

SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT BY PREMIER LON NOL, JANUARY 28, 1973

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[Text] My homage to the two samdech supreme patriarchs, mister chairman of the Senate, mister chairman of the National Assembly, ladies and gentlemen: The hostilities in various battlefields of the Indochina peninsula will be stopped by the cease-fire agreement just signed by the United States and other warring

parties. The Khmer Republic, a peace-aspiring country, gleefully welcomes this event and demands that the settlement principle upon which this agreement is based be further strengthened in the future by good will for its implementation. The Khmer Republic emphasizes that the groundless war which has caused havoc and suffering of all kinds to the Cambodian people ever since they founded the republic was provoked by the aggression of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong. Since 29 March 1970, the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong forces, illegally based on Cambodian territory, began attacks against the Cambodian people and the less numerous, poorly equipped and badly trained Cambodian armed forces. In this case, North Vietnam infringed upon the sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Cambodian nation and encroached upon the 1954 Geneva agreement which guaranteed these assets, despite the fact that this country was one of the agreement signatories. North Vietnam must bear total responsibility for the deaths and destruction inflicted by its multi-division armed forces on the Cambodian people.

The above-mentioned cease-fire agreement must put an end to all these acts of aggression and must order these forces to immediately withdraw from Cambodian soil. As a contribution to and support for the restoration of peace in the Indochinese Peninsula, the government and people of the Khmer Republic express heartfelt welcome to the achievement of this agreement. However, they solemnly declare that in parallel with this agreement the Cambodian Government and people demand that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam cease its aggression and respect the 1954 Geneva convention on Cambodia. *Therefore, we Cambodian people request that the North Vietnamese aggressors and their Viet Cong lackeys lay down their weapons and immediately pull out of Cambodian territory.* We forbid all arms caches and sanctuaries and all military bases or other strategic installations on our land. We demand that these persons immediately stop their sabotage and any destructive activities against the lives and property of our people as well as immediately cease their subversion and all kinds of interference in our internal affairs. We declare that the Khmer Republic will remain under the control of the 1954 Geneva agreement which guaranteed our country's independence, sovereignty, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity. We demand that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam—which is now calling for the application of the Geneva agreement, too, so that its rights over Vietnam are respected—scrupulously respect this agreement itself regarding the rights of other peoples in countries other than Vietnam. The Cambodians are sovereign, independent and neutral people. They desire to live in their chosen ways and institutions. They absolutely do not tolerate foreign interference in their own business. They can never accept any disregard for their territorial integrity and insist on strict fulfillment of promises contained in international agreements. The Cambodians always desire to coexist peacefully with all countries, without ideological or social discrimination. The cease-fire in Vietnam compels the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong aggressors to cease their illegal activities in the Khmer Republic which they have used as a shelter and base for their attacks against neighboring countries.

We declare that the following acts will be regarded as an encroachment upon the spirit and principle of the newly made cease-fire agreement:

- 1—All military offensive operations that may be launched by the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong forces on the Cambodian territory after the cease-fire;
- 2—Refusal to withdraw the Vietnamese-Viet Cong troops from Cambodian territory or disintegration of and disguising these forces as civilians living among our people;
- 3—Clandestine use of certain regions of our territory as passageways;
- 4—Caches of arms as well as preservation of military bases or other strategic installations on our territory;
- 5—All kinds of sabotage, destruction of lives and property of the Cambodian people, as well as all sorts of subversion and interference in our internal affairs.

By virtue of the 1954 Geneva agreement, we are legitimately and entirely entitled to reoccupy our territory which has been illegally controlled by the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong. Therefore, in order to permit the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong troops to withdraw from our territory within the shortest delay, we affirm that as of Monday, 29 January 1973, at 0700 Phnom Penh time all units of the National Cambodian Armed Forces will suspend all offensives and transform these war activities into a drive to contact the people and to assure their

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security. Any impediment against this move of our armed forces which affects the positions of our armed forces can occur only from infringement upon these rules. Whosoever so does must bear complete responsibility for all consequences. We will always maintain the rights of legal self-defense by continuing our self-defense operations across our country. We appeal to the International Control and Supervisory Commission, all signatory parties of the present cease-fire agreement, the United Nations and all justice- and peace-loving countries to help us defend the territorial integrity of our fatherland and help us defend our legal rights in our capacity as an independent and sovereign nation by demanding that the application of this agreement be correctly and thoroughly made. We hope that the present cease-fire agreement will bring about peace in the entire Indochinese peninsula and in the whole region of Southeast Asia. Based on our own experiences, we believe that the good will of the signatory parties of the cease-fire agreement alone is insufficient to preserve a lasting peace. In this case, all friendly countries should help supervise the implementation of this agreement by forcing the parties concerned to strictly respect it, and especially, should keep enough troops in this region to prevent any aggressor from nurturing an attempt to fight the others.

In conclusion, we solemnly declare that the Khmer Republic is always ready to establish friendly relations with every country without discrimination on condition that countries respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Khmer Republic.
