

The Vietcong before 1970

In the early sixties, small groups of Vietnamese communists have often crossed the borders of Cambodia during their operations. American and South Vietnamese troops also sometimes crossed the border in pursuit of the Communists. When Prince Sihanouk granted facilities for the supply of the Vietcong, their troops came massively into Cambodia and established strong hold and sanctuaries. After denying, Prince Sihanouk begun in 1969, denouncing the Vietnamese communist forces. In his press conferences and in his political party monthly magazine "Le Sangkum", he finally published some of the fruitless talks with the communists Vietnamese ambassadors and some of the photos and lists of the North Vietnamese soldiers captured in Cambodia. You can find in this document, only some of the extracts. This brought to light the fact that Cambodia was not exactly the Swiss of Asia. Part of its territory was out of control or already under war.

Prince Sihanouk (2nd on the left) reveals to the press the extent of the Vietcong-North Vietnamese implantation in our border areas (March 28, 1969).



Extract from an AFP cable, reproduced by AKP.

PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK'S PRESS CONFERENCE (March 28, 1969)

PHNOM PENH, AFP

« The Vietnamese Communists have been increasingly infiltrating our country. I cannot hide this anymore. It is time that the international community knows it, » Prince Norodom Sihanouk told the press on Friday evening in the presence of General Nhiek Tioulong, Commander-in-Chief of the Cambodian Army, General Lon Nol, acting Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense, as well as several colonels. For the first time the Prince showed the press a map prepared by his high command illustrating in detail Communist infiltration into Cambodia. Units from regimental size to battalion and company size were scattered along the border from the northeast (Rattanakiri province) to the sea. The reporters promised not to disclose the exact sites of this infiltration, « to avoid bombing which would hurt, as usual, our peasants, instead of the Vietnamese soldiers who are well entrenched, » stressed the Prince. But they could note that there were, on Cambodian territory, Vietnamese Communist positions with hospitals, rest areas and even, in one province in the northeast, two or three bases.

PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK DENOUNCES VIETCONG AND NORTH VIETNAMESE INFILTRATIONS IN 1969.



Press conference on May 17, 1969 at Prince Sihanouk's residence. The ex-Chief of State presents the photographs of 3 North Vietnamese soldiers captured on May 15, in Rattanakiri province (see the following page).



3 North Vietnamese captured on May 15, 1969, near Se San river in the province of Rattanakiri.



On May 23, 1969, at his residence of Bokor, Prince Sihanouk shows photographs of many Vietcong captured in the province of Mondulakiri to foreign journalists.

An example of prisoners freed on Prince Sihanouk's order and released to the communist Vietnamese National Liberation Front

PROCES VERBAL DE REMISE DES VINGT DETENUS
MEMBRES DU F.N.L. DU SUD-VIETNAM

Le 11 Juin Sept. Cent Soixante Neuf, Le Vendredi quatre Juillet, à 12 heures, a eu lieu au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères entre S.Ec. ING JUBETH, Secrétaire Général du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères du Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge et M. NGUYEN BA SUON, Représentant de l'Ambassade du Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire de la République du Sud-Vietnam, la remise des vingt détenus membres du Front National de Libération dont les noms figurent dans la liste jointe en annexe, capturés le 13 Juin 1969 à Kompong Chrey au Prey Veng par les éléments des Forces Nationales de Défense Cambodgiennes du lieu.

M. NGUYEN BA SUON, Représentant de l'Ambassade du Gouvernement Révolutionnaire Provisoire de la République du Sud-Vietnam, déclare par la présente prendre en charge les vingt détenus membres du FNL qui sont en bonne santé et décharge le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge toutes responsabilités à partir de cette date.

