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montrant que la soi-disant "République Khmère"
n'est qu'une création et une servile créature
des U.S.A. impérialistes. Cette "République
Khmère" est archi-pourrie, moribonde et vomie
par son propre "peuple et sa propre jeunesse.
-Période allant du 2 Mai au 3 Juin 1974 ... 7

F U N C = Front Uni National
du Cambodge
National United Front
of Cambodia

G R U N C = Gouvernement Royal
d'Union Nationale du
Cambodge
Royal Government of
National Union of
Cambodia

FAPLNC = Forces Armées Populaires
de libération Nationale
du Cambodge
People's Armed Forces
for National Libération
of Cambodia

LA "REPUBLIQUE KHMERE": UN "MONSTRE" CADAVERIQUE DU
NOUVEAU "DOCTEUR FRANKENSTEIN", RICHARD NIXON

par NORODOM SIHANOUK

Je prie mes honorables lecteurs et lectrices de bien vouloir m'excuser si je consacre encore tout un numéro du B.M.D. à démasquer la charlatanesque "République khmère" de Lon Nol, en tant que création et créature des U.S.A. de Richard Nixon.

Le mois dernier, une grande Agence de Presse U.S. rappelle dans une de ses analyses (toujours objectives) que "if the United States ever gets tired to continuing in this war, it will be lost in a matter of days. There is no way the Cambodian (lonnolite) government can go on by itself."

C'est là une condamnation sans rémission de la soi-disant "République khmère" qui, à l'instar du fameux monstre cadavérique du Docteur Frankenstein, est née, vit et ... mourra par son diabolique créateur. Au cours des années 1970 et 1971, cette cadavérique "République khmère" pouvait encore faire illusion vis-à-vis du monde extérieur, car dans Phnom-Penh il y avait une grosse bande de jeunes lycéens et étudiants qui acceptaient avec enthousiasme de prendre les armes pour faire, conformément à l'invitation du "nouveau Buddha" Lon Nol, la chasse aux "Viets"- c'est-à-dire les Vietnamiens communistes soi-disant "agresseurs du Cambodge".

En fait, la "jeunesse lonnolienne" avait surtout à tuer d'innocents civils vietnamiens (y compris des vieillards, femmes et enfants) qui étaient nés au Cambodge et y résidaient depuis toujours en paisibles commerçants, artisans, ouvriers, coolies des plantations de caoutchouc, pêcheurs. De par la "grâce" de Lon Nol, ces Vietnamiens devenaient des envoyés du diable anti-bouddhiste "Mara", chargés de faire disparaître le Cambodge et sa religion!

Après avoir exterminé le maximum de ces innocents Vietnamiens, Lon Nol et sa clique envoyèrent la "jeunesse républicainelonnolienne" au front de la vraie guerre. Et c'est alors que cette jeunesse "enthousiaste" s'aperçut qu'elle avait en face d'elle une autre jeunesse, non pas vietnamienne, mais bien khmère, authentiquement cambodgienne, et qui se battait comme des lions, sans accepter aucune récompense matérielle ou honorifique: ni uniforme rutilant, ni galons, ni médaille, ni solde!

L'enthousiasme du début fit, alors, place au doute. Après plusieurs mois d'observation de la vie que mène la clique de Lon Nol "à l'arrière" et, en particulier, dans Phnom-Penh, devenue après le 18 Mars 1970 une véritable "réincarnation" de Sodome et Gomorrhe, ce doute devint une certitude: la "République khmère" est le plus ignoble des charlatanismes, la plus infecte des pourritures et la plus odieuse et la plus lâche des trahisons nationales.

Dès lors, la "Jeunesse Républicaine-Lonnolienne" s'est mise à lutter farouchement contre son propre régime et son propre gouvernement, qu'elle ne cesse plus de dénoncer et condamner, publiquement, en des termes extrêmement violents, sévères et ... justes!

Aux manifestations de plus en plus osées de cette jeunesse, et cela en dépit de la "Loi Martiale" décrétée par Lon Nol, le "gouvernement" de ce dernier, téléguidé- tout le monde le sait- par l'Ambassade des USA à Phnom-Penh, oppose des répressions de plus en plus impitoyables. Des centaines d'étudiants, de lycéens, d'écoliers (certains en bas âge) se trouvent en prison militaire. Il y a quelques mois, la police militaire de Lon Nol a "suicidé" dans leur cellule quatre jeunes élèves, des "teen-agers".

D'escalade en escalade dans la violence (violence de la "jeunesse lonnolienne" contre le régime lonnolien, violence du gouvernement lonnolien contre la "jeunesse lonnolienne"), on a fini par voir en ce mois de juin 1974 le ministre lonnolien de "l'éducation nationale" et .. son prédécesseur à la tête du même ministère... proprement assassinés au sein, -ô ironie du sort!- du Lycée "du 18 Mars 1970", ce Lycée étant, par une autre ironie

du sort, devenu le Q.G. et le P.C. du mouvement de la lutte de la jeunesse "lonnolienne" et du Corps enseignant "lonnolien" contre... le régime de Lon Nol, c'est-à-dire la sinistre "République khmère"!

Le divorce séparant la jeunesse "républicaine-lonnolienne" de la "République khmère" est bel et bien consommé. Il est définitif et irréversible. L'avenir ne fera qu'approfondir et élargir davantage le fossé, déjà énorme, qui sépare l'une de l'autre.

Cela, les Américains, maîtres de la "République khmère", ne le savent que trop. Ils ne cachent d'ailleurs plus leur désillusion, leur inquiétude et même leur désespoir quant à cet avenir. Ils ont beau doubler, tripler le montant total des aides U.S. annuelles au régime de Phnom-Penh pour le faire survivre en dépit de tout. Mais que pourra faire le "Dieu Dollar" quand c'est l'issue de l'actuelle lutte armée au Cambodge qui, seule, décidera du sort final des deux grands adversaires en présence: celui du peuple cambodgien incarné par le FUNC, le GRUNC et les FAPLNC, et celui de l'impérialisme-néocolonialisme U.S.?

L'injection des dollars, des tanks, des canons, des avions, etc..., si constante et colossale soit-elle, dans la "chair et le sang" de la moribonde "République khmère", peut certes prolonger pendant quelque temps encore sa survie artificielle. Mais jamais elle ne pourra lui éviter la défaite finale et totale, si le problème du complètement des effectifs des unités "républicaines-lonnoliennes" ne peut être résolu.

Et le drame pour les USA, c'est que, réellement et définitivement, ce problème, désormais, ne pourra plus être résolu. En effet, la jeunesse scolaire et estudiantine de la soi-disant "République khmère" n'accepte et n'acceptera plus jamais de participer, sous quelle forme que ce soit, à la guerre contre le FUNC et les FAPLNC qu'elle sait n'être ni "Vietcong" ni "Nord-Vietnamiens". Désormais donc, les nouvelles "chairs à canon" ne pourront

être trouvées que, d'une part, parmi de jeunes voyous ou chômeurs sans autre idéal et sans autre ambition que de porter un uniforme et avoir une arme pour pouvoir piller les commerçants des villes "lonnoliennes" et, d'autre part, parmi des orphelins et enfants abandonnés, vagabonds, dont l'âge se situe entre 13 ans et... 8 ans et qui se laissent mobiliser pour pouvoir... jouer au soldat. Dans l'un et l'autre cas, la valeur guerrière devient nulle.

Quant au problème des cadres (officiers), il est encore plus insoluble, et pour cause! Les intellectuels pauvres sont entrés et resteront dans la contestation et le mouvement anti-guerre. Les intellectuels riches et "pistonnés" s'embusquent à l'arrière, ou bien... émigrent à l'Etranger, en France surtout.

Aujourd'hui, les officiers U.S. se voient obligés de prendre ouvertement le commandement opérationnel de l'Armée lonnolienne, et l'Ambassadeur U.S. Gunther Dean n'hésite même plus à se rendre à Kompong Speu-ville pour diriger en personne l'Etat-Major opérationnel de la dérisoire "République khmère"!

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Sur le plan politique et "étatique" dans cette fausse "République" faussement khmère, les Américains interviennent chaque jour, ouvertement et publiquement, en tout et à propos de tout.

