

The Royal Government intends scrupulously and always to respect the terms of the Geneva Agreement concerning it, as well as the undertakings taken in its name at the Asian-African Conference at Bandung by its delegation led by His Royal Highness Upayuvareach Norodom Sihanouk; the Government renews hereby its approval of the declaration made by him concerning the neutrality of Cambodia.

But our countrymen undoubtedly understand that although neutral a nation must defend itself and must have the means to defend its integrity and its independence.

In so far as the aid of friendly nations is given to Cambodia without conditions, without infringement of her sovereignty or of her neutrality, the Government considers that this aid must be accepted in order to save our compatriots from heavier sacrifices for the maintenance of indispensable national armed forces.

Finally it should be noted that such a policy is also followed by many neutral nations who do not refuse the aid of friendly nations, as long as that aid is without conditions and does not alienate their sovereignty and liberty.

The Agreement recently concluded with the USA has therefore for its object the direct grant of American military aid to Cambodia. There is no question of the granting of military bases nor of a military alliance of any sort nor of the sending of American military instructors to Cambodia.

Thus, properly speaking, it is not a question of a military pact but of an agreement on direct military aid to Cambodia.

But to allow the American authorities to judge on the spot the needs of the Royal Khmer Army, to ensure the proper use of the materials delivered and to assist the Embassy of the USA at Phnom-Penh, in this delicate task, it has been deemed necessary to attach to the said Embassy an American Military Assistance Advisory Group limited to about 30 men including officers; these effectives will otherwise be subject to the previous agreement of the Royal Government. As far as the jurisdictional privileges which may be granted them are concerned, only those individuals can benefit by them, who, because of their high rank, have a status comparable to that of personnel of the diplomatic corps enjoying said privileges by virtue of diplomatic usage and of international law.

Thus the signature of the Khmer-American agreement on 16th May 1955 not only comes within the framework of the friendly relations which have always existed in the past between Cambodia and the USA but also has the value of a tangible proof of the definite and effective independence of our country. It also is in conformity with the Geneva Agreement which left to Cambodia complete liberty to receive whatever outside aid in armaments and instructors is necessary for the organisation of her armed forces to protect her sovereignty and her territorial integrity.

The Royal Government warns our compatriots against the lying propaganda of certain political parties who wish to spread the belief that the Government has jeopardised the sovereignty of the country by signing a military pact with the USA. (In truth no pact, no military alliance has been concluded with any country).