

FULL TRANSLATION

CAMBODIA  
FILE

SUBJ.

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SUB-CAT

((Article from Cambodian French  
language newspaper Le Courrier  
Phnom Penh, No. 164, 13 Mar 70))

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MESSAGE FOR THE HONORABLE ATTENTION OF  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, CHIEF OF STATE

On 8 Mar of the Current year, ((1970)) hundreds of inhabitants of Svay Rieng Province demonstrated against repeated violations of our national territory by the VC forces and their occupation of border areas. Then, they destroyed all unusual shelters and installations on our soil and confiscated several individual and crew-served weapons.

On 11 Mar ((possibly 70)) tens of thousands of people of all social strata (including about two hundred monks) demonstrated for the same reasons, ransacking the embassy buildings of the Republic of South Vietnam and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of North Vietnam, burning documents and automobiles.

These serious incidents are only the outbursts of anger of a people who have suffered for years and who are aware of an impending danger to their nation.

In the face of these incidents:

The Royal Government directs itself to seek a correct and legal course consistent with the people's aspirations.

It considers this course the sole and unique solution capable of safeguarding our country from the impending danger.

It is quite out of the question for the Royal Government to side with SEATO or any other organization, any alignment policy being considered contrary to the National policy laid down by his Royal Highness, the Chief of State.

With a view to strengthening our national authority, as well as guarding against all eventualities, it is absolutely necessary and urgent to increase our armed forces by 10,000 troops, in order to effectively guard our eastern borders and compel our friends to be correct and sincere.

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in their friendship ((with us)) and respect their engagements.

Not deviating from our policy of reciprocity, the Royal Government considers it advisable to maintain our friendship with the VC.

For all the foregoing, the Royal Government earnestly requests the support of his Royal Highness.

Phnom Penh 12 Mar 70

Yours very respectfully,

Chairman of the Council  
of Ministers

/S/ Lon Nol