Les "diplomates" U.S. à Phnom-Penh "font, et défont" les gouvernements, les ministres, les "hauts conseils", les gouverneurs de Province, les commandants de région, les commandants d'unités militaires (grandes, moyennes et petites). Ils décident souverainement des nominations, des promotions, des affectations, des "limogeages", des mises à la retraite, etc... des "autorités" militaires ou civiles de la "République khmère". Cela est maintes fois révélé et confirmé à la grande Presse internationale par les personnalités de cette "République" et l'entourage de Lon Nol eux-mêmes, en commençant par Chéng Héng...!

Sur le plan économique, le monde entier, qui se rappelle que le Royaume du Cambodge était un grand producteur et exportateur de céréales (riz, maïs, haricots...), de fruits, de tabac, d'huiles végétales et huile de poisson, de bétail, etc..., sait que maintenant le "Cambodge républicain" pro-USA importe tous ces produits de l'Etranger pour pouvoir survivre... Ô combien péniblement! Même l'aide financière colossale des USA pour une telle importation doit être sans cesse augmentée, cela en raison de ce que d'une part les grands Lonnoiliens volent sans vergogne les produits importés pour les écouler en contrebande vers le Sud Viet Nam et d'autre part le FUNC, le GRUNC et les FAPLNC arrivent à libérer chaque jour davantage de terres à vocation agricole se trouvant accolées aux quelques villes encore sous contrôle "républicain".

Le Représentant Permanent des USA à l'ONU prétendait en Décembre dernier que sa "République Khmère contrôlait les régions les plus peuplées et les plus économiquement fortes du Cambodge". S'il en est ainsi, pourquoi la "République khmère" ne survit-elle que grâce au riz de Thaïlande et ... de Taïwan, au tabac d'Amérique et à la viande et aux fruits de conserve d'Australie, de Nouvelle-Zélande et du Japon?

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L'O.N.U., si Elle est vraiment éprise de justice, doit se donner la peine de prendre connaissance des témoignages complets et convaincants que j'ai l'honneur de reproduire dans les numéros successifs du BMD-1974, témoignages qui viennent tous du camp adverse du FUNC et du GRUNC et "ami" de la "République khmère" et qui montrent à l'évidence que celle-ci est le plus anti-national des régimes et la plus ignominieuse des marionnettes de l'impérialisme U.S..

L'O.N.U. doit avoir pitié du peuple cambodgien qui a tant souffert depuis plus de quatre ans déjà à cause d'une poignée de traîtres aux ambitions les plus basses. Ces traîtres, en continuant à siéger dans son sein, la déshonorent.

Le vote qu'Elle effectuera à la fin de cette année concernant le rétablissement des droits du GRUNC en son sein dira au monde si oui ou non l'O.N.U. sait rendre justice, et surtout la paix et la liberté, au peuple khmer.

NORODOM SIHANOUK

CITATION

A.F.P., Phnom-Penh, 15 Mai 1974: "Le Comité Central des Elèves de l'Enseignement secondaire à Phnom-Penh a protesté contre la mobilisation générale qui, a déclaré son porte-parole, ne sert pas l'intérêt supérieur du pays, mais seulement celui d'une poignée d'hommes qui défendent le pouvoir personnel."

CITATION

A.F.P., Washington, 16 Mai 1974: "Le Président (des U.S.A.) Richard Nixon a rappelé qu'il avait pris, seul et contre l'avis des membres de son Cabinet, la décision d'envahir le Cambodge en 1971."

CITATION

RREUTER, Phnom Penh, 19 Mai 1974: "The powerful force of students and teachers issued a statement saying the "republican régime" had "become a cancer" (and) the 1970 coup which overthrew Prince Sihanouk and brought marshal Lon Nol to power has led to the lower classes becoming poorer and poorer."

CITATION

A.P., 30 Mai 1974: "... The demonstrators (Phnom Penh's high school students) shouted over a bull horn loudspeaker: "The (lonnolite) government is a thief, stealing our rice and money."

CITATION

A.F.P., 30 Mai 1974: .. "Les Etats-Unis voient d'un assez mauvais oeil le développement du malaise social et les remous qu'il suscite au niveau politique. Pour les Américains, il s'agit essentiellement de mener à bien les opérations militaires..."

CITATION

A.P., 30 Mai 1974. Article signé Matt Franjola.

Extraits:... "The U.S. is paying money and equipping an army", an American official said, "and we want to see that the money is well spent".. Most of the draftees we get come from refugees and average people who do not have a job", observed Kèm Nay, a 45-year-old district draft official... (The lonnolite) soldiers at the front grumble at their lot and complain that senior officers are not tacticians nor do they share the hardships of the front... "Nobody wants to die fighting for a fool (Lon Nol)...", says a young officer."

CITATION

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, 30 Mai 1974: "... Phnom Penh is isolated from the rest of the country with all major roads cut by rebel (FUNC) forces.. (Republican) Cambodia's inflation is the worst in Asia and among the worst in the world.. (Lonolite) government troops are losing ground bit by bit. The economic situation grows worse day by day.. One has the feeling one is sitting on top of a volcano ready to blow."

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CITATIONS

REUTER, 31 Mai 1974: "... The students shouted through loud-speakers.. "you (the lonolite government) are the enemy of the cambodian people!"

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DECLARATION, en date du 24 Mai 1974, de EAR PORLY (18 ans), Président de l'Association des Elèves de l'enseignement secondaire en "République khmère":
"... Nous, les étudiants, ne pouvons pas rester les bras croisés en voyant la chute de notre Patrie.. Le gouvernement (de Lon Nol) menace, arrête, tue... Le gouvernement (de Lon Nol) trahit le peuple khmer même et n'en est pas représentatif."

TEMOIGNAGES DE LA PRESSE AMERICANO-OCCIDENTALE MONTRANT
QUE LA SOI-DISANT "REPUBLIQUE KHMERE" N'EST QU'UNE
CREATION ET UNE SERVILE CREATURE DES U.S.A.
IMPERIALISTES. CETTE "REPUBLIQUE KHMERE" EST ARCHI-
POURRIE, MORIBONDE ET VOMIE PAR SON PROPRE "PEUPLE"
ET SA PROPRE JEUNESSE

-Période allant du 2 Mai au 3 Juin 1974

UPI, 2 Mai 1974: "Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Sosthene Fernandez warned thursday the (lonnolite) government cannot achieve total victory over rebel (F.U.N.C.) forces in the country because of a shortage of manpower on the battle-field... The stocky, crewcut general said cambodian (lonnolite) troops have been trained in the United States, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. "But even with this experience, he said, we are not capable of winning the war totally because we have a shortage of men." In brief remarks following Fernandez's speech, a Phnom Penh ward chairman said part of the (lonnolite) government's battlefield problem rests with military commanders who continue to pad their units' payrolls with non-existent soldiers. The speaker, Chhai Vong chef, also claimed some wealthy families bought the names and records of soldiers killed in battle, thereby exempting themselves or male members of their families from being drafted into the (republican) Army..."

A.F.P., 2 Mai 1974: "... Il y a quelques jours, après avoir perdu (la ville de) Kompong Luong et environ un millier de soldats, les gouvernementaux (lonnoliens) avaient abandonné (la ville de) Sala Lèk Pram, autre position isolée sur la Route 5... A Kampot, autre point chaud du Cambodge, ... la garnison (lonnolienne) en deux mois de batailles a subi de lourdes pertes, plus de 300 morts et 2.000 blessés, indique-t-on de source informée... Les experts militaires de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis à Phnom Penh ont recommandé il y a quarante-huit heures au Haut-Commandement khmer (lonnolien) de recruter d'urgence au moins 9.000 soldats supplémentaires pour colmater les rangs de l'Armée (républicaine),

apprend-on de source informée... Des dizaines de milliers de jeunes échappent à la conscription grâce à des attestations d'études de complaisance, des pots de vin, des falsifications d'identité, ou tout simplement en ne répondant pas aux convocations des autorités."

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UPI, 2 Mai 1974 (Washington): ".. South-Vietnamese forces this week were able to mount a huge assault on guerilla forces along the Cambodian border...".

A.F.P., 2 Mai 1974 (Saïgon): "Le commandement sud-vietnamien n'a pas écarté, jeudi, la possibilité d'envoyer des troupes en territoire khmer..."

