

Re: Cambodian Declaration of Independence of March 12, 1945

Search has been made in all available materials for the Cambodian Declaration of Independence of March 12, 1945. While many authors and historians make reference to this document, the complete text thereof is nowhere included in the available materials.

Claude-Gilles Gour gives a short extract from the Declaration in his discussion of this event in Cambodian history. The relevant passage, which includes the extract, is given below, together with a translation.^{1/}

Tout d'abord par Krâm no. 1, NS du 12 mars 1945, le Roi déclara assumer les fonctions du résident supérieur. Cette attitude assurait la continuité juridique du statut constitutionnel de l'Etat khmèr. Rien ne devait se trouver modifié à l'organisation gouvernementale cambodgienne. Mais la déclaration royale no. 3, NS du même jour, alla bien au-delà: rompant les engagements internationaux de 1863, elle proclamait l'indépendance du Cambodge:

"Les traités et conventions portant établissement et organisation du protectorat français du Cambodge sont tous et entièrement abolis à la date de la signature de la présente déclaration."

Translation

First of all, by Krâm no. 1, NS of March 12, 1945, the King announced the assumption of the functions of

^{1/} Claude-Gilles Gour, Institutions Constitutionnelles et Politiques du Cambodge (Paris: Librairie Dalloz, 1965), p. 40.

the Resident Superior. This attitude ensured the juridical continuity of the constitutional status of the Khmer State. Nothing in the organization of the Cambodian government was to be changed. But the royal declaration no. 3, NS of the same date, went well beyond that: breaking the international agreements of 1863, it proclaimed the independence of Cambodia:

"The treaties and conventions bearing upon the establishment and organization of the French Protectorate of Cambodia are all and entirely abolished from the date of the signing of the present declaration."

Report and translation
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