

## I. The Geneva Conference, 1954

At the end of World War II, many countries sought independence from foreign power or domination.

Cambodia gained independence from France on November 9, 1953, but foreign forces (Viet Minh) were still in the country. It was a real threat to Cambodia's independence.

The **Geneva Conference** (May 8 – July 21, 1954) was a conference which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, whose purpose was to find way to discuss the possibility of restoring peace in Indochina and Korean Peninsulas.

At the Conference, Cambodia insisted on its rights to participate in military alliance and on the right to permit the establishment on its soil of foreign military bases, as warranted, for defense against aggression; it strenuously opposed the North Vietnamese scheme – proposed at the Conference – to demilitarize and neutralize Cambodia.

What came out of the Geneva Conference amounted to a compromise, as evidenced by the Article 7 of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities in Cambodia, on July 21, 1954.

The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the People's Republic of China were participants throughout the whole conference. There were 14 countries altogether. Besides, the Conference was attended by Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), Cambodia, France Great Britain, Laos, the State of Vietnam (South Vietnam).

Three separate ceasefire accords, covering Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, were signed at the Conference. The Conference stipulated with respect to Cambodia that Viet Minh military forces be withdrawn within 90 days and that Cambodian resistance forces be mobilized within 30 days.

The International Commission for Supervision and Control in Cambodia, commonly known as **International Control Commission** was established by the Agreement. Made up of representatives from Canada, India, and Poland, it supervised the cease fire, withdrawal of foreign troop, release of prisoners of war, and overall compliance with the term of the Agreement.

CAMBODIA: The Accords was signed on July 21, 1954. The Article 7 reads: “ The Royal Government of Cambodia will not join any agreement with other States, if this agreement carries for Cambodia the obligation to enter into a military alliance not in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the of the United Nations, or, as long as

its security is not threatened, the obligation to establish bases on Cambodian territory for the military forces of foreign power” (Area Handbook for the Khmer Republic, p.203).

In November 1957, National Assembly passed a bill declaring Cambodia’s neutrality – abstain any ideology or military alliance.

Non-compliance of the Agreements:

Lack of honesty and national obligation

Lack of transparency in business dealing/speculation

Mixing up individual friendship and national interest:

Individual interest (emotion) and national interest

1953 Cambodia’s independence, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

1954 Geneva Conference, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

1955 Cambodia was admitted to the UN in December and has become a member of any intergovernmental organization. Cambodia enjoyed peace and became a Peaceful Island (Island of Peace in Southeast Asia). The monarchy enjoy one party system under [Sangkum Reastr Niyum](#).

1964 Prince Sihanouk, who had severed diplomatic ties with South Vietnam, announced plan to establish diplomatic relations with North Vietnam and to negotiate a border settlement directly with communist regime rather than with South Vietnamese government. North Vietnamese refused and asked to talk directly with the National Front of Liberation of South Vietnam. Cambodia opened border talks with the front in mid 1966, and North Vietnamese quickly followed suit.

Although the assurances of territorial integrity, Cambodia increasingly concerned about the presence of Viet Cong troops in its border provinces adjoining in South Vietnam.

1967 in frustration Prince Sihanouk remarked in March that the “[Vietnamese War is increasingly becoming the Cambodian war.](#)”

1968 Prince Sihanouk [felt constrained to admit publicly for the first time](#) that Cambodia’s eastern provinces were being used by Vietnamese communist forces as [sanctuary](#) and as [sources of supplies](#). Ho Chi Minh Trail ran in Cambodian soil under tacit agreement.

1969 he also publicly expressed his concern about the use of Cambodia’s territory by North Vietnamese forces as well, beginning February. According to the estimate of

Cambodian government, the number of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in Cambodia were from 35,000 to 40,000 men, in September 1969.

1970 the 10,000 Cambodians demonstrated against the presence of North Vietnam and Viet Cong troops' presence in their country, on March 11.

សំណួរ: តើប្រទេសដែលបានចុះហត្ថលេខា បានគោរពកិច្ចព្រមព្រៀងនេះឬទេ?  
គឺមានប្រទេសកម្ពុជា វៀតណាមគ្រប់ភាគីទាំងអស់ គឺមានប្លុកកុម្មុយនិស្ត  
និងប្លុកមិនមែន កុម្មុយនិស្ត - ចម្លើយគឺថាគ្មានទេ ។

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## II. The Paris Conference on Vietnam

Paris Peace

Accords, 27 January 1973

(Agreement on ending war in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos)

Attendees were: The United States, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (Viet Cong), the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam).

Article 20:

A). The parties participating in the Paris Conference on Vietnam shall strictly respect the 1954 Geneva Agreement on Cambodia and the 1962 Agreements on Laos, which recognize the Cambodia and the Laos People's fundamental rights, i.e, the **independence, sovereignty, unity**, and **territorial integrity** of these countries. The parties should respect the **neutrality of Cambodia and Laos** - ឯករាជ្យ អធិបេតយ្យភាព ឯកភាព និង បូរណភាពទឹកដី ។

B). Foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos, totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material.

C). The internal affairs of Cambodia and Laos shall be settled by the people of each of these countries without foreign interference.

D). The problem existing between Indochinese countries shall be settled by the Indochinese parties on the basis of respect other's independence, sovereignty, and non-interference on each other's internal affairs (Dictionary of the Vietnam War, p. 154).

សួរ: តើរៀនណាមបានគោរពកិច្ចព្រមព្រៀងនេះឬទេ? - អត់ទេ