

These two Khmer personalities created the Khmer People's National Front in October 1979.

This front aimed at the Vietnamese army who occupied our country.

Two years after H.A.R. Prince NORODOM SIHANOUK, created the Funcinpec, that is, in 1981.

Dear Friends, I don't create lies.

Ask H.E. HIS Soubert who is in Phnom Penh, this historical truth, we must never forget, and on the occasion of Pchum Ben's feast, we and the others, pray that the souls of the fighters who had died for the Homeland.

Thank you so much.

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សាក្សីក្នុងឧបបុគ្គលិកហេតុដែលនាំដល់កិច្ចចរុមរៀង ថ្ងៃ៤ ខែមិថុនា ឆ្នាំ ១៩៤៩ រវាងបារាំង និង បាវ ដាយ

លោក ណាន វ៉ែម(ខាងឆ្វេង) និងលោក ស៊ីន សាន ទាំងពីររូប ធ្លាប់ជានាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រីនៃប្រទេសកម្ពុជា។ ក្នុងឆ្នាំ ១៩៤៨

- ៤៩ លោកទាំងពីរបានទៅប៉ារីស តវ៉ានឹងគម្រោងរបស់បារាំងចង់ផ្ទេរអំណាចគ្រប់គ្រងកូសាំងស៊ីន (កម្ពុជាក្រោម)

ឱ្យយួន ។

ខាងក្រោមនេះ ជាសេចក្តីបកប្រែពីអត្ថបទភាសាបារាំង ដែលលោក ស៊ីន សាន បានសរសេរអំពីរឿងនេះ

**THE TRANSFER OF COCHIN-CHINA (KAMPUCHEA-KROM)
TO THE EMPEROR BAO DAI (of VIET NAM)**

In 1863, His Majesty NORODOM, King of Cambodia requested France to protect our Country against the encroachments of our neighbors. France established the protectorate over Cambodia, but has made our Kampuchea-Krom's territory as its colony of Cochin-China.

In 1949, without consulting Cambodia, the French Government MRP (Movement Republican Popular) of Mr. Costes-Floret has decided to cede the Cochin-China to the Emperor Bao Dai, hoping by this transfer to preserve the French essential privileges in Indo-China. It is to notice that the Empress Nam Phuong, like the MRP, is a catholic.

Under the order of His Majesty King NORODOM Sihanouk, a Cambodian Delegation (composed of Their Excellencies: Chhean Vam, Thonn Ouk, Sonn Voeunsai and myself) were sent to France to protest against this transfer, and to monitor the debates concerning this decision.

The debates started at the Assembly of the French Union at Versailles. The President of this Assembly was Her Highness, the Princess Ping Peang Yukanthor, and the principal Cambodian members were Mr. Pan Yung, Mr. Sim Var, Mr. Thonn Ouk, Mr. Sok Chhong. Thanks to the President and to all Cambodian Members, the Assembly of the French Union voted an unfavorable opinion to this bill of transfer.

The French National Assembly sent a bill then, relating to this transfer (that initially presented by Government MRP) to the Council of the Republic, where we found the effective defenders in the person of Mr. Marc Rucart, a theosophist, and among the Gaullistes (of which Mr. Jacques Soustelle) all of the Friends of Her Highness Ping Peang Yukanthor.

The Council of the Republic was presided by H.E. Monerville, who had shown much sympathy to our cause, and enabled us to occupy the official platform to closely monitor all debates.

The Council of the Republic returned the bill to the French National Assembly for a second reading.

Our Delegation worked a lot: we shared the works to approach various political parties. Against our attempt, Mr. Frederic Dupont who refused the assistance of his group. The Socialists initially promised us to vote against the bill of the Cochin-China transfer, but they had been solicited strongly by the Government MRP. Mr. Gaston Defferre, to comfort us, had presented a motion bearing his name, demanding the French Government to solve beforehand all the pending questions between the Protectorate of Cambodia and the Colony of Cochin-China, before transferring this colony to Vietnam.

The Defferre motion was voted for by a large majority of the French National Assembly.

Among the pending questions, there is the border between the two Countries. The Vinh-Te Canal was manually digged by the Khmer-Vietnamese mixed labors, must be served as the natural border, and not as many kilometers inside our territory as it was traced. There has been also the forced incorporation of several Khmer villages into the territory of Cochin-China because the French's plantations located in the Cochin-China having the needs of manual labors... It will be necessary for us to consult with all the files of the French Ministry of Colonies to collect all documents and discussion between the French administrators of Protectorate who defend our interests, and those of Cochin-China who had the tendency to support the French colony at our expenses.

There is also the question of the status of the Khmer minority in Cochin-China (Khmer Krom). The French Government recognized the Khmer of Cochin-China:

- 1) The right to practice their Buddhist religion of Hinayanna (Small Vehicle), aside from such right has been recognized by the Vietnamese for Chauvay Son Kuy who accepted to be put to death in exchange for this right,
- 2) The right to celebrate all of the Khmer Festivals,
- 3) The right to raise the flag of national Khmer,
- 4) The right to teach and to learn the Khmer language,
- 5) The right to have a Khmer governor in the districts and in the provinces of Khmer majority,
- 6) The right to have the Khmer deputies at the Assembly of the Cochin-China etc.

However in Kampuchea-Krom, there are 683 Vat (Buddhist temples), 40,000 Khmer-Krom Monks and a Khmer population approaching of 8 millions people.

By accepting the transfer of Cochin-China, Vietnam must also accept all obligations from the France: in particular the recognition of our borders, and the status of Khmer Kampuchea-Krom which has been recognized by the France ...

Our Buddhist Monks, as well as our Compatriots of Kampuchea-Krom, are subjected to inhumane treatments. Our Monks are disrobed, imprisoned if not killed, if they show too attaching to the Motherland, to defense the Khmer heart, our traditions, our patriotism.

Associations of the Khmers Kampuchea-Krom can provide the details of these inhumane treatments.

In the negotiations with Vietnam, it is very desirable to raise all these questions concerning the national interest, and the rights of our Compatriots of Kampuchea-Krom.

Phnom-Penh, February 27, 1994

Signed: Son Sann

Senior Members of the National Assembly