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A.F.P., 2 Mai 1974 (Phnom-Penh): "... Recrutement will have to be stepped up ... The recruitment drive launched last October has been judged a failure, insufficient even to cover the (lonnolite) government's losses in the past weeks. Two days ago, United-States military experts here advised (lonnolite) High-Command that an extra 9.000 soldiers were urgently needed, well informed sources said here today. Addressing a large number of (lonnolite) officers and civilians here this morning, Gen. Fernandez stressed the importance of a recruitment drive of such proportions, but he did not say how he intended to achieve the goal... (In the khmer Republic) there are tens of thousands of non-combattant students, draft-dodgers and others who have escaped conscription by bribery, falsifying identity papers or simply ignoring the call."

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A.P., 2 Mai 1974 (Bangkok): "The U.S.... Support Command Headquarters in Sattahip (Thailand).. has directed distribution of supplies for the Cambodian war...".

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A.F.P., 3 Mai 1974: "... The Khmer Rouge (F.U.N.C.) control all the area around the (lonnolite) Long Vèk garrison.. Long Vèk is supplied by helicopters and parachute drops... At dawn, two Thailand-based U.S. Air Force C-130 cargo planes dropped about 50 tons of ammunition to the Long Vèk base."

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A.P., 4 Mai 1974: "Twenty-five miles North of Phnom-Penh on a sun-drenched plain,.. (the lonnolite soldiers) are surrounded by a rebel (FUNC) force. Their fate is in question.. The Long Vèk perimeter is about 10 square miles, but it shrinks almost daily... There are no doctors for the growing number of wounded at Long Vèk... The rebels (FUNC) are stepping up their pounding of the camp, using every weapon in their arsenal. The daily count of dead and wounded is 35 and up. About 100 wounded lie in the camp's crude infirmary. Some of those at Long Vèk try to scramble onto hovering helicopters, grasping for the runners, then spill off as the choppers spin away. The going rate for a seat to Phnom Penh is about 30 dollars, but few have that kind of bribe money. "The pilots are getting rich", the camp commander, brigadier general Tum Yam, says in disgust. Aircraft are the only lifelines left for Long Vèk. The helicopters are few and far between, and many pilots shy away from even medical evacuation missions for fear of incoming artillery rounds. The camp relies almost solely for U.S. C-130 airdrops for supplies and ammunition. Some (parachutes) float astray and fall into the insurgents' zone...

At nightfall, the camp's commanders crowd into a solid, well-appointed bunker. There is a bottle of whiskey and a tape deck reeling out xavier Cugat favorites as interpreted by a japanese orchestra..."

A.P., 4 Mai 1974: "... Supplies were parachuted from U.S. Air Force planes... " The Long Vèk situation does not look good," a European diplomat said... A Western diplomat recently returned from Long Vèk said, "the cambodian (lonnolite) Command has no options left regarding Long Vèk. They can hold and get waxed or break out and get creamed".....".

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U.P.I., 4 Mai 1974: "... The military advisory and administrative organization, known as MACTHAI (Military Assistance Command Thailand), is reducing personnel as part of an overall Defense Department manpower cutback. But U.S. sources said the aircraft training and maintenance arm for Laos and (republican) Cambodia, which accounts for about 40 per cent of MACTHAI's total strength with some 380 men, would lose only two men... U.S. Air Force men will continue to train Laotian and (lonnolite) Cambodian fighter pilots and help maintain their T28 aircraft at Udorn and Bangkok with virtually no reduction in strength..."

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A.P., 5 Mai 1974: "Insurgent (FUNC) forces early sunday overran two (lonnolite) government positions near the coast while in Phnom Penh several hundred (soldiers) and war widows demonstrated for back pay in front of Lon Nol's presidential compound, (lonnolite) army sources said. At midday, a crowd of about 600 gathered on the main boulevard in front of the Chamcar Mon presidential compound to ask Lon Nol to grant them back pay. Some soldiers and widows claimed they had not been paid in months. Presidential Palace guards fired into the air to disperse demonstrators..."

A.P., 5 Mai 1974. "News Analysis", by George Esper. Saigon:
"Fifteen months after the signing of the agreement to end the war
in Viet Nam, there is no joy, no serenity in Indochina. Military,
political and economic woes are mounting. The battle-fields of
Viet Nam and Cambodia are as turbulent and bloody as ever, reaching
the proportions of general offensives and counteroffensives, regi-
ment pitted against regiment, division against division... Despera-
tion prevails among the people. The young say there is no future...
In Cambodia, ... their desperation is evident... There is no truce
and even less hope for negotiations... In Cambodia.. the fighting
is now purely a civil war.. The rebels (FUNC) have made some major
gains. U.S. sources say chances for negotiations on a cambodian
settlement are slim at this point. "Negociations are the big goal
here", said one U.S. source. "We must convince the other side
(FUNC) that they must compromise. The other side (FUNC) is probably
not yet convinced. I'm not sure the other side (FUNC) has accepted
a military stalemate." Despite setbacks to the U.S.-backed Lon Nol
regime, U.S. sources say the Cambodian (lonnolite) army also has
had some pluses (!!), although they acknowledge the insurgents
have gained territory."

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REUTER, 5 Mai 1974: "Two battalions of (lonnolite) government
soldiers demonstrated this morning outside the (lonnolite) Presiden-
tial Palace here (in Phnom-Penh), claiming they had not been paid for
the past four months, military police said. The demonstrators, esti-
mated to number about 1.000... were forced back about 400 yards
from the Palace gates by the (lonnolite) presidential military guard
But they remained there and demanded an explanation about their pay
from Lon Nol... The (lonnolite) Police kept newsmen and foreign
diplomatic staff away from the protesters..."

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U.P.I., 6 Mai 1974 (Saïgon): "South-Vietnamese troops and tanks drove four miles into Cambodia in a new operation but were stopped by heavy communist (FUNC) resistance at a Cambodian village, field officers said today... Because it pledged in the Paris peace agreement not to fight in Cambodia, South-Viet Nam has not yet to admit its forces have crossed the border...Cross-border operations by the South-Vietnamese have been underway for eight days..."

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REUTER, 6 Mai 1974: "The teachers and students of Phnom Penh- a powerful group in the city's affairs-today launched the second pay demonstration to hit the cambodian capital in 24 hours. They put up streamers all over the fences of the City's high schools calling for curbs in food price increases and warned that unless the (lonnolite) government solved their problems before May 17 they would call for its overthrow. Their protest followed a demonstration by two battalions of troops outside the (lonnolite) Presidential Palace yesterday.. Informed sources said the teachers' dispute had caused "some difficulty" for the (lonnolite) government..

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A.F.P., 6 Mai 1974: "... Une nouvelle dévaluation de la monnaie cambodgienne par rapport au dollar (U.S.).. (est) intervenue la semaine dernière."

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REUTER, 7 Mai 1974: "... Un convoi de trente navires, chargés de plus de dix mille tonnes de riz américain, est arrivé à Phnom-Penh mardi soir, venant du Sud-Vietnam."

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U.P.I., 8 Mai 1974: "... The two Long Vèk garrisons are the only government positions still remaining in the area. In addition to Kompong Luong (town), the communists (FUNC) have also captured the provincial capital of Sala Lék Pram, five miles north of Long Vèk. All ground routes into Long Vèk are under communist (FUNC) control and (lonnolite) government attempts to send supplies up the Tonlé Sap river have not been successful because of heavy communist (FUNC) fire. The two (lonnolite) garrisons are being resupplied by American C130's flying from bases in neighboring Thailand."

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A.F.P., 8 Mai 1974 (Phnom Penh): "High school students here have for the last few days been demanding the resignation of the present government led by Long Boret. They have held demonstrations waving strips of flour bags with the slogan: "We withdraw our confidence from the present government". In addition to students, teachers also have been protesting against the cost of living and (lonnolite) governmental corruption."

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U.P.I., 8 Mai 1974 (Tokyo) : "... The laotian leftists object to the diplomatic relations between the (Lao) coalition government and the American-backed governments of South-Viet Nam and (Republican) Cambodia..."

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A.F.P., 9 Mai 1974: "... A Long Vèk, le Haut Commandement (lonnolien) rapporte (que) des munitions larguées par des avions C-130 de l'Aviation Américaine ont touché terre en dehors des lignes gouvernementales (républicaines)..."

U.P.I., 10 Mai 1974: "Military sources said friday... American military Attachés from the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, flying over the embattled Stung Chhay area, advised the (lonnolite) Cambodians to disassemble two 105 mm howitzers at the position so they could be lifted out by helicopter..."

