

April 30, 1979
**Notes on a Meeting held during the
Secretary-General's Visit to Peking on 30 April 1979**

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Summary:

Prince Norodom Sihanouk weighs in on the situation in Cambodia, stating that though the situation is grim, "his own policy was to wait and see" what would happen next.

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to Peking on 30 April 1979

Present: The Secretary-General
Mrs. E. Waldheim
Prince Sihanouk
Princess Monique
Mr. Rafeuddin Ahmed

Prince Sihanouk thanked the Secretary-General for his continuing concern for the Kampuchean people. Since his last meeting with the Secretary-General, the situation in Kampuchea had deteriorated greatly. The war was continuing between Viet Nam and the Khmer Rouge. The latter were courageous but now seemed to be rather tired, if not exhausted. It is difficult for them to get assistance from China. Viet Nam was militarily much stronger but still they can not control most of Kampuchea. As far as the people were concerned, they could not take sides because the Khmer Rouge were known for their inhuman policies and national genocide and there was a traditional hatred of the Vietnamese. A radio station in south China, claiming to be the "voice of Democratic Kampuchea" was trying to rally the people. Prince Sihanouk remarked that this radio station will probably keep on broadcasting long after the Pol Pot regime is over.

His own policy was to wait and see. He expected that by next year the Pol Pot forces would be completely exhausted. They he will organize a broad united front of all Khmers, many of whom are outside the country. He is constantly receiving messages of support from his people. He did not wish to identify himself with the Pol Pot regime, who even now were killing refugees who were forced to return to Kampuchea by Thailand. When the time comes, he will offer to Viet Nam the possibility of a peaceful solution. Maybe they will accept then the idea of a conference which, at present, is ruled out because of the public position taken by Pham Van Dong that events in Kampuchea are irreversible. If a peaceful solution is not possible, he will organize armed resistance, which will certainly be supported by China, and would ask the Americans to provide financial and material assistance.

The Secretary-General mentioned that Pham Van Dong had claimed that the Vietnamese had to react because of continuing provocations by the Pol Pot regime. Prince Sihanouk confirmed that this was so. The Khmer Rouge thought they were the best army in the whole world. They claim that they had thrown the United States into the sea on 17 April 1975 and that the

fall of Pnom Penh enabled the Vietnamese to take Saigon on 30 April. They blamed the monarchy for having lost Cochin China, which was now South Viet Nam and had previously been a part of Cambodia, and asserted that they could take Saigon at any time. In his last meeting with Pol Pot on 5 January 1979, when he had been set free at the insistence of China, Pol Pot told him that he would be welcome to come back at any time and that the Khmer Rouge would take care of the Vietnamese, at the latest within two months.

Prince Sihanouk then referred to the statement made by the Prime Minister of Thailand saying that he had lied about assistance by China through Thailand to the Pol Pot forces. He had been told this by Deng Xiaoping himself and by Vice Prime Minister Han Nien Lung. So he had only said what the Chinese had told him. They knew very well how outspoken he was and if they did not wish it to be known they should not have given him this information.

As regards the Sino-Vietnamese talks, he did not foresee any chance for success. This had also been told to him by Han Nien Lung the day before he left for Hanoi.

The Secretary-General assured Prince Sihanouk that he would continue to follow the developments in the area and make every effort to find a speedy and peaceful solution.