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CHENG HENG RESIGNS, LON NOL BECOMES HEAD OF STATE

Cheng Heng 10 Mar Statement

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Mar 72 D

[10 March speech by Head of State Cheng Heng--recorded]

[Text] Beloved compatriots: Since 18 March 1970, a glorious day in the history of the Khmer nation, the state organizations which represent our people have entrusted me with the difficult post of head of state of the Khmer Republic. I have not spared my forces--physical, moral and spiritual--to serve the national interest despite many obstacles.

However, during the past few weeks I have noted with regret the situation created by some discord which could result in splits within the national community and affect order in our country at a time when our nation is fighting the barbarous invaders. I regret that certain groups have taken advantage of the fact that the country is experiencing a hard time to work for their own gain or the benefit of their parties, moves which could jeopardize the existence of the nation.

I have used all available means to smooth these contradictions so that unity could be restored, but this has been to no avail, since the situation in the country has not improved.

Being well aware that I am not capable of continuing to undertake this heavy task, I realize that Marshal Lon Nol, the hero of this revolution, can lead the nation through this difficult time. Therefore, I have decided to hand over my post to Marshal Lon Nol as of 10 March 1972. Marshal Lon Nol will assume the post of head of state from now on.

Venerable supreme patriarchs of the two denominations, respected monks, beloved compatriots: I would like to express my deep gratitude to the clergy and compatriots for supporting my mission up to now. I would like to wish you happiness and prosperity forever.

Phnom Penh, 10 March 1972.

Lon Nol 10 March Address

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 11 Mar 72 D

[10 March address by Head of State Marshal Lon Nol--recorded]

[Text] My respects to samdech supreme patriarchs of the two denominations. My respects to venerable monks. Beloved compatriots:

Concerning the message of Head of State Cheng Heng, who has just handed over his eminent post to me, I would like to inform my dear compatriots that duty compels me to take up this task in order to lead the nation through the present difficult time. As you know, our country is being hampered by various obstacles. During the past two years the Viet Cong-North Vietnamese have cruelly destroyed our territorial integrity. But our fighters have fought back to destroy these barbarians, and their victories have led friendly countries to support and give the Khmer Republic all kinds of assistance, thus enabling us to believe that we will inevitably triumph.

In an attempt to hamper this, the enemy has invented all kinds of deceptions in addition to their aggression in order to split our national unity and create an atmosphere of tension and terrorism in the country, thus affecting the order and peace which we need. Furthermore, certain groups in our national community have strayed from the common path and unconsciously aided the enemy subversion against the nation.

The draft constitution of our republic, which the broadened mixed commission set up by the government endeavored to imbue with important ideas and principles in conformity with democratic principles respected throughout the world, has been entrusted to the Constituent Assembly for study and adoption by the government. But the Constituent Assembly has taken the initiative to change several fundamental clauses, thus transforming the meaning of the draft constitution. As my position as head of state compels me to restore order, which is necessary in the struggle against the barbarians, I have decided to end the mission of the Constituent Assembly, take urgent measures to safeguard the life of the Khmer Republic, and return peace to the Khmer people in the near future and build the country so that the people can enjoy progress and happiness.

Finally, I appeal to all compatriots to keep up calm and collaborate with me and the government to preserve the ideals of our motherland and win victory for our Khmer Republic.

Long live the Khmer Republic!

Phnom Penh, 10 March 1972

Cheng Heng Press Conference

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 12 Mar 72 D

[Text] Former head of state Cheng Heng held a press conference last night at his personal residence. He told journalists that "I was not threatened, and would never bow down to any threat."

Asked whether his decision to transfer his post to Marshal Lon Nol was made prior to the 10 March meeting at Chamcar Mon, Cheng Heng said he had called the marshal from Kompong Som to entrust him with his post because of the difficult time the country is experiencing. The former head of state underlined that this was not contrary to the fourth clause of the Constitution. "As the country has no parliament and the law-making power is under government control, all decisions are thus made by the head of state," he said. He added that he himself had proposed the change to the marshal.

Asked about alleged contradictions among the leaders, Cheng Heng said there were none. His resignation was not due to any disagreement. During the press conference Information Minister Long Boret stated in response to a query that up to now Head of State Marshal Lon Nol has not appointed anyone to form a new government.

Long Boret 11 Mar Statement

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 11 Mar 72 D

[11 Mar press conference by Information Minister Long Boret--read by announcer]

[Excerpt] Long Boret told journalists that the 1947 Constitution was still in effect. Therefore, Head of State Marshal Lon Nol has given up his post as prime minister. Sirik Matak, delegate president of the council, retains this post. Long Boret said that for the time being the government would not be changed.