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A.F.P., 10 Mai 1974. "La question de la représentation khmère à l'ONU, qui reviendra très probablement à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine session ordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations-Unies, est un sujet de préoccupation très vive à Phnom Penh. Lors de la session extraordinaire qui vient d'avoir lieu à New York, les pouvoirs de la Délégation de la République khmère ont été contestés par de nombreuses délégations qui ont affirmé que le seul GRUNC (Gouvernement Royal d'Union Nationale du Cambodge) du Prince Sihanouk était le représentant légitime du peuple cambodgien.. De nombreuses personnalités issues des milieux diplomatiques de Phnom-Penh, admettent d'ores et déjà, en privé, que, pour le vote de cette année, le régime du maréchal Lon Nol part perdant..."

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U.P.I., 11 Mai 1974: "In Phnom Penh, an unidentified man threw a handgrenade into the crowded Tuk Laák market place on the City's west side... Meanwhile, (lonnolite) military sources said American C-130 cargo planes planned airdrops of ammunition and food supplies at Long Vèk, the provincial capital of Takeo and at Prey Vèng (town).. The camouflaged American planes (are) from U-Tapao Air-base in neighboring Thailand..."

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REUTER, 11 Mai 1974: "... A (lonnolite) Cambodian army commander committed suicide last night when insurgent (FUNC) troops forced 400 (lonnolite) government soldiers to abandon a position near the country's only deepwater port of Kompong Som, military sources said today. The sources said the Commander was in charge of the defense of Stung Chhay, the ninth (lonnolite) government position to fall since last week. Spean Dèk, Prey Nop (town), Oknha Héng, Veal Rinh (town), O Chamnar, O Kambot, O Tahay and Srè Cham are the other positions which have been abandoned by (lonnolite) government troops operating along highway 4 linking Phnom Penh with Kompong Som..."

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A.F.P., 11 Mai 1974: "La crise qui perturbe depuis plusieurs mois l'enseignement primaire et secondaire au Cambodge (républicain) a des répercussions de plus en plus sensibles dans la vie politique de la République khmère. Cette crise atteint des proportions d'autant plus inquiétantes pour le régime de Lon Nol que les élèves du secondaire ont pris fait et cause pour leurs professeurs en grève... Un climat de tension va grandissant... Les professeurs exigent un triplement immédiat de leur traitement dont ils font remarquer qu'il n'a cessé de se dévaloriser depuis le début de la guerre, il y a quatre ans. Avant les hostilités, un enseignant touchait un salaire qui correspondait environ à 200 dollars (U.S.) par mois. Il ne gagne plus maintenant que l'équivalent de 35 dollars (U.S.) par mois. Les élèves se sont associés au mouvement de leurs professeurs. A l'entrée des lycées de Phnom-Penh, on peut lire des inscriptions sur banderoles faites de toile de sac de riz proclamant: "Les professeurs n'ont pas de riz, les élèves n'ont pas de cours". D'autres placards marquant l'hostilité de leurs auteurs au gouvernement (lonnolien) et au chef de l'Etat (Lon Nol) ont été apposés sur les murs."

A.P., 12 Mai 1974: "In a week of fighting, rebel (FUNC) forces have taken control of over 30 miles of Highway 4--once a vital supply road from the Port of Kompong Som to Phnom Penh. All supplies for Phnom Penh are now flown in or come by ship up the Mekong river. Prices have soared in the Capital.. While agricultural commodities are in short supply... The former Kompong Som commander has been replaced for allowing his troops to relax their guard. A battalion commander from a fighting brigade has replaced the Kompong Som general, military sources said."

A.F.P., 12 Mai 1974: "... The (lonnolite) government has not yet announced its losses in the fighting around Kompong Som but it is known that Red Khmer (FUNC) troops captured four 105-mm cannons and more than 5.000 shells last week."

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A.F.P., 12 Mai 1974: "Le gouvernement (lonnolien) a décidé dimanche de majorer les prix du carburant. Le litre d'essence automobile est porté de 68 à 100 riels, soit une augmentation de 50 pour cent. Les autres produits pétroliers-gas oil, fuel, petrole lampant-connaissent une hausse de quarante à cent pour cent."

U.P.I., 12 Mai 1974: "... The increase cost of gasoline was announced by the ministers of Finance and Commerce in a joint communiqué. The communiqué pointed out that... there have been cases of gasoline smuggling to neighboring South Viet Nam and Thailand..."

A.F.P., 12 Mai 1974: "... The (lonnolite) government has not yet announced its losses in the fighting around Kompong Som but it is known that Red Khmer (FUNC) troops captured four 105-mm cannons and more than 5.000 shells last week."

A.P., 12 Mai 1974: "... Americans still draw combat pay in Indochina, flying supply missions to Cambodia from Thailand... They earn 65 dollars extra each month in combat pay... The men fly out of the Air-base at U Tapao... The airmen are... from Clark Air-force base in the Philippines... In addition, Saigon-based transports of Air America, the CIA-supported line... fly supplies to the fronts from Phnom Penh... Sometimes chutes, caught by a perverse wind, land in enemy territory.. What would happen if one of the (U.S.) planes was shot down or crashed in the (Cambodian) war zone? The United States has rescue helicopters in Thailand and plenty of aircraft to provide covering fire for a Viet Nam - style rescue..."

-Article signé Matt Franjola -

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U.P.I., 13 Mai 1974: "... A homemade explosive tore through a Customs office here monday, killing two customs officials, (lonnolite) Police reported. The office is located in downtown Phnom Penh near the National Bank of Cambodia..."

A.F.P., 13 Mai 1974: "... Au cours d'une conférence de Presse le ministre (lonnolien) de la Défense, (le général) Thappana Ngin, .. a dit: "Nous avons averti enseignants et étudiants que nous n'hésiterons pas à lutter contre toute action subversive." M.Thappana a annoncé, à cette occasion, que la Loi Martiale serait strictement appliquée et que les contrôles.. seraient renforcés..."

A.F.P., 13 Mai 1974: "Deux motocyclistes ont lancé lundi après-midi une charge de plastic devant la Banque Nationale du Cambodge située en plein centre de Phnom Penh... Les terroristes ont réussi à prendre la fuite. D'autre part, la Police (lonnolienne) a découvert dimanche un paquet piégé contenant deux kilos de plastic à l'Aéroport de Pochentong."

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REUTER, 13 Mai 1974: "The (lonnolite) minister of Defence, General Thappana Nginn, told a press conference...The communist led insurgents (FUNC) had established secret networks in Phnom Penh and spread (FUNC) leaflets around the Capital...".

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A.P., 13 Mai 1974: ".. Food prices in Phnom Penh have risen sharply in the past five months... Already there is unrest in Phnom Penh over high prices...".

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FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 13 Mai 1974: "Cambodian contrebant: The top diplomatic representative of a western nation is the central figure behind a scheme to smuggle two priceless friezes from the legendary monuments of Angkor... Negotiations for the relics began several weeks ago and reportedly have involved at least 40.000 U.S. dollars in payments so far. The diplomat, an ambassador, was originally contacted by a chief military officer of the Lon Nol government... The relics... have been hidden (in Phnom Penh) until opportune moment to ship them to Europe".

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... 13 Mai 1974: ".. Food prices in Phnom Penh have risen sharply in the past five months... Already there is unrest in Phnom Penh over high prices...".

FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 13 MAI 1974: "The net tightens", by Mike Snitowsky. "While khmer rouge (GRUNC) deputy Prime Minister Khieu Samphân continued on his nation-hopping tour to drum up support for the crucial United Nations vote in September which will determine who should represent Cambodia- Lon Nol's régime or Prince Sihanouk's government-insurgent (FUNC) military forces have reversed their previous dry-season setbacks by chalking up one battlefield victory after another. Since the United National Front of Cambodia shelved plans to take Phnom Penh and opted for "provincial strategy", it has overrun a string of (lonnolite) government outposts and captured several towns. Fighting over the former royal capital of Oudong could rate as one of the war's most important campaigns. The khmer rouge (FUNC) victory there on march 28 tempered any optimism the Lon Nol army had gleaned from its earlier success in repulsing a big attack on Phnom Penh. Subsequent fighting over nearby towns caused big (lonnolite) government losses and may have shifted the balance towards the insurgents... The khmer rouge (FUNC) made short work of neighbouring Kompong Luong and Sala Lek Pram ... (In Long Vèk) the (lonnolite) military command was in disarray. "There were five (lonnolite) generals", noted an eyewitness, "and each one had his own idea of what to do". There was widespread fear of another massive slaughter similar to the one at Oudong.. "The fear, noted one western observer, is completely justified; they either have the choice of staying and getting waxed or breaking out and getting creamed." All the warning signs were there. Low morale and short supplies... Almost all (lonnolite) government soldiers sent to the area had been mauled. The (lonnolite) government sustained its most severe blow when the crack 80th Brigade, one of the (lonnolite) government forces' best fighting units, was virtually wiped out... The potential severity of the situation last week prompted army commander Sosthène Fernandez to announce the beginning of a new recruitment drive... This, in turn, prompted young men of draft age to stay away from market places and other crowded areas where teams of (lonnolite) Police Militaire have lately been scrutinising personal papers..."

