

U.S. Welcomes Peace Initiative of Khmer Republic Government

Department Statement¹

As you know, on July the 6th, the Government of the Khmer Republic issued a significant declaration which sets forth a major initiative for peace in Cambodia. The statement calls for the reconvening of the International Control Commission, urges respect for article 20 of the Viet-Nam agreement, and offers to name a delegation to meet representatives of the "other side" with a view toward negotiating an early cease-fire and national reconciliation.

The U.S. Government welcomes this statement as another expression of the Khmer Republic's earnest desire to end the hostilities in Cambodia at an early date. We believe that this initiative represents a constructive step in opening a serious dialogue which can lead to a peaceful, independent, and neutral Cambodia.

We are hopeful that the Khmer Republic's offer will be matched by the good will of its adversaries and will receive serious and favorable consideration by interested members of the international community.

¹ Read to news correspondents on July 9 by Paul Hare, Deputy Director, Office of Press Relations.

The U.S. Government believes that the restoration of peace in Cambodia is a question to be resolved through negotiations among the Khmer parties themselves. This government, as you know, strongly supports an early cease-fire in Cambodia.

August 13, 1973