Lon Nol 12 March Special Message

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0205 GMT 13 Mar 72 D

[Head of State Marshal Lon Nol's 12 Mar special message--recorded]

[Text] My respects to samdech supreme patriarchs of the two denominations. My respects to venerable monks. Beloved compatriots:

Following my message issued on 10 March after assuming the heavy burden of responsibility vis-a-vis the whole nation, and in order to smooth the work in the future so that it can be fully efficient according to the desire of the monks and my compatriots, I would like to organize the executive body as follows:

1--The Khmer head of state is called president of the Khmer Republic from now on. The Khmer president will be aided by a vice president.

2--The president of the Khmer Republic is the chief of staff of the Khmer National Armed Forces.

3--The president of the Khmer Republic himself assumes the office of prime minister. In this function, the president is aided by one first minister in the coordination of activities and duties of all members of the cabinet. The president of the Khmer Republic is also aided by advisers and assistants. The President of the Khmer Republic is moreover assisted by an executive cabinet and a national council for security.

Phnom Penh, 12 March 1972

Sirik Matak Message

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 12 Mar 72 D

[Text] Delegate Prime Minister Sisowath Sirik Matak has sent the following message to officials of the Khmer Government:

I am honored to inform you that, following Marshal Lon Nol's accession to the position of head of state of the Khmer Republic, the present government is resigning. The members of the current government will continue to execute their duties until the formation of the new ministerial cabinet.

Decree 16/72 CE

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 13 Mar 72 D

[Text] Decree No. 16/72-CE dated 10 March orders the following:

Article 1--The order contained decree No. 6/71-CE dated 28 October 1971 dealing with the procedure of the Constituent Assembly is withdrawn as of 11 March 1972.

Article 2--This order is effective immediately.

Decree 186/72 CE

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0500 GMT 13 Mar 72 D

[Text] Kret (decree) No. 186/72-CE dated 10 March 1972 orders the following:

Article 1--The Constituent Assembly set up by Decree No. 609/71-CE dated 16 October 1971 is dissolved as of 11 March 1972.

Article 2--The prime minister and the interior minister are charged to execute this kret.

AKI DENOUNCES BANGKOK DESIGNS ON ANGKOR TEMPLES

Cambodian Information Agency [Clandestine] in French to Southeast Asia and the Far East 1145 GMT 10 Mar 72 D

[Text] Kampuchea 10 March AKI--The Bangkok pirates, lackeys of U.S. imperialism, have long coveted the territory of Kampuchea; to conquer the provinces and districts of Kampuchea is part of the cherished policy of the Thanom-Praphat clique. The provinces of Battambang, Pursat, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, and Koh Kong, as well as the maritime zone of Kampuchea, have aroused its cupidity for decades. But up to now the Bangkok puppets have been unable to achieve their aim because their adventurous pillage operations have all been smashed by the valiant people of Kampuchea. However, the obstinacy of the Bangkok lackeys of U.S. imperialism remains unchanged.

With the total complaisance of traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh, the Bangkok puppets presently cherish the ambition of appropriating the Angkor temples. To attain this aim they have introduced aircraft and military advisers to bombard [words garbled] the Angkor temples under the pretext of aiding traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh. With disgusting cynicism the Thanom-Praphat clique has also incited its own financially supported Bangkok papers to relentlessly report on the situation in the Angkor temples sector as if it is their concern. The Bangkok POST, in obedience to the CIA, has even shamelessly urged the Thai people to manifest their opposition to the presence of the CPNLAF and the people of Kampuchea in the Angkor temple sector. What foolishness! This is a rash insult hurled at the people of Kampuchea! In the history of the world, there has never been any government of a foreign country that dares to interfere in such manner in the affairs of an independent country.

If the Bangkok puppets behave with such cynicism, it is because in their dreams they consider the Angkor temples as their own property, as in the case of Preah Vihear. These pirates have even [words garbled] the Preah Vihear temples. As for the Angkor temples, they named them "ancient Bangkok." Thus the Bangkok brigands have conducted themselves exactly as the Saigon pirates who called the small town of Neak Luong Luong "Saigon Moi" [New Saigon], and capital Phnom Penh "Nam Vang."

All these affronts, especially the insulting and covetous attitude of the Bangkok puppets toward the Angkor temples, as well as the treason of traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh, who have sold Kampuchea and its honor to U.S. imperialism and its lackeys, have roused the indignation of the people of Kampuchea.

The people of Kampuchea are determined not to allow the Phnom Penh devils to continue their acts of treason, and the Thanom-Praphat running dogs to put their dirty feet in the magnificent Angkor temples sector. Under the banner of NUFK [words garbled] the people and the [words garbled] are determined to brave all difficulty and sacrifice to defend, consolidate, and develop the liberated zone. Having long proclaimed the death verdict against traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Son Ngoc Thanh, the people of Kampuchea will, in the near future, compel them to discharge their debt to the beloved Kampuchea fatherland.