REUTER, 14 Mai 1974 (Phnom-Penh): "Western diplomats here generally concede that the insurgents (FUNC) control up to three quarters of the Cambodian countryside, thus isolating the towns.. under (lonnolite) government control."

A.F.P., 14 Mai 1974 (Paris): "Une déclaration portant les signatures d'une soixantaine de personnalités françaises du monde politique, scientifique, littéraire, artistique, etc.. demande que le nouveau Président de la République, qui sera élu dimanche prochain, reconnaisse immédiatement le Gouvernement Royal d'Union Nationale, sihanoukiste, du Cambodge... Parmi les signataires figurent notamment M. Jean-Paul Sartre, Prix Nobel de Littérature, et son épouse, Mme Simone de Beauvoir, les savants Laurent Schwartz, Alex Minkowski, Vladimir Jankelevitch, l'avocat à la Cour Léo Mata-rasso, les peintres Vasarely, Pignon et Bazaine, les hommes poli-tiques Michel Rocard et Claude Bourdet, etc.,,"

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U.P.I., 15 Mai 1974: ".. (There is) a growing swell of anti-(lonnolite) government criticism. Numerous groups, including newspaper publishers, students, teachers, and some junior-level military officers, have been increasingly critical of the Lon Nol government and its policies in the past weeks.."

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REUTER, 15 Mai 1974: "... (Republican) Cambodia's deteriorating military and economic situation today appeared to be seriously endan-gering the (lonnolite) government... The Republican Party, headed by Sisowath Sirik Matak, .. does not always agree with the Social Republican Party (of Lon Nol).. Such a situation accentuated the uneasy political atmosphere which had prevailed here since the attempt to assassinate Mr Long Boret last april 26, the sources said. But the most serious problem facing the (lonnolite) government is discontent at increased prices of basic commodities in the virtually besieged capital, they added."

REUTER, 15 Mai 1974: "... Etudiants et enseignants (phnom-penhois) ont lancé un not d'ordre de grève pour protester contre la hausse du coût de la vie qui suscite un mécontentement croissant dans la Capitale...".

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A.P., 15 Mai 1974: "... Lon Nol ordered 10 (lonnolite) generals retired tuesday... Army sources said the 10 generals had no jobs and were only taking up space. The 230.000 man (lonnolite) army has 86 generals, according to military sources... There has been a lot of criticism of top (lonnolite) military leaders among senior civil servants and ordinary citizens recently because of a series of military defeats."

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U.P.I., 15 Mai 1974: "Rebel (FUNC) gunners opened up on a ship convoy steaming up the Mekong river South of Phnom Penh wednesday, setting two vessels ablaze and sinking a third, (lonnolite) port Police said... Insurgent (FUNC) gunfire also sank a one-ton ammunition barge.. U.S. Embassy officials estimate the value of each bargeload of ammunition at 1, 5 million U.S. dollars. The United States is the sole supplier of munitions to the Cambodian (lonnolite) armed forces..."

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A.F.P., 15 MAI 1974: "... Le Comité Central des élèves de l'enseignement secondaire de Phnom-Penh.. a protesté contre la mobilisation générale qui, a déclaré son porte-parole, ne sert pas l'intérêt supérieur du pays, mais seulement celui d'une poignée d'hommes qui défendent le pouvoir personnel... Enfin.. les enseignants du primaire et du secondaire ont annoncé mardi qu'ils publieraient une Déclaration de Défiance au Gouvernement (lonnolien)...".

U.P.I., 15 Mai 1974: "Growing student unrest in Phnom Penh over issues of inflation, corruption and military conscription has brought about a flowering of schoolyard signs. One of the more succinct posted wednesday at the Lycée school said: "The price of everything is going to heaven, while the people are going to hell."

A.F.P., 16 Mai 1974: "... Au Lycée du "18 Mars 1970", principal centre de ralliement des professeurs et des lycéens en colère, la Police (lonnolienne) a arraché, ce matin, les banderoles hostiles au régime et au gouvernement (lonnoliens) qui y avaient été élevées. Les lycéens les ont remplacées par des inscriptions peintes sur les murs, rédigées dans les mêmes termes...".

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A.F.P., 16 MAI 1974: "L'aide économique américaine à la République khmère est augmentée de 11 millions de dollars... L'aide économique américaine passe ainsi (cette année) à près de 272 millions de dollars. Elle est destinée à financer les importations en produits essentiels.. notamment le riz.. La tranche supplémentaire (de l'aide économique U.S.).. pourvoira à l'importation de 20.000 tonnes de riz."

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A.F.P., 16 Mai 1974 (Washington): "M. Richard Nixon refuse de démissionner parce que, selon lui, la paix du monde et la conduite des affaires internationales exigent que les Etats-Unis aient un Président fort.. Voulant vraisemblablement donner des preuves de son rôle essentiel dans la conduite des affaires étrangères, M. Nixon a rappelé qu'il avait pris seul et contre l'avis des membres de son Cabinet, la décision d'envahir le Cambodge en 1971".

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U.P.I., 16 Mai 1974 (Phnom Penh): "A teachers' Association and a large student group held meetings at the Lycée school "March 18" to protest the policies of President Lon Nol's government..."

REUTER, 16 Mai 1974: "... The teachers and students have threatened to continue with the strike unless the (lonnolite) government solves the economic crisis... anti-(lonnolite) government slogan said "Hold a people's congress to judge the (lonnolite) government", and "why force the people to become soldiers?"..."

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REUTER, 19 Mai 1974 (Phnom-Penh): "... On thursday, it was disclosed here yesterday, the powerful force of students and teachers carried out their pledge to withdraw confidence in the (lonnolite) government. They issued a statement saying the country's four-year-old republican régime "had become a cancer"... They have now issued a statement saying the 1970 coup which overthrew Prince Sihanouk and brought marshal Lon Nol to power has led to the lower classes becoming poorer and poorer... They say foreign aid (U.S. aid) went almost entirely to wealthy hands."

REUTER, 19 Mai 1974: "... The nation's teachers and students, who have now come out against the republican government of President Lon Nol, have started their anti-(lonnolite) government campaign with leaflets distributed at all the capital's high schools. A number of other groups have joined them in this."

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U.P.I., 19 Mai 1974: "Ten persons died of cholera recently in Kampot., a daily khmer-language newspaper reported sunday...Cholera is relatively uncommon in Cambodia."

A.F.P., 20 Mai 1974: "... The view of the war from BANAM (town) is dismal. Bombed by B 52s.. the ghost town does not have a building left standing. But eleven families are still living there in ruins..."

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A.P., 20 Mai 1974: "Highway 5 leads to rebel (FUNC) held Oudon and besieged Long Vèk.. manned by 4.000 (lonnolite) troops.. Navy convoys have been thwarted in their attempts to reach the beleaguered outpost by khmer rouge (FUNC) blockades and mining of the Tonlé Sap river which flows parallel to the highway. U.S. C130 transport planes are airdropping ammunition and rice supplies to the camp daily."

A.P., 21 Mai 1974: "Khmer Rouge (FUNC) attacked five (lonnolite) government positions at the northern and northeastern approaches to Phnom Penh.. Military observers feel that (lonnolite) government forces are hard pressed to counter the rebel (FUNC) threat, because the (lonnolite) High Command still relies on an outmoded static defense strategy. Most the (lonnolite) government defensive positions in the area are poorly defended. One observer said (lonnolite) troops were being thinned out from daily skirmishing.. Eleven (lonnolite) government outposts in the (Kompong Som) area have been wiped out by the insurgents (FUNC) in the past three weeks".

