

Sihanouk Acknowledges He Aided Reds

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HONG KONG, May 29 — Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in Hanoi yesterday that while in office he had given to "the Vietnamese people fighting against the United States imperialists an effective support and assistance that is not verbal."

The Prince, answering the charge of the present Government in Pnompenh that he was deposed because he had betrayed the neutrality of Cambodia to the benefit of the Communists, replied that "one cannot be neutral between the aggressor and the victim of aggression."

Prince Sihanouk, who arrived in North Vietnam on Monday, made the statements in a civic meeting arranged last night by the Hanoi administrative committee. The meeting was reported today by the Hanoi radio.

Since his arrival in Hanoi with his wife, Princess Monique, Penn Nouth, the premier of his Peking-based government in exile, and other members of his regime, the Prince has been almost continuously feted by the North Vietnamese.

Hanoi propaganda stresses the theme that Prince Sihanouk's enlistment in common cause with the Vietnamese

Communists brings the added weight of the Cambodian people into the struggle against "United States imperialist aggressors" and those allied with the United States in the Indochina war.

Premier Pham Van Dong last night hailed Prince Sihanouk, who was deposed March 18, and said Cambodia had made great achievements during the period he led the kingdom. He said the Cambodian people now more than ever considered the Prince the interpreter of "the profound and legitimate aspirations of the Khmer people."

The Premier pledged his Government "to make all-out efforts to support the just struggle of the fraternal Khmer people against the American imperialists and their henchmen."

He emphasized that Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were now united in the struggle against the United States and said: "None of our three countries can live in peace, independence and freedom if the territory of the others still remain a target of imperialist aggression."

In his reply, Prince Sihanouk thanked the Vietnamese Communists for what he said was "the total support" and "the important material assistance" given to the people of Cambodia "without any condition."

Meanwhile, a dispatch relayed here by Hsinhua, the Chinese Communist press agency, supported assumptions that Prince Sihanouk was not planning to go into Cambodia to lead the resistance to the Lon Nol Government.

Hsinhua relayed replies by Prince Sihanouk submitted to him from Hong Kong by B. K. Tiwari, correspondent of the Indian Express.

Asked whether he planned to go to Cambodia, the Prince replied: "I prefer to remain safe and sound in order to fight the traitors and the United States neocolonialism and to liberate my country." He said his return to Cambodia would "mean my death, at least political if not physical."

Prince Sihanouk said he was not a Communist but found Communism much better than capitalism and "the American way of life, which only enriches a handful of traitors."