from the diplomatic corps, dignitaries, ministers, government officials, civilians, militarymen and the public at Pochentong airport, First Minister Long Boret went directly to the Chamcar Mon presidential palace by motorcade to make a detailed report on his mission at the United Nations to the marshal-president and the Executive Council members. Accompanied by Senate Chairman Saukham Khoy, Assistant to First Minister Pan Sothi, Interior and Security Minister Gen Ek Proeung and high command representative Gen Thong Van Phan Moeung, the first minister arrived at the Chamcar Mon palace at 1140 yesterday.

He was greeted by President Lon Nol and his supreme adviser Sirik Matak as well as Charman of the National Assembly Ung Bun Hor and other Executive Council members such as Hang Thun Hak, Op Kim Ang and Gen Sosthene Fernandez, who is also commander in chief and chief of the general staff of the Cambodian Armed Forces. Among the leaders present were also Ngau Bang Eam, chef de cabinet of the president, Gen [names indistinct].

Long Boret presented a report on the proceedings of the debate at the UN General Assembly concerning the question of the Khmer Republic's representation at the United Nations. He said that the debate proceeded uneventfully from 26 to 27 November and on the night of 27-28 November. The first minister also explained the procedures of the balloting and described the wrangling that went on during the debate as well as the last-minute maneuvers made by the supporters of the Cambodians of the other side to defeat the resolution favorable to our Khmer Republic.