Fait à Phnom-Penh, le 4 Juillet 1969

Nguyen Ba Suon

NGUYEN BA SUON

Ing Jubeth

ING JUBETH



LIST OF NAMES OF VIET CONG ARRESTED IN
THE SUBDIVISION OF PREY VENG

N°	:	N A M E S	:	O B S E R V A T I O N S
1	:	TRAN TAN	:	
2	:	NGUYEN VAN LUONG	:	
3	:	TRAN VAN EM	:	
4	:	PHAM HOAI HUONG	:	
5	:	NGUYEN LONG TAM	:	
6	:	TRAN THU	:	
7	:	VO THI HOA	:	
8	:	NGUYEN THI HONG	:	
9	:	NGUYEN THI HONG	:	
10	:	NGUYEN VAN LINH	:	
11	:	TRAN VAN THANH	:	
12	:	NGUYEN VAN AN	:	
13	:	PHAM VAN NO	:	
14	:	LE VAN DUNG	:	
15	:	VO VAN EM	:	
16	:	PHAM VAN HUAN	:	
17	:	NGO VAN HUYEN	:	
18	:	NGUYEN VAN HET	:	
19	:	LE VAN THANH	:	
20	:	LUONG VAN HUNG	:	

An example of prisoners released to the Republic of South Vietnam

LIST OF NAMES OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE
AND VIET CONG SOLDIERS ARRESTED AND
DETAINED BY THE FARK

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- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - DO VAN COM | 28 - PHAM VAN TROEUK |
| 2 - PHUNG DUC NHAN | 29 - BOU VAN CU |
| 3 - LE THAI HOANG | 30 - TRIN VAN KINH |
| 4 - VU CHUONG | 31 - NGUYEN VAN CHUOC |
| 5 - HOANG SON | 32 - NGUYEN HUU MUI |
| 6 - TIN VAN OI | 33 - NGUYEN VAN HOA |
| 7 - DAN MINH HOANG | 34 - LE VAN CHI |
| 8 - VO VAN DAC | 35 - LUY THAI SON |
| 9 - NGUYEN THANH HUNG | 36 - VUONG VAN HIEP |
| 10 - NGUYEN VAN HANH | 37 - NONG VAN MIEN |
| 11 - BUOY VAN CONG | 38 - TRUONG VAN THA |
| 12 - NGUYEN THI DAO | 39 - NGUYEN VAN TOAN |
| 13 - TRAN THI HOA | 40 - VU NGOC BICH |
| 14 - LE VAN HAI | 41 - NGUYEN TRU |
| 15 - NGUYEN THANH SON | 42 - LA HOC QUANG |
| 16 - HUYEN TIEN | 43 - LE VAN NHANH |
| 17 - HUYEN VAN HAI | 44 - PHANG THI XUON |
| 18 - PHAM VAN TROI | 45 - LE NGOC BY |
| 19 - CAO PHU HOV | 46 - LUU VAN KICH |
| 20 - LE VAN LAM | 47 - DUONG VAN DUONG |
| 21 - NGUYEN VAN THAI | 48 - NGUYEN VAN NGOT |
| 22 - NGUYEN VAN BE | 49 - HA PHUC SEN |
| 23 - HA MINH TUNG | 50 - VAN THONG |
| 24 - CHAU VAN BINH | 51 - MAN YOAN |
| 25 - NGUYEN VAN THANH | 52 - PHAC QUANG TOAN |
| 26 - NGUYEN VAN SUU | 53 - PHAC VAN ETH |
| 27 - BANG VAN TRANG | |



PROCES VERBAL DE REMISE DES CINQUANTE TROIS
DETENUS MEMBRES DU F.N.L. DU SUD VIETNAM

L'an Mil Neuf Cent Soixante Neuf, le Mardi
Vingt Neuf Juillet, à 11 heures, a eu lieu au
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères entre
M. DOEUR NOUTH KIM SAN, Sous-Directeur des Affaires
Politiques du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères du
Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge et M. NGUYEN BA DUNG,
Représentant de l'Ambassade de la République du
Sud-Vietnam, la remise des cinquante trois détenus
membres du Front National de Libération dont les
noms figurent dans la liste jointe en annexe, capturés
à l'intérieur du territoire du Cambodge au cours de
la période allant du 4 Novembre 1968 au 3 Juin 1969
par les éléments des Forces Nationales de Défense
Cambodienne.