REUTER, 21 Mai 1974: "Insurgent (FUNC) gunners fire six chinese built 107 millimetre rockets into the northern sector of Phnom Penh last night. Last month the insurgents (FUNC) fired a number of chinese made rockets into the southern sector of the Capital..."

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A.P.P., 21 Mai 1974: "L'Association des Etudiants de la République khmère a réclamé, mardi, au gouvernement (lonnolien) de mettre fin à la corruption. (et) a protesté contre les conditions dans lesquelles s'effectue l'enrôlement forcé de jeunes gens en cours d'études dans l'armée (républicaine). L'Association a enfin exprimé sa déception devant l'absence d'augmentation des bourses."

Phnom-Penh, 22 Mai 1974: Déclaration écrite et diffusée par l'Association des élèves de l'Enseignement Secondaire.

Extraits: "Au cours des quatre dernières années, la situation dans la République est en décadence à tous les points de vue, notamment au point de vue économique, social, politique et culturel. Les crises économiques, sociales et politiques ont éclaté successivement et pas la moindre solution équitable et efficace n'y a été apportée. Nous, jeunes élèves de l'Enseignement Secondaire, ne pouvons pas rester les bras croisés (devant cette situation où) l'on est en train de pousser sans vergogne la nation khmère vers la décadence. Qu'y a-t-il comme "développement" de la société khmère depuis ces dernières années? Rien, exceptés les malheurs et les souffrances du peuple... Non seulement le gouvernement (lonnolien) ne fait pas attention à notre voix patriotique mais encore il a calomnié la jeunesse studieuse et a poussé sa cruauté jusqu'à arrêter et assassiner sauvagement des jeunes élèves et étudiants... La voix juste et légitime de la jeunesse studieuse a porté un coup aux intérêts personnels de nos dirigeants et à ceux de leurs clans..."

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REUTER, 22 Mai 1974; "Insurgent (FUNC) gunners last night fired five rockets into Phnom Penh.. The (lonnolite) police said one of the 107-millimetre rockets landed near Phsar Silep market, another round fell near the olympic market, the three other rockets struck the compound of the soviet-built hospital. The insurgents (FUNC), in the two previous days, fired nine rockets into the virtually besieged capital..."

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A.F.P., 22 Mai 1974 : "Une association de juristes américains, "THE NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD", qui compte 4.000 membres, a déposé, mardi, devant un tribunal fédéral une requête demandant l'annulation des élections présidentielles de 1972 et la déposition du Président Nixon et du vice-Président Ford. Le document, qui compte 207 pages, affirme que l'élection n'a pu être validée parce qu'entachée "par une série d'actes délictueux et illégaux" commis au cours de la campagne pour la réélection du Président. La "National Lawyers Guild".. est appuyée dans sa requête par un groupe de particuliers, comme le fameux pédiatre Benjamin Spock, et d'organisations diverses, tels que les anciens combattants du Viet Nam contre la guerre... etc..."

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U.P.I., 23 Mai 1974 (Phnom-Penh): "... The Thai(Thailand) captain of a tugboat and one of his crewmen were killed when a fierce barrage of 75mm recoilless rifle fire hit their vessel.. in the river near Kos Chek (Phnom Penh area)..."

A.F.P., 23 Mai 1974: "... Three chinese-made rockets were fired into Phnom Penh during the night, one of them landing close to Chamcar Mon Palace, President Lon Nol's Residence, and the United States Embassy..."

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REUTER, 24 Mai 1974: "... The teachers, who have been backed by their students and pupils, represent with the students a major force in the affairs of Phnom Penh. They have called for the downfall of the (lonnolite) government."

U.P.I., 24 Mai 1974: "... The (lonnolite) spokesman said telephone calls, mail and other means of communication would remain subject to censorship."

REUTER, 24 Mai 1974: "... Official censors were appointed after the overthrow of Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk in March, 1970."

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A.F.P., 24 Mai 1974: "Les Etats-Unis ont consenti une nouvelle majoration de leur aide économique à la République Khmère. (laquelle reçoit) une rallonge de 500.000 dollars et la fourniture de 5.000 tonnes de maïs. Au titre de l'année fiscale 1973-1974, l'aide économique américaine au Cambodge (de Lon Nol) passe ainsi à 272, 3 millions de dollars."

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A.F.P., 24 Mai 1974: "Ce sont trois professeurs de l'enseignement Primaire et secondaire qui ont été arrêtés cette semaine, à Phnom Penh..."

U.P.I., 24 Mai 1974: "In Phnom Penh, a meeting was held friday by an Association of students and teachers to discuss government policies and to protest the reported arrest thursday of PEN MANIL, President of the Phnom Penh teaching staff association. PEN MANIL... has been an outspoken critic of (lonnolite) government corruption, compulsory military conscription and other matters."

A.P.P., 25 Mai 1974: "Le Gouvernement de la République khmère a confirmé, samedi, l'arrestation de trois professeurs. Il s'agit de MM. Yi Yon, Oul Chan et Pèn Manil qui seront traduits en justice pour infraction au Décret-loi (de Lon Nol) proclamant la nation en danger.."

A.P., 26 Mai 1974: "Cambodian (lonnolite) military police surrounded a high school in downtown Phnom Penh at dawn, sunday, and mobed in to arrest about one hundred anti-(lonnolite) government student demonstrators sleeping there. Student leaders of the two-week old protest-movement had been staying in the "March 18" high school for the past several days. They have been holding almost daily press conferences to denounce the (lonnolite) government for corruption, and allowing food prices to spiral... Military police took away four truckloads of students along with their belongings... Saturday afternoon in the school courtyard students staged a play denouncing the (lonnolite) government... A stricter conscription program along with skyrocketing prices of basic food items have been the root causes of initial student discontent."

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A.F.P., 26 MAI 1974: "L'artillerie des Khmers Rouges (FUNC) a tiré, dimanche, cinq roquettes sur Phnom Penh et sa périphérie... Ces cinq nouveaux projectiles portent à 26 le nombre de roquettes qui, selon le décompte officiel, ont été tirées depuis lundi dernier sur Phnom Penh".

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A.P., 26 Mai 1974: "Military Police encircled a Phnom Penh high school and arrested more than 100 anti-(lonnolite) government demonstrators at dawn sunday... Earlier in the week, (lonnolite) police arrested three teachers... Two minor officials in the ministry of Education were also arrested friday night, sources said."

U.P.I., 27 Mai 1974: "... An instructor at a Phnom Penh high school was arrested monday by (lonnolite) military police, the fourth teacher arrested since academic protests against the (lonnolite) government began two weeks ago. REAM YOU SA, an instructor of Daun Penh high school, was accused of participating in a public meeting of more than five persons, which is illegal under (republican) Cambodia's emergency laws... Students disrupted classes monday and said they were protesting the arrests of their teachers and professors."

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A.F.P., 27 Mai 1974: "18 personnes sont mortes ces derniers jours du choléra à Kompong Speu.. à une quarantaine de kilomètres à l'ouest de Phnom Penh. Il y a deux semaines, une dizaine d'autres sont également victimes de cette épidémie dans la ville côtière de Kampot.. à une centaine de kilomètres au sud-ouest de la Capitale..."

