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STATEMENT

(Translation from Khmer)

Cambodia: The 1991 Paris Peace Agreement versus the 1979 Vietnamese Treaty and Hun Sen

The 1991 Paris Peace Agreement on Cambodia was a geopolitical agreement for peace and stability of Cambodia, as well as Southeast Asia and the world, following the Vietnam War. This international Agreement reaffirmed the independence and neutrality of Cambodia which cannot be violated by any other State, and established a new internal political status for Cambodia to promote its national reconciliation and unity, preventing the return of dictatorial practices of the past. It is therefore a special contract between the signatories according to which Cambodia is protected and supported by the international community, but it must remain under constant international supervision on its domestic and foreign policies. Under these conditions, Cambodia does not enjoy 100% sovereignty like other states.

Cambodia has been put at the center of this geopolitical Accord because its situation in the 1970s and 1980s was a direct consequence of the Vietnam War. Communist Vietnam, which defeated France and the United States and conquered South Vietnam, in fact, continued its war for the domination of all former French Indochina and also advance towards Thailand and Malaysia. He was strongly condemned by the international community and the United Nations from the first days of its invasion and occupation of Cambodia. But, in 1987, Hanoi realizing that he could not continue his Cambodia war any longer, with the visible collapse of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe which were providing him aid and assistance for his war. So he changed his strategy for "peace" negotiations, renewing contacts with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and seeking of the international community participation. At the time, French government greatly facilitated these steps from Hanoi.

The strange thing we found is that the 1991 Paris International Peace Agreement did not mention anywhere the name of Vietnam, formally and annually condemned by the UN as early as 1980 for launching its powerful invading armies and occupation of Cambodia and for introducing millions of Vietnamese nationals to colonize the country's lands. Moreover, the Vietnamese war continued for more than a decade resulting in the death of hundreds of thousands of Cambodian civilians and countless destruction in Cambodia.

Subsequently, due to negligence or bias towards Vietnam and Hun Sen of the Japanese diplomat Yasushi Akashi, who heads UNTAC during the transition period, the expulsion of foreign (Vietnamese) troops from Cambodia was not done seriously, nor the disarmament of the Khmer antagonist groups and the control of the Hun Sen's Administration, envisaged by the Paris Agreement. Thus, the Vietnamese colonialist forces, both the Army, "experts", and millions of Vietnamese settlers were able to quietly continue their settlement in Cambodia.

It was because of these UN failures that Hanoi did not believe it had to repeal its colonialist treaty of February 18, 1979, known as the "Peace, friendship and cooperation Treaty", as well as several subsidiary agreements in all the areas covered by the treaty, including agreements on the new maritime and land borders between Vietnam and its creature, the People's Republic of Kampuchea (Cambodia) of the Heng Samrin / Hun Sen group, thus deliberately violating the 1991 Paris Agreement and despite strong opposition from King Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia. Hun Sen, on the other hand, informed the King of his refusal to revoke these territorial treaties with Hanoi by simply invoking the

"continuous good relations" between Vietnam and his government. The Vietnamese troops, subsequently, even openly continued to occupy and exploit major provinces of the north-eastern Cambodia (Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri, Stung Treng, Kratié) by creating a zone of common activities called initially "Indochinese Triangle", then "Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam Triangle".

With the help of these Vietnamese forces the Hun Sen's Party (the CPP), was able to dominate the other Cambodian factions and continue its dictatorship in Cambodia. The Western powers (United States, Europe, Japan ...) who thought that Hun Sen would abandon communist practices and work for a pluralist liberal democracy, defined by the Paris Agreement, provided significant financial, economic and social aids to strengthen the new foundations of Cambodian society and support the position of Hun Sen. They did not pay attention to the continued nibbling of Cambodian territory and the persistent presence of Vietnamese forces in the country - behind the black curtain of countless "cooperations" with the Cambodian Administrations. They are also not surprised that Hun Sen continued to seriously abuse the rights and freedoms of citizens and the principles of liberal democracy, until the bloody coup of July 1997 and, thereafter, the stranglehold on all national institutions by "Strong Man" Hun Sen.

From then on, Hun Sen gradually showed he no longer recognized the existence, the superiority and the effects of the Paris Agreement of 1991 on Cambodian law and policy, but worked to scrupulously execute the 1980s Vietnamese treaties. As for the Cambodian Constitution, Hun Sen shortened it to a single word of "sovereignty of Cambodia" which he diverted into sovereignty of his government, while the Constitution clearly enshrines the sovereignty of the Cambodian people, as "all powers belong to the people" (!), and the exercise of which is strictly framed by the Paris Agreement.

Thus, since 2017, Hun Sen has enacted numerous laws to destroy the constitutional rights of citizens, members of Parliament and the principles of pluralist liberal democracy. His Police, his Army and his courts are mobilized to suppress all criticism and all protests from citizens, equated with "incitement to crimes", "attack on national security" or act of "treason" to overthrow his "legal government". In international relations, the criticisms and condemnations of the UN or of the Western powers for the violations of human rights or the principles of liberal democracy by the Hun Sen government have been denounced in return for interference in internal affairs of Cambodia or for attacks on the sovereignty of Cambodia. In fact, the economic accusations and sanctions by the United Nations, Europe and the United States have always been based on the Hun Sen government's failure to comply with the provisions of the 1991 Paris Agreement on Cambodia. Other sanctions from these Western Powers will undoubtedly come when they see that Hun Sen, to preserve his power, alienates Cambodia's neutrality, which the Paris Agreement has explicitly defined for the maintenance of peace and stability of the region. .

Hun Sen recently declared that he would not allow the return of ancient history to Cambodia. But he forgot that it was the lack of respect for human rights, the ban on democracy and the abandonment of Cambodia's neutrality that opened the door to war and the monstrous destructions of Cambodia. . What we have seen so far is that Hun Sen, intoxicated by limitless power, gravely disregarded the Paris International Peace Agreement and pushed Cambodia a new war and new deadly disasters.

Paris, October 23, 2020.

The Cambodia's Borders Committee in France and worldwide.

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