

## SEA OF PEOPLE'S WAR DROWNS VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS

"The fighting will go on for eternity if necessary, until the aggressors have been completely defeated." These fighting words of Premier Pol Pot, spoken on January 5, 1979, are a reflection of the resolute determination of the Kampuchean people in their war against Vietnamese aggression. Samdech Sihanouk echoed this same spirit when he told the United Nations' Security Council, "We shall never surrender. We may lose everything, but we will never lose our national honour."

The present situation in Kampuchea did not suddenly arise with the massive Vietnamese invasion of the country on December 25, 1978. The current war is the culmination of a long series of events in Southeast Asia orchestrated and manipulated by the Soviet Union as part of its plan for global hegemony. Control of Southeast Asia would enable the Soviet Union to link up its drive for hegemony in the Pacific with that in the Indian Ocean, thus seriously endangering the peace, security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

What of Viet Nam? Viet Nam also has expansionist aims. It dreams of becoming an overlord in Southeast Asia and considers the rigging up of an "Indochina Federation", with Viet Nam at its head, as the first step.

In the current plot, the Soviet Union with its own hegemonic aims provides cover and support for the Vietnamese authorities' regional hegemonism, which serves Soviet interests so well. Viet Nam acts as a pawn for the Soviet Union in Southeast Asia in exactly the same way as Cuba does in Africa. The Kremlin has loudly praised the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea for making "a constructive contribution to the spread of detente in Asia" and for having "opened new prospects for the relaxation of tension."

Kampuchea has long held a firm position of non-alignment and of opposition to Soviet social-imperialism. For this reason it stands in the way of the Kremlin's plans and is a thorn in the side of the Soviet Union. The Soviets refused to support the Kampuchean people's war of national liberation against U.S. imperialism. Instead they supported the U.S.-backed Lon Nol government and attacked the fight against the puppet dictator as "fratricide".

Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea dates back to the end of the liberation war. In 1975, Viet Nam invaded Kampuchea's Wei Island and began to move on Kampuchean territory. This action was in flagrant disregard of the border which had previously been recognized by the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam in 1966, and by Ho Chi Minh and the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in 1967.

In a recent unsolicited "confession", Hoang Tung, a member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Party revealed that in the years 1970 to 1972, Viet Nam did not intervene in Kampuchea only because there were differences within the leading stratum in Hanoi. He said, "If we had intervened, the situation would have evolved differently. Perhaps we are now paying for that mistake." This clear statement of hegemonistic intent puts the lie to Soviet and Vietnamese propaganda that China has been the instigator in the current conflict.

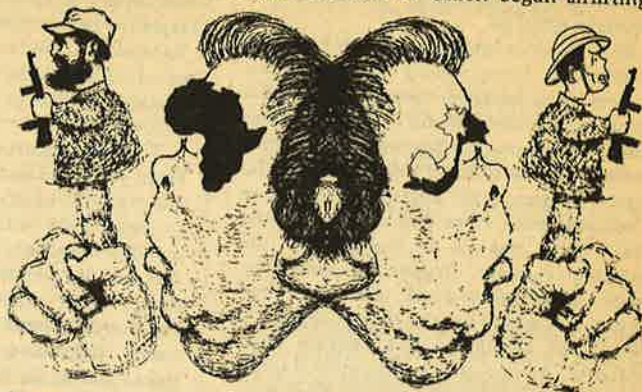
Since 1975 the Vietnamese authorities, backed by the Soviet Union, have steadily intensified their aggression against Democratic Kampuchea. In the winter of 1977-78, a major offensive was launched but was beaten back by the Kampuchean army. During this invasion the Vietnamese army harassed, shelled and fired at numerous villages, looted paddy fields, destroyed rubber plantations and set forests on fire.

Apart from provoking the armed conflict along the Viet Nam-Kampuchea border, the Vietnamese authorities have also conducted a campaign of subversion against Kampuchea in an attempt to topple Kampuchea's revolutionary regime by action from within.

Since the summer of 1978 Viet Nam has moved more closely

under the control of the Soviet Union and conditions have been prepared for another major military offensive.

On June 29, 1978 Viet Nam was admitted to the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), the Soviet bloc's economic organization. In mid-August the Soviet Union began airlifting



large quantities of arms to Viet Nam and batch after batch of military "advisers". By early November, Viet Nam had signed a "treaty of friendship and cooperation" with the Soviet Union which was in fact a straightforward military pact. At the end of November, the Soviet Union pressured the Warsaw Pact countries into increasing their military expenditures to lend their "joint support" to Viet Nam's war of aggression.

During the fall of 1978 it became increasingly obvious that Viet Nam was preparing for a major offensive. While the Vietnamese army stepped up their operations along the border, the Soviet Union's propaganda forces worked hard at preparing the political groundwork for this action. The Kremlin falsely claimed that Kampuchea was carrying out "military provocations" against Viet Nam and had invaded that country. They also began to speak of "internal unrest" inside Kampuchea. On November 1, 1978 the Soviet paper *Izvestia* openly called for the overthrow of Pol Pot's regime.

On December 3, 1978 the Vietnamese authorities announced the setting up of a so-called "Kampuchean National Front for National Salvation", which was reported to have issued a call for the overthrow of Pol Pot's government. This puppet of Hanoi was a key component of the plan, which was to invade Kampuchea and then describe this aggression as an "uprising" of the Kampuchean people, the occupied territories as areas "liberated" by the puppet organization, and so label the war of aggression as a "civil war".

Throughout the rest of December, Vietnamese troops continued escalating the offensive against Kampuchea. While ground offensives pushed forward, Vietnamese aircraft pounded peaceful Kampuchean villages and dropped anti-personnel devices. The Vietnamese even used poison gas against the civilian population.

Finally on December 25, 1978 Viet Nam launched a major offensive against Democratic Kampuchea with more than a dozen divisions supported by military aircraft, tanks and artillery. The Kampucheans were already prepared for this eventuality and were ready to wage a protracted guerrilla war. The Vietnamese invaders found many Kampuchean cities empty when they entered, as the Kampucheans had already conducted an orderly and strategic retreat to the countryside. There, food and supplies were already hidden.

On January 7, 1979 Viet Nam occupied Phnom Penh and the aggressors ecstatically hailed this as a great "victory".

Around the world strong condemnation of this invasion came from a wide range of sources. There was particular concern in Asia where the occupation posed an immediate threat. On January 8, Viet Nam carried out bombing raids inside Thailand against

refugees who were forced to flee the country, further increasing the concern of these countries. Romania, a member of the Warsaw Pact, dealt a blow to Moscow by issuing a statement in its official newspaper in defence of Kampuchea's national sovereignty. Yugoslavia also issued several statements in defence of Kampuchea.

Early in January, Samdech Sihanouk travelled to the United Nations, at the request of Pol Pot, to represent the Kampuchean government's appeal for international support. Here the world saw clearly the manoeuvrings of the Soviet Union and its minions. Afraid of hearing the truth, the Soviets desperately tried to prevent Sihanouk from speaking to the Security Council on January 11, 1979.

The Soviet Union first used the ruse that this was a "civil war" and so not the concern of the United Nations. When this lie was exposed they proposed that the meeting be postponed until a delegation of the puppet regime reached New York. Again this was opposed. The Soviet Union's last card was to ask the Security Council to invite a so-called representative from the "Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council", the puppet government recently installed in Phnom Penh, to participate in the discussions. The Soviets produced a "telegram" from the "People's Revolutionary Council" saying it would send its "foreign minister" to attend the Security Council deliberations, should there be such a meeting.

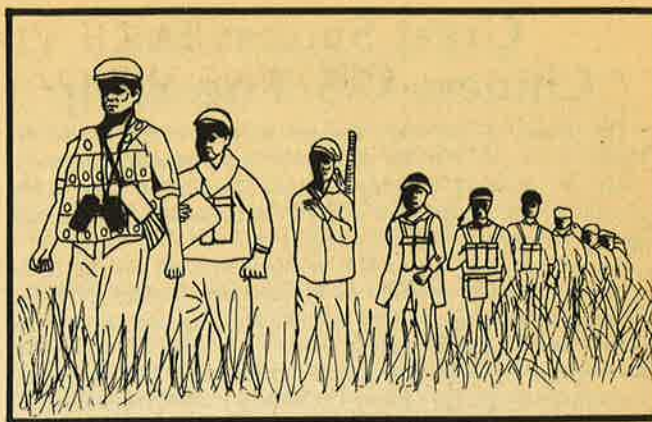
At this point the Chinese representative took the floor. He pointed out that the "telegram" was supposed to have come directly from Phnom Penh but that this was impossible. Exposing the "telegram" as a fraud he pointed out that there was no direct telegraph communication between Phnom Penh and New York! The delegates present were shocked by the blatant lies and scheming of the Soviet Union.

Following this exposure, Sihanouk was asked to speak. He exposed the invasion of Kampuchea as "Hitler aggression" and stated that Viet Nam is like "a starving boa constrictor leaping on an innocent animal." He also told the Security Council, "The leaders of Democratic Kampuchea are still in our country; the seat of our government is in one of our mountains. Our government, our army, our people, are fighting and will fight to the death against the Vietnamese expansionist and colonialist invaders."

In the four days of discussion in the Security Council, only Cuba and Czechoslovakia dared to defend the Soviet Union and Viet Nam's crimes. On January 15, seven non-aligned third world countries proposed a resolution calling on all foreign troops to leave Kampuchea. The Security Council adopted the resolution 13-2, with the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia being the only "no" votes. The Soviet Union vetoed the resolution and exposed itself clearly as the warmonger and superpower hegemonist it is