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Cambodia's Political Line — Friendship

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Peking

Kambodia is ready to "settle problems and build friendship" with its neighbors, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said here yesterday in his first public speech since the fall of Phnom Penh on April 17.

Samphan, Cambodian vice premeir and defense minister, made the statement at a banquet in his honor given by Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping.

Samphan arrived in Peking yesterday on hxs first official visit abroad since his Communist forces came to power in Cambodia. Outlining the foreign policy of the new Cambodian authorities, Samphan said that its "strategic political line" is based on the principle of non-alighment.

"We adhere to the principles of mutual equality, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, co-operation and mutual benefit," he said.

Samphan attacked "American imperialism and its lackeys" who were, "in addition to their subversive and disruptive activities, persisting on a vile propaganda

campaign against the Cambodian nation and people in a vain attempt to hamper our reconstruction."

Regarding the internal situation in his country, Samphan dealt exclusively with economic reconstruction, saying Cambodia resembled "a big construction site" and suggesting that the near future for it would hold "even more brilliance than that of the Angkor period."

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