

SAMDECH HEAD OF STATE NORODOM SIHANOUK ISSUES APPEALS TO KHMER INTELLECTUALS

SAMDECH Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia and President of the National United Front of Kampuchea sent on August 18, 1970 a special message to the intellectuals in the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak regime to rise up against the US imperialists and their henchmen, break away from the traitorous Lon Nol — Sirik Matak regime and join the National United Front of Kampuchea.

The message said:

“YOU, who have the “title” of intellectuals, are supposed to have a high cultural standard and the ability to think, meditate and tell white from black and black from white...

Look at the present plight of our country: it is a prey to the dogs of war unleashed by Lon Nol and Sirik Matak by their US masters and their sub-masters in Bangkok and Saigon who do not show the least restraint in oppressing, plundering, robbing, raping and killing our fellow-countrymen in the provinces and countryside and in razing our villages, forests, fields and cities, with the exception of Phnom Penh to allow the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique to have a “fief” to carry out exploitation in complete tranquility.

Faced with such a situation, you should have the courage to “consult” your conscience, ask whether you are acting as Khmers worthy of the name, that is to say, as Khmers who are not renegades, as Indochinese who are not renegades, as sons and daughters of the people loyal to them.

Can you really give credence to the propaganda of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique when it states that President Nixon and the US grant extravagant sums of US dollars to the Thieu-Ky and to Lon Nol — Sirik Matak cliques, out of their “love” for the “yellow race” of Viet Nam and Cambodia?

Does your conscience tell you that US imperialism has a different nature from that of European colonialism at whose hands, for example, the Khmers, Lao and Vietnamese still suffered not long ago?

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According to the propaganda of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Sim Var, Douc Rasy and Trinh Hoanh, the armed intervention in Cambodia ordered by Nixon was prompted by the “friendship” and “affection” the [white] Americans feel for the [yellow or brown] Khmer people.

Can your conscience believe that when the B-52's, F-105's, Phantoms of Nixon, Thieu-Ky, Bangkok rain thousands upon thousands of tons of bombs and napalm on our provinces, districts, villages and cities, and even on our sacred temples of Angkor?

The patriotic Khmer people have a conscience that does not juggle with real facts.

You, intellectuals in the service of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak, take fright easily because their propaganda asserts that communism is the mortal enemy of the Khmers. You do not want to open your eyes to reality, in particular to the reactionary nature of people like Lon Nol and the enormous and ill-gotten fortunes of such individuals as Sirik Matak and Songsakd.

You should ask your conscience what Lon Nol and Sirik Matak are really defending [their own interests or those of the people?] when they send to the war, to death, tens of thousands of young recruits.”

The message refuted the slanders of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique against Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and condemned the Phnom Penh reactionaries heinous crimes of bringing in US and Saigon puppet troops to trample upon the Cambodian territory over the past four months.

It pointed to the repeated military setbacks of the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique which had forced them to beg for “support” from the US imperialists, the Saigon puppets and the Thai reactionaries to cope with the growing people's armed struggle.

It laid bare the policy of “making Asians fight Asians of the Nixon” administration which is allowing the Saigon puppet administration and the Thai reactionaries to set up in Phnom Penh a “common protectorate.”

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"Our Khmer people know," the message went on, "what the nature of US imperialism and capitalism is like. They (US imperialists - Ed.) do not 'love' you. On the contrary, they have utter contempt for you. Although they sometimes hide this for 'tactical reason,' they have nothing but scorn and loathing for Asian traitors and others who surrender their countries for the US imperialists to establish their 'empire' there."

The message stressed that the Khmer peasants regard the Vietnamese as their brothers and friends. They neither are taken in by the hostile propaganda of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique against the Vietnamese people nor confuse these with the Thieu-Ky puppet clique.

It said that the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia under the leadership of the FUNK has won wholehearted support from the great majority of the Cambodian people and has laid firm foundations in the liberated areas.

After denouncing the corruption of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique and the savage crimes committed by the Saigon puppet troops against the Cambodian people, the message recalled the great successes of the Cambodian people's liberation armed forces which are growing rapidly in every respect.

"If you join the FUNK," the message concluded, "you will avoid being branded as traitors to the Fatherland. Your names and those of your families will then be honoured as those of patriots, heroes and heroines of the national liberation."

VIET NAM COURIER