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INFORMATION MINISTRY STATEMENT ON INDOCHINA CEASE-FIRE

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1215 GMT 26 Oct 72 D

[26 October statement of the Information Ministry--read by announcer]

[Text] For some time, national and international circles have continued to talk about an eventual cease-fire on the Indochinese peninsula. The Information Ministry deems it necessary to clarify that, in the 19 October 1972 statement, the Khmer Republic Government clarified its stand with regard to this problem, and this stand remains unchanged. On this occasion, the Information Ministry deems it necessary to repeat this statement as follows:

The eventual cease-fire should be done with the immediate withdrawal of all the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from Cambodian territory. In this same matter, the Government of the Khmer Republic contends that international control is necessary for supervising such a cease-fire, because a theoretical agreement cannot guarantee that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong will withdraw from Khmer territory if there is no international control and if such an international organization does not have adequate means to accomplish its missions effectively. The Government of the Khmer Republic also wants to assert that the problem of the Khmer Reds, after the withdrawal of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from Khmer territory, is an internal problem for the Khmer people to solve among themselves, without external interference.

But there is a very important precondition: The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops must be completely withdrawn from Khmer territory, territory they have invaded by violating and trampling underfoot international law and, particularly, the 1954 Geneva agreement on Indochina.

Finally, the Government of the Khmer Republic wishes to remind the world of the fact that the Khmer people, like the peoples in neighboring countries who are victims of acts of aggression committed by the North Vietnamese, are truly a peace-loving people--provided the peace does not sow discord among the Khmer people, who are determined to fight the aggressors and chase them from Khmer territory.

If a general cease-fire is imposed without the withdrawal of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops from Khmer territory, it will mean only a prolongation of the aggression against Khmer territory. The Khmer people contend that genuine peace in Cambodia is possible only when the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops are completely withdrawn from Khmer territory. Otherwise, the Khmer people will continue to struggle until final victory over the aggressors.

Phnom Penh, 26 October 1972

Thong Lim Huong, undersecretary for information.