

*By Ahmek Khmer*

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYa9c5w3YNI>

## **PART I**

BEFORE the coup 17th March 1970, Sihanouk traveled to France for one of his periodic rest cures in early January 1970, planning to return via Moscow and Beijing. (By Martin Wright, 1989 Cambodia Ma... BEFORE the coup 17th March 1970, Sihanouk traveled to France for one of his periodic rest cures in early January 1970, planning to return via Moscow and Beijing. (By Martin Wright, 1989 Cambodia Matter of survival). But instead of traveling to France for his periodic rest cures, he secretly went to Rome to meet General Lon Nol by doing secret talk according to François Ponchau's Cambodia Year Zero. When General Lon Nol returned from his overseas trip to Cambodia. He sacrificed his live to fulfill Sihanouk's wish to topple him. Lon Nol then became a republic president from 1970-75.

The immediate effect of the 1970 coup in the countryside, Sihanouk's traditional stronghold, was bloody. Violent rioting and unrest ensued, and peasants murdered Lon Nol's brother. Most important, thousands joined the Khmer Rouge's insurgency. The Khmer Rouge went from having just a few thousand armed troops in early 1970, to having 12,000 by the year's end. And in 1971, the DIA. reported that "Vietnamese communists" (referring to the Khmer Rouge in coalition with North Vietnamese comrades) controlled 65% of the land and 35% of the population, with an army of 10,000.

On 18 March, Sihanouk's right-wing opponents within the government seize the opportunity, banning his return from China and installing Defence Minister Lon Nol as premier of the newly proclaimed Khmer Republic. The coup is supported by the CIA.

Lon Nol himself had no understanding of international affairs-he knew little of the exigencies of Vietnamization, the balance of power, the attitudes of the United States Congress; six years after he came to power he said in an interview that he never known that Kissinger supported détente.

There, he considered and he said as much, that the United States had "lost face". To him, American support automatic in any war against demon Communism; he had never dreamed it might be qualified or curtailed.

The Prince put his military chief, Lon Nol, in charge of overseeing the North Vietnam transport of arms from Sihanouk to South Vietnam. Lon Nol skimmed off great amounts of the arms, reportedly with Vietnamese approval, as a price for cooperation. he apparently reaped more weapons than he was receiving from china, privately, Lon Nol feared the Vietnamese communists planned to take over

Cambodia once they had won in the South, and he wanted his soldiers well armed in the event.

It was still "pure and "self-sufficient," still distrustful of outsiders, especially the Vietnamese and Chinese communists. Its leaders were convinced they were the anointed ones who could rescue their country, "whose honor and dignity have been jeered and which has been exploited, oppressed and despised during many centuries."

After the French colonialists who were ignominiously defeated by Vietminh in 1954 seemed to realize that using forces against Vietcong in Cambodia would be useless because Yuon leaders who have many super-dirty demonic tricks as William Shawcross clearly tells us Khmer victims:

[French had proposed an international conference on Indochina. "It would be very risky to try to solve the North Vietnamese problem in Cambodia by force," he wrote. "I would consider our best action to be to wait on events, saying little."] William Watts saw it as part of the escalation discussed in September 1969, leading inexorably to an invasion of Laos and then to the bombing of Haiphong as well; Morris said that no one had any idea what North Vietnamese intentions were.

That's why it caused Khmer Krom to stop supporting Prince Norodom Sihanouk since 1965. After five years, to see Vietcong completely occupied the whole Cambodia in general, and 18th March, 1970, the leaders of Khmer Krom under Lon Nol had staged a coup to overthrow Prince Norodom Sihanouk. If there was no Khmer Krom who weren't happy with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, there would be no 18th March 1970.

What if there was no 18th March 1970, could Cambodia plunge into the hell of Khmer Rouge-Yuon's oppression or not?

Samdech Chhuot Nat who was a strategist in organizing a coup ousting Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Samdech Chhuot Nat who didn't decide to stage a coup alone. When majority decided that had to stage a coup, those who asked for his advice whether it wins or not? How to win? Samdech Chhuot Nat, who died six months before Prince Norodom Sihanouk was overthrown, was poisoned by Yuon.

Prince Sihanouk knew before that Lon Nol was ready to stage a coup overthrowing him because a Khmer-Vietminh, who disguised himself as a secretary general of Kanseign Sar, was betrayed to take notes of an attempted coup to Prince Sihanouk. This member of traitor still lives now in France.

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