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FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 27 Mai 1974: "Phnom Penh: The rumblings were ominous. Frustration from soaring inflation was aggravated by a string of military setbacks in the provinces. Dissidents (teachers, students) around the city displayed banners and posters denouncing (lonnolite) government policies. "Incompetence and corruption are the people's famine", read one... The top Cambodian military brass is often linked with charges of large-scale corruption, nepotism, punishment by promotion and plain incompetence.. The real culprits (are) firmly entrenched ... (U.S.) ambassador John Dean has taken a tough, business-like stance in an effort to root out corruption in high places...(but) President Lon Nol seemed to be in no danger himself.. The americans appear, for the moment, to be sticking with the successful conservative policies of former chargé d'affaires Thomas Enders, who favoured the Lon Nol régime as a means of maintaining

security and stability... Maj.gen. Soshtène Fernandez (is) a potential rival.. Weeks earlier, he was the target of a mysterious document alleging his involvement in a C.I.A. plot with Dean to overthrow the (Lon Nol's) government... Lon Nol sent word to Defence Minister Thappana Ngin to use whatever measures necessary to prevent trouble and ordered 40 tanks to ring (lonnolite) Chamcar Mon Palace in the event of armed uprising ... The President (Lon Nol) pushed through emergency legislation to reinstitute the "nation in danger"... This granted him "exceptional powers"... A palace spokesman... admitted the law allows Lon Nol to take any action he deems necessary to prevent or inhibit social unrest... In a number of ways, the sacking of ten of Lon Nol's generals has reaffirmed the success of the Khmer Rouge's (FUNC) new provincial strategy. The recent turn of battlefield fortunes, as well as growing threats of student violence, may have set off president Lon Nol's trigger finger prematurely.. This anxiety was, perhaps, prompted by a rash of Khmer Rouge (FUNC) victories... The insurgent's (FUNC) biggest feat came in the Oudong region, following conquest of the town itself on March 18. The Khmer Rouge (FUNC) made a clean sweep of the area, apart from Long Vèk. The second phase of the rebels' (FUNC) new plan was along the strategic Highway 4, where they overran thirteen (lonnolite) government outposts. They captured badly-needed caches of weapons and ammunition, at the same time insuring that the road cannot be easily reopened... The provincial strategy gives the Khmer Rouge (FUNC) many advantages that an all-out attack on the Capital does not. Although it cannot supply the immediate punch necessary for final victory, a successful war of attrition can pay dividends in the long run... The provincial strategy has political advantages as well. To read continuously of the Khmer Rouge (FUNC) overrunning town after town, village after village, gives the impression that it is only a matter of time before (final) victory is achieved. The Khmer Rouge (FUNC) which is often in financial difficulty, has found an unsuspecting friend in the United States. The U.S. government remains doggedly determined to see the Cambodian (lonnolite) government through its crises, but many weapons

supplied in the hefty military aid programme invariably fall into the hands of the Khmer Rouge (FUNC). This usually happens after the insurgents win a town, but it is an open secret that scores of top (lonnolite) army officers, as well as the rank and file who have appropriate access, are doing brisk business with the insurgents (FUNC) and their intermediaries. Most of the captured American weapons have come from Oudong (town), Sala Lèk Pram (town) and Kompong Luong (town) in the area that American Ambassador John Dean described as the "hornet's nest". Recent acquisitions are from the string of former (lonnolite) government towns along highway 4. At Kompong Luong alone, the insurgents captured several vehicles and field radio packs, engineering equipment and 100 tons of ammunition. The rout on highway 4 meant at least four deadly U.S. 105 mm artillery pieces fell into Khmer Rouge (FAPLNC) hands. The rebels (FAPLNC) now have 32 of the weapons... The Khmer Rouge (FUNC) has secured apparently unbreakable strangleholds on the vital Highways 4 and 5; the insurgents (FUNC) have captured the productive "hornet's nest" region... On the other hand... (lonnolite) Kompong Cham (province), for example, once prosperous, has been largely reduced to an administrative area... Inevitably, the focus must shift back to Phnom Penh, where the most effective weapon is not likely to be military, but economic. The only way to bring in supplies is by air, although the mushrooming air business-at least 27 companies, several of them owned by top (lonnolite) government leaders and generals-can make only a dent in bringing in the supplies necessary to ensure the survival of the City at a tolerable level... The shortage of supplies continues to send the cost of living rocketing. The bottom dropped out of the Riel long ago and the city continues to seethe in its own despair, aggravated by shortage of food, corruption, and the desperate need for a viable political solution."

-Article signé: Mike Snitowsky

FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 27 Mai 1974: "... REAM (town):
the town's naval base and airstrip (are) now being built under
U.S. direction..... Kompong Thom (town):.. 21 model refugee
villages (have been) built with american aid..."

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U.P.I., 28 Mai 1974: "An unidentified man, monday night,
tossed a hand grenade into Phnom Penh's 11th ward administrative
center... The terrorist escaped."

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A.F.P., 28 Mai 1974: "In Phnom Penh, seven chinese-made
rockets fired by Khmer Rouge (FUNC) forces fell 300 yards from the
American embassy and (lonnolite) presidential Palace... Anti-
aircraft batteries at the (lonnolite) presidential Palace in
Phnom Penh today fired on two planes believed to be (republican)
cambodian Air Force craft flying off the normal flight route over
the capital.. Last year the Palace where Lon Nol resides was attacked
in march and in november by (republican) cambodian planes.. The
first attack was made by cambodian Air Force captain So Photra;
the second attack was made by a lieutenant Lim Khuon."

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REUTER, 28 Mai 1974: "Some three million litres (600.000
gallons) of petroleum have been lost, and 11.000 tons of
american rice missing from the commerce ministry, it was stated.."

U.P.I., 28 Mai 1974: "Three Cambodian (lonnolite) army officers will be tried by Courts Martial on charges of possessing illegal stocks of ammunition and weapons. One also is accused of selling ammunition to the enemy (FUNC-FAPLNC). Maj. Kim Keth, who was arrested last february on charges of illegal weapons possession and selling ammunition to communist (FUNC) rebels, was stripped of his rank monday."

A.F.P., 28 Mai 1974: "Tandis que les opérations prennent de l'ampleur autour de la Capitale, plusieurs officiers supérieurs viennent de faire l'objet de sanctions ou d'enquêtes.. Deux commandants, arrêtés en février, ont été dégradés avant même d'être passés en jugement pour intelligence avec l'ennemi (FUNC).L'Agence Khmère de Presse (officielle) rapporte, en outre, dans sa livraison de mardi que, le 26 Mai, des armes stockées par le Colonel Sisowath Vongsa Chivan ont été découvertes chez lui par les autorités militaires (lonnoliennes).L'AKP indique aussi que des perquisitions ont été effectuées chez "quelques officiers soupçonnés d'entretenir des rapports secrets avec l'ennemi (FUNC)...."

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REUTER, 29 Mai 1974: "Insurgent (FUNC) gunners last night launched a rocket attack on the (lonnolite) presidential Palace... Two rockets landed on the southern section of the (lonnolite) Palace..."

U.P.I., 30 Mai 1974: "Communist (FUNC) gunners sank a (lonnolite) government barge loaded with ammunition last tuesday night in the Tonlé Sap river..."

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A.P., 30 Mai 1974: "Nearly 100 high school students demonstrated thursday... The demonstrators shouted over a bull horn loudspeaker: "We want the (lonnolite) government to release all of our friends. Our friends are innocent... The (lonnolite) government is a thief, stealing our rice and money". The group broke up when it reached the "March 18" high school, which was where the other students were arrested Sunday."

A.F.P., 30 Mai 1974: "... Les manifestations d'hostilité qui ont visé non seulement le gouvernement (Long Boret) mais aussi le régime du Maréchal Ion Nol (la République khmère) ne laissent pas, jugent les observateurs, d'être préoccupantes... Pour justifier les arrestations auxquelles le gouvernement a procédé... un Ministre (lonnolien) a expliqué: "Il faut absolument éviter de laisser se créer un front (FUNC) intérieur (dans Phnom Penh)..." ... Les observateurs jugent que les Etats-Unis voient d'un assez mauvais oeil le développement du malaise social et les remous qu'il suscite au niveau politique. Pour les Américains, note-t-on dans les milieux diplomatiques, il s'agit essentiellement de mener à bien les opérations militaires..."

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A.P., 30 Mai 1974: "The (lonnolite) Cambodian Army's front-line strength has been halved in fighting this year, forcing the (lonnolite) government to launch an unpopular conscription campaign after strong encouragement from the American Embassy to ensure"men behind the guns" furnished by the U.S..Losses are running twice last year's rate (-10.000 killed, 25.000 seriously wounded- and the (lonnolite) Army having difficulty attracting new soldiers.."The U.S. is paying money and equipping an army", an American official said, "and we want to see that the money is well spent". During the initial phase of the revamped selective service system, begun in late february, five American diplomats were making almost daily

visits to mobilization headquarters, districts and sub-districts, (lonnolite) Cambodian draft officials said. "The Americans would come to... see how well we are working and if we are getting our quota", said Kèm Nay, a 45-year-old district draft official.

... A (lonnolite) government recruitment drive, last october, netted 20.000 soldiers in three months but losses, since january, have been higher than the replacement rate. After a census in Phnom Penh, the (lonnolite) government launched the draft's second... District offices sent out daily draft notices to men between 18 and 35. Thirty mobile (lonnolite) police teams with address lists scoured the City for draft dodgers and deserters. "The goal in Phnom Penh is about two hundred recruits a day", a (lonnolite) khmer official said.

