

Samdech Euv's [The Former King]'s Open Letter Denies His Role With The Khmer Rouge

RASMEI KAMPUCHEA (Kampuchea Ray of Light)

Vol.13, Number 3770

Saturday 03 September, 2005.

King Norodom Sihanouk made public on September 2 his open letter to the United Nations-Cambodian tribunal to prosecute former Khmer Rouge leaders to defend himself against critics who have claimed that the former King was involved with the Pol Pot regime.

Samdech Euv [the former King] announced in his open letter, dated September 1, and broadcasted on his Web site that some Cambodians and foreigners have said and continue saying that "King Norodom Sihanouk deserves to be judged and tried" by the tribunal due to his past involvement with Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime. People argue that King Norodom Sihanouk, loved by the majority of people, between March 1970 and April 1975 led Cambodian people to join Pol Pot's armed forces until the Khmer Rouge's success on April 17, 1975, which led to the killing fields between April 17 1975 to January 6, 1979.

The former King [Norodom Sihanouk] continued that foreigners and Cambodians who hate Sihanouk have distorted history by claiming that he joined the Khmer Rouge.

Samdech Euv said in his letter that there are two kinds of Khmer people - Khmers who are pro-Sihanouk and those who are against Sihanouk. Between March 18, 1970 and April 17 1975, Khmers who were against Sihanouk said and wrote clearly that Norodom Sihanouk would be permanently refused by the Cambodian nation and people and that Sihanouk was just the representative of himself. Presently (2004-2005), people who supported Lon Nol are still alive and they have not forgotten those propaganda words.

The former King [Norodom Sihanouk] has detailed in his letter what happened during the Khmer Rouge and his role during the period.

To sum up, the King [Norodom Sihanouk] has shown that he has no responsibility whatsoever regarding Khmer Rouge's success on April 17 1975.

Unofficial translation by the Cambodian Press Headlines, a service of Media Consulting and Development (MC&D) Co Ltd. E-mail: headlines@online.com.kh (Tel: 855-12-291-567)