M. NGUYEN BA DUNG, Représentant de l'Ambassade
de la République du Sud-Vietnam, déclare par la
présente prendre en charge ces cinquante trois détenus
membres du FNL qui sont en bonne santé et décharge le
Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge toutes responsabilités
à partir de cette date.

Fait à Phnom-Penh, le 29 Juillet 1969,

Dung
NGUYEN BA DUNG

N. Kim San
DOEUR NOUTH KIM SAN

The lists above and below are only some of the prisoners taken. There were hundreds of them, wounded or killed. Cambodian troops and civilians also suffered of casualties.

LIST OF NAMES OF VIET CONG ARRESTED BY THE FARK IN
THE REGION OF TUOL SANGKER DISTRICT OF PRAEH BAT
CHANCHUM (TAKEO)

(OCTOBER 18, 1969)

M E N

- 1.- NGUYEN VAN NHUC, Company major
2.- NGUYEN VAN MINH
3.- NGUYEN VAN THANH
4.- NGUYEN VAN KHAI
5.- NGUYEN VAN CHIEU
6.- PHAM VAN TUONG
7.- PHAM THANH VAN
8.- PHUNG VAN GIA
9.- NAM THUON
10.- TU HOI
11.- SAU NHO
12.- HAI TUAN
13.- TU CHOI
14.- TAM TONG
15.- HAI DANG
16.- HAI NHANH
17.- HAI THUONG
18.- HAI TUONG
19.- TU THUONG
20.- BA SANG
21.- TU PHO
22.- NGUYEN VAN HAI
23.- LE VAN DUC
24.- NGUYEN VAN PHU
25.- NGUYEN VAN NGNLA
26.- LE VAN PHA
27.- NGUYEN VAN DONG
28.- TRAN VAN DINH
29.- NGUYEN SAK HEN
30.- TRAN VAN SU
31.- NGUYEN HUXEK TAN
32.- SAU CEI
33.- NGUYEN VIET HOANG
34.- NGUYEN VAN LIEM
35.- UC HUNG
36.- CHIN CHAU
37.- THANH DU
38.- PHOI HUOR
39.- UC VAN
40.- TRAN VAN LO
41.- NGUYEN VAN CHA
42.- LE VAN LU
43.- TRAN VAN CUONG
44.- VO VAN MINH
45.- VO VAN BIEN
46.- TRAN VAN MINH
47.- CAO MINH HUNG
48.- TRAN VAN BUNG
49.- SON NHANH
50.- VO VAN THANH
51.- NGUYEN VAN NGO
52.- NGUYEN CHI CHUOI
53.- LE THANH

W O M E N

- 54.- TRAM HONG BUONG
55.- LE THI TOI
56.- NGUYEN THI THANH
57.- NGUYEN THI TINH
58.- TRINH TRI BAO
59.- TONG THI VIET
60.- HO ANG EM
61.- NGUYEN THI NGOC
62.- NGUYEN THI TIEN
63.- NGUYEN THI CHIEN
64.- NGUYEN ANH HONG
65.- TACH THI THAM
66.- TRAN THI MAU
67.- TRAN THI MAO
68.- VO THI BOT
69.- PHAM THI SO
70.- HUYNH THI DUONG
71.- LE THI THANH
72.- DUONG THI SU
73.- LE THI HANH
74.- LE HONG HAO
75.- DANH THI BE
76.- NGO THI TRINH
77.- TRAN THI DIEU
78.- LE THI NHUNG
79.- MAI THI YEN
80.- TRAN THI NGUYEN
81.- HUYNH THI THU
82.- LE THI NGANG
83.- NGUYEN THI THIET
84.- TRAN THI DIEU
85.- NGUYEN THI LIEU
86.- NGUYEN BA NHO
87.- DANG PHUONG
88.- THANH THE
89.- NUONG SIENG
90.- NHU NGOC
91.- KIM ANH



Talks with the Communist Vietnamese Forces

Confidential report published by Prince Sihanouk's order in his monthly magazine Le Sangkum (June 1969).

TALK BETWEEN LIEUTENANT-GENERAL LON NOL WITH Mr. NGUYEN THUONG, AMBASSADOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, AND Mr. NGUYEN VAN HIEU, AMBASSADOR OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

In conformity with the instructions of Samdech Euv to contact Messrs. Nguyen Thuong and Nguyen Van Hieu, respectively Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Ambassador of the National Liberation Front, to bring to their attention the gravity of the situation created by:

- a. occupation of some regions of our territory by NVA and NLF troops,
- b. open fighting that they are undertaking against our forces,
- c. increasingly active support they give to the Khmer Rouge,

I have very respectfully the honour to inform Samdech Euv that the two personalities were called in, successively on May 24, to the Prime Minister's Office.

The following is the statement that your humble servant made to each one of these personalities, concerning the three factors (mentioned above) which are responsible for the gravity of the situation. Your servant first pointed out to them that he received Samdech Euv's high instructions to bring to their attention the very serious events which are currently happening in Cambodia.

I Occupation of Some Regions by N.V.A. and N.L.F. Troops: I told them that:

« For some time we have noticed that the presence of your troops has changed into effective occupation of several regions of our territory.

I. In the North (Province of Rattanakiri):

The zone of the provinces of Stung Treng and Rattanakiri can be considered as militarily and administratively occupied by your troops. Some positions are located quite inside our territory, far from the border: for instance, Bokeo is about thirty kilometers from the eastern border, Pakap is about a hundred kilometers from the northern border, and the kilometric indicator N° 11, on national route 19 is several hundred. Proofs of this occupation are numerous and I will be grateful if you give useful consideration to this matter.

— For one thing, the Khmer Læu were forced to leave their villages, by your orders, to flee from our administration. When Monseigneur visited Bokeo, most of the Khmer Læu had already gone to the bush with your troops.

— At Bokeo, during the show of a film in the open air, organized by the orders of Samdech Chief of State during his first tour in that province, your troops fired at many villagers (who were coming), thus preventing them from coming to this enjoyment that Samdech Sahachivin had given instructions to organize for them. Furthermore, our troops cannot go farther than 2 km from their posts without being harassed and killed by your troops. These situations are confirmed by daily reports, statements made by the rallied Khmer Læu and villagers from the areas who came to us.

Up north our troops are building roads while yours seek to destroy our earth-working machines. Also, according to the statements of certain Khmer Læu and the villagers, your troops have used all available means to prevent these people from aiding the government of the Sangkum: they use force, post notices injurious to the Sangkum, and even go so far as to kill those who are reluctant to join your camp.

Your servant pointed out to them that the dead and the prisoners in the photographs were killed and captured during a tough engagement. The long list of our killed and wounded displayed during the talk demonstrated undeniably that they were victims of armed attacks by Vietnamese troops stationed in those regions.

2. Other Areas: Kompong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng

Besides the multiple incidents recorded up to the present time which have cost hundreds of lives and many wounded among the members of the F.A.R.K., of the provincial guard, of our civilian administration and among peaceful peasants including women and children, Your servant pointed out in particular the attacks of Anlong Kres (Kompong Cham), and of Santey (Prey Veng) which cost the lives of several men including the chief of the post at Santey, and also pointed out to them that we heard the orders during these attacks being given in Vietnamese.

During the present engagement in the region of Tamo (Popet) north of Bavet, our forces are suffering increasing casualties. This very morning, according to information reported to us, your troops received reinforcements which have then increased from 1,000 to 2,000 men.

We want to point out that our forces are only fulfilling their duty by entering those regions to ask you to leave our territory. In response they receive fire from your troops who respect neither international law nor the declarations of your Government.

III Vietcong and North Vietnamese Support for the Khmer Rouge

— On the training level: Prostelyzing and support.

— After the execution of the clauses of the Geneva Agreements of 1954 many Khmers were trained in your schools in North Vietnam.

After the Samlaut coup we noticed that these Khmer cadre, back in Cambodia, were recruiting for the Khmer Rouge (Khmer Vietminh) who remained in the areas. This charge is confirmed by sure information. The leaders of the Khmer Rouge who joined our ranks even help us to uncover arms caches, concealed and left by the Vietminh on their departure in 1954.

— The troops composed of Khmer Rouge which attacked Anlong Kres and Santey (Kandal Chrum) retreated into Vietnamese territory with your troops. In addition, they were recruited by your cadre which, during these attacks, gave the orders in Vietnamese— at Kandal Chrum a Khmer unit attacked while a Vietnamese unit supervised. It should be brought to your attention that these troops which attacked the Khmer population and our border defense posts were supported by your well-armed reserve troops resting within our borders, at such places as Along Kres, Santey, etc.

Inside our territory there are also Vietnamese in the ranks of the Khmer Rouge, such was the case at Pursat, Kompong Speu, Kampot, Kompong Cham, Chhlong, etc.

— On the Plan of Material Armament

« The Khmer Rouge are, in the great majority, armed with modern arms of Chinese make.

This aid and support on your part to the Khmer Rouge constitutes the theme of their propaganda. They presently proclaim to the Khmer population that the aid and support of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong to their movement is not to be feared. Strengthened by this support and aid and by the materials furnished by you, they insult us, and worse yet, they insult the person of Samdech Sahachivin who has done so much to aid you and whom your Government claims to respect as a Great Friend.

Now, facing the gravity of this situation, the Khmer people wonder whether the North Vietnamese people and the Vietcong would rather recognize the Khmer Rouge than Samdech.

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Now, facing the gravity of this situation, the Khmer people wonder whether the North Vietnamese people and the Vietcong would rather recognize the Khmer Rouge than Samdech.

Our present situation is very difficult. We do not understand why you do this against us. Neither do our population or troops understand.

And we are no longer able to ascribe logical explanations to these deeds. » Here are the responses and reactions of these personalities.

Those of Mr. Nguyen Thuong, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

He deplores all these incidents and specifies that the policy of his Government is that of friendship with everyone (and principally Cambodia), good neighbourhood, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, etc., a policy proclaimed many times by the leaders of his Government, saying that their acts conformed to their words and thanking the Royal Government for our aid and support to the Vietnamese people in their fight for the independence of their country.

He asked if these incidents were not the work of Saigon and the American 5th column and if this situation had not resulted from the war in South Vietnam, from major forces which the troops met.

Saying that they did not know the details of the incidents, the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam asked for them on the part of his Government.

Your servant concluded the talk with Mr. Nguyen Thuong by remarking that the acts, behaviour and attitudes of the Vietnamese troops did not conform to the words and declarations of the leaders of North Vietnam.

Those of Mr. Nguyen Van Hien, Ambassador of the National Liberation Front

On the main theme, they were identical to those of Mr. Nguyen Thuong.

This man pointed out to Your servant that when such incidents had taken place between his troops and ours, the Representative of the N.L.F. at Phnom Penh usually asked the Presidium to conduct investigations and that the Vietcong soldiers at fault would be severely punished.

Such was the case at Tamo where he said a strong detachment of the F.A.R.K. led operations against a Vietcong hospital. Your servant remarked to Mr. Nguyen Van Hieu:

— that, as to the affairs of Tamo (Svay Rieng) in relation to the present events, it is no longer a question of a hospital, but of your numerous troops, which have been well-entrenched for a long time in that area. The F.A.R.K. detachment was only doing their duty in asking your troops to leave Khmer territory when they were engaged for several days by your troops.

Also, since the beginning, the F.A.R.K. and the population have suffered heavy losses in human lives and in materials.

— That the situation is such that the Cambodian people now wonder who is master of Cambodia (you or us).

I brought to his attention also that the situation is grave, which had already been emphasized at the press conference of Samdech Sahachivin. The talk ended at 2:25 p.m.

The tone remained cordial throughout while the two parties exchanged their arguments concerning different situations.