... In previous years, the (lonnolite) Army relied on ... periodic press gang round-ups of young men in markets, movie theaters and on the streets. Thousands bribed their way out... An American said: "They've never had a draft in this society and there are reports of buying people at every level". In the seven-month period ending in April, the (lonnolite) government processed 31.000 recruits, but still main-line combat units are only 50 per cent of normal strength.. "Most of the draftees we get come from refugees and average people who do not have a job", Kèm Nay observed as a truckload of 27 recruits left Dècho district for the induction Center. "Well educated men and sons of the rich never report here", Kèm Nay said... The Phnom Penh population, though concerned with spiraling prices, appears apathetic towards the war effort. There is little discipline in the (lonnolite) army and it is common for soldiers to take off a few days and return when their money runs out. "The generals take off, so why shouldn't I?", declared Lt. Thach Pich. Deserters are only punished "on paper", then sent back to their battalions. "We need men", explains a (lonnolite) officer... Soldiers at the front grumble at their lot and complain that senior officers are not tacticians nor do they share the hardships of the front. Soldiers half-heartedly fight for their present leaders. "Nobody wants to die fighting for a fool", says a young officer."

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, 30 Mai 1974: "... Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, is isolated from the rest of the country with all major roads cut by rebel (FUNC) forces and one of two river channels blocked... 5.000 (lonnolite) government troops have been killed so far this year, only 500 less than were reported killed in all of 1973's fighting, diplomatic sources report. The (Republican-lonnolite) army of 200.000 continues to fight a largely defensive war against an estimated 50.000 insurgents (FUNC), rarely taking the initiative and frequently getting clobbered when they do. (Republican) Cambodia's inflation is the worst in Asia and among the worst in the world, according to economic experts.. Price in Phnom Penh went up 275 per cent last year and have climbed more than 40 per cent in the first three months of this year. "You don't see any dogs around any more", a European diplomat said, "because they've all been eaten". ... The (lonnolite) government, as a European diplomat observed, is still "as ramshackle as ever, somewhat disorganised, indecisive, bogged down in an unbelievable bureaucracy. .. Wobbly as it is, (Republican) Cambodia presently is being saved from collapse by American aid (now running about 1.6 million U.S. dollars a day)... "I think the khmer Republic and Phnom Penh will survive this dry season, but I cannot say I have any optimism about it pulling through next year", said one European military observer... "If the (U.S.) President (R.Nixon) is impeached or if the (U.S.) Congress decides to cut or limit aid, then there could be big trouble", he said. "I can't see it lasting much longer", said still another experienced diplomatic observer. "There is no sign the other side is becoming exhausted. (Lonnolite) government troops are losing ground bit by bit. The economic situation grows worse day by day", said still another senior diplomat. "One has the feeling one is sitting on top of a volcano ready to blow".

-Article signé Larry Green -

REUTER, 31 Mai 1974 (Phnom Penh): "More than 500 high school students today staged city-wide demonstrations demanding the release of their class-mates detained by (lonnolite) authorities for alleged subversion. The demonstrators from several high schools and carrying anti-(lonnolite) government banners gathered in protest in front of the national Police headquarters two hours later when (lonnolite) police reinforcements arrived. Then they marched to the Education Ministry where they demanded that Education Minister Keo Sangkim come out and talk to them. "The students whom you call the enemy are now here to talk. If you do not come to talk to us, you are the enemy of the Cambodian people", the students shouted through loud-speakers when the minister would not receive them. The students also charged that corrupt (lonnolite) government leaders had bought villas and new cars for themselves. The (lonnolite) government last week arrested 62 students and 10 teachers on charges of subversive activities, following student unrest over (lonnolite) government corruption and rising prices of commodities."

U.P.I., 31 Mai 1974: "... (The) students marched through the streets of Phnom Penh friday, shouting anti-(lonnolite) government slogans and disrupting traffic in open defiance of emergency government laws prohibiting such demonstrations... The students shouted a series of slogans, including "The (lonnolite) government betrays the people".. Most of the students participating in friday's demonstration were from the Lycée "March 18".. The "March 18" high school is named after that date in 1970 when Prince Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown... One of the 70 students still detained will have a military trial on charges of complicity with cambodian rebels (FUNC). He was identified... as Ear Porly, 18, President of the secondary school student Association".

-DECLARATION ECRITE, en date du 24 Mai 1974, DE EAR PORLY (18 ans), Président de l'Association des Elèves de l'Enseignement secondaire en "République khmère".

Extraits: "La situation actuelle en République khmère se trouve dans une phase déplorable dans les domaines économique, politique, social, culturel. Nous, les élèves, les étudiants, les

professeurs, ne pouvons pas rester les bras croisés et voir la chute de notre Patrie, recevoir de tels coups sans avoir de réactions vis-à-vis des responsables... Le gouvernement (lonnolien) a choisi les moyens qu'il pense efficaces pour résoudre nos problèmes: il menace, arrête, tue les dirigeants du mouvement étudiantin pour anéantir le mouvement de nos revendications patriotiques... Le gouvernement (lonnolien) réprime, arrête pour que le Congrès populaire dont nous avons proposé la réunion n'ait pas lieu. Le Gouvernement (lonnolien) trahit le peuple même et n'en est pas représentatif.. Nous réclamons la liberté... Nous demandons à toutes les organisations nationales et internationales de marcher avec nous dans cette lutte, qui sert une seule cause: la cause du peuple khmer..."

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U.P.I., Premier Juin 1974: "Cambodian rebel troops (FUNC-FAPLNC) overran a (lonnolite) government garrison on national Highway 4 and assaulted the defense perimeters of two provincial capitals.. In addition to the (lonnolite) casualties in Troey Trayoeng, (lonnolite) government troops left behind seven machine guns, four mortars, and two french armored cars equipped with 106 mm recoilless rifles.."

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REUTER, Premier Juin 1974: "Cambodian students marched through main streets of Phnom Penh for the second successive day today."

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U.P.I., Premier Juin 1974: "... (lonnolite) government troops evacuated two outposts shielding a large garrison, Saturday, following a heavy rebel (FUNC) ground assault.. Rebel (FUNC) forces now

control 17 of the 22 government garrisons (on Highway 4).. In a related development, U.S. Ambassador to (republican) Cambodia, John Gunther Dean, visited the provincial capital of Kompong Speu, Saturday, to meet with (lonnolite) Cambodian military officers there. Kompong Speu serves as the military headquarters for highway 4 operations. No details on Dean's visit were available.. In other developments, rebel (FUNC) rocketeers hit Phnom Penh.. The (FUNC) rocket exploded near the MAC cigarette factory.. It was the fifth consecutive day of such attacks against Phnom Penh.."

U.P.I., Premier Juin 1974: "Cambodian rebels (FUNC) shot down a (lonnolite) government C123 cargo plane, friday, while landing at Kampot airport".

A.F.P., 2 Juin 1974: ".. Deux roquettes de 107mm se sont abattues, dans la matinée, sur un quartier du sud de Phnom Penh.."

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A.P., 2 Juin 1974: ".. Military observers have expressed doubts (lonnolite) government forces will hold the provincial capital of Kompong Seila. "It is only a matter of time", said an observer. U.S. C 130 transports from Thailand began parachuting supplies into the besieged town, sunday,..."

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A.F.P., 3 Juin 1974 (Saigon): "Un bâtiment sud-coréen transportant du carburant a explosé, lundi matin, sur la voie fluviale qui relie Saigon à Phnom Penh à la suite d'un sabotage commis par un commando de sapeurs communistes.. Le navire, le "Yu Chang Ho" jaugeait 1.200 tonnes..."

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A.F.P., 3 Juin 1974 (Phnom Penh): "Un avion militaire khmer (lonnolien) a été abattu, le 31 Mai dernier, par la D.C.A. communiste (FUNC)... Les deux membres d'équipage et les cinq officiers qui se trouvaient à bord ont été tués. L'avion (était) un C-47...".

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A.F.P., 3 Juin 1974: "... Il n'est guère possible d'évaluer exactement le nombre des réfugiés cambodgiens installés au Sud Viet Nam, mais le chiffre le plus souvent cité, à Phnom Penh, est celui d'au moins quarante mille personnes depuis le début de la guerre du Cambodge."

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B.M.D. DE
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