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Patriotic Actions by Cambodian Students and Embassy Secretary in Czechoslovakia

THE patriotic Cambodian students studying in Prague and Isoup Ganthu, Secretary of the Cambodian Embassy there, occupied the Royal Embassy of Cambodia on August 10 and declared their joining the National United Front of Kampuchea. Isoup Ganthu also held a press conference, denouncing the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique for betraying the cause of the Khmer people and acting as the stooge of U.S. imperialism.

At the same time, it is reported that the Czechoslovak authorities have expressed their willingness to provide "diplomatic protection" for Meas Keth Caimerom, bogus ambassador of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique which is a lackey of U.S. imperialism. The bogus ambassador who has been ousted from the embassy is still allowed to "work" safely in his "official residence" in Prague.

In a statement issued on August 13, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia warmly welcomed and supported these patriotic actions, pointing out that "this is a new political victory of the N.U.F.K." and that together with the military, political and diplomatic victories won recently by the Cambodian National Liberation Army and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, "this victory shows the complete isolation and total failure of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh traitorous clique in the pay of the U.S. imperialists."

Messages From Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to Czechoslovak President

In view of this situation, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, sent messages on August 16 and 23 to Czechoslovak President Ludvik Svoboda.

Unreasonable Measures Taken by Czechoslovak Authorities

The Czechoslovak authorities, however, have unreasonably sealed off the Cambodian Embassy in Prague and taken inhuman measures against the Cambodian patriots. Since August 13, they have dispatched more police to surround the Cambodian Embassy, preventing anyone from entering the embassy building with anything and preventing the diplomatic officials of China and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from making normal diplomatic contacts with the embassy. They have gone so far as to cut the water and electricity supply to the embassy and seal off the streets leading to the embassy. Isoup Ganthu and the patriotic Cambodian students have fought against these unreasonable measures.

The August 16 message said: "It is with sadness that our anti-imperialist people, to whom your people have solemnly declared their firm support many times, have learnt that the Czechoslovak Government stands on the side of Mr. Meas Keth Caimerom, bogus ambassador who represents only himself and the fascists in the pay of U.S. imperialism, and has ordered to cut off the water and electricity supply to the building where Mr. Ganthu and our students stay and to refuse to provide food for them. In the name of all the Cambodians fighting arms in hand against U.S. imperialism, the aggressor and neo-colonizer of our motherland, in the name of all those who are horribly burnt by the napalms dropped by U.S. planes, and in the name of the legal Royal Government of Cambodia, I request Your Excellency to immediately intervene so that water and electricity would be restored to the offices of our Embassy and that the diplomats of the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam would be permitted to bring food to Mr. Isoup Ganthu, his large family and our young compatriots staying with them. In default of an official recogni-

tion of the Khmer people's legal government, the Khmer people venture to expect that your Government will not refuse to accord to their diplomatic representative and to their youth a humanitarian treatment, including such minimum as water, electricity and food. Moreover, I believe that the moment has come for our two countries to clear up the ambiguity on the Cambodian Government question. The Czechoslovak Government can make clear its position regarding this and if it chooses to recognize the pro-American and anti-people government of Lon Nol, usurper of constitutional power in Phnom Penh, it has the right to do so, but at least the Khmer people and their legal government will know what to do and can therefore make Mr. Gantry and their students not only leave the offices of the Cambodian Embassy belonging to them, but also leave your country."

The August 23 message said: "I addressed an agonizing appeal to Your Excellency last week in favour of our diplomat Isoup Gantry and some ten Cambodian students whose only crime is to have refused to give up the offices of our embassy to the traitorous ambassador Mr. Caimerom who, with his friend Lon Nol, has betrayed his country and people for the benefit of U.S. imperialism. It was doubtless thanks to the kindness of Your Excellency whom I warmly thank, that the Czechoslovak authorities have restored the supply of water and gas to my compatriots besieged by the police. Unfortunately, they are still categorically denied electricity as well as telephone and the right to receive mail. What is still worse is that nobody is allowed to bring them food and the besieged have only the right to die of hunger or surrender the buildings of the Cambodian Embassy to the representative of a regime which is the enemy of its own people, sworn enemy of communism and a de facto ally of U.S. imperialism which, in the name of anti-communism, daily murders and disables with bullets, napalm bombs and poisonous matter thousands of men, women, elderly people and children of the people of socialist Viet Nam, an ally of your country, and of the Laotian and Khmer peoples who are your faithful friends. Certain Czechoslovak diplomats have explained to us that with regard to international practice and law, and in particular the international agreements of Vienna concerning diplomats, your government is obliged to protect ambassador Caimerom and his diplomatic mission. As regards this, allow me to draw your high attention to the following facts: First, Mr. Isoup Gantry, representative of the National United Front and the Royal Government of Cambodia, is himself also a dip-

lomat recognized as such by your Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Second, the Czechoslovak Government has not yet said that it recognized de jure the Lon Nol regime, usurper of constitutional power in Phnom Penh and violator of the Vienna Convention by its ransacking the Embassies of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam. Consequently Mr. Caimerom and Mr. Gantry are qualified as the respective representatives of two Cambodian regimes, neither of which has been recognized by your government. I therefore cannot imagine that two weights and measures can be used — one in favour of the pro-American Khmer diplomats and the other to the detriment of the anti-imperialist Khmer diplomat and nationals who have formed a common front with the people of socialist Viet Nam, your ally. In my previous message to Your Excellency I suggested that your government clarify the situation and make public its real choice between the legal government of the Khmer people and the anti-national, pro-imperialist Lon Nol regime. Otherwise my government considers it has the right to request your government likewise to isolate with a police cordon the residential building of the Cambodian Embassy where Mr. Caimerom and his friends are illegally living, and deprive them too of electricity, telephone, mail and the supply of food. Nevertheless, on behalf of the progressive, anti-fascist and anti-imperialist Khmer people and in the name of their National United Front, their Royal Government of National Union and their People's National Liberation Army, I proclaim that all the buildings and land belonging to the diplomatic mission of Cambodia in the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, as in other countries of socialist Europe and elsewhere, belong to them and that the so-called diplomats of the traitorous regime of Phnom Penh have no right whatsoever to occupy them.

"As for the Khmer offices in Prague I would be very grateful to your government if it restored the electricity and allowed food to be brought there by the diplomats friendly to our two peoples so that the besieged would not die of hunger. But if the besieged have to evacuate the offices one day owing to starvation or any other incident of maltreatment arbitrarily inflicted from outside, my government wishes to proclaim in advance that it will always maintain all its rights to the movable and fixed property of the Cambodian Embassy in Czechoslovakia with, of course, its right to be the sole legal representative of Cambodia and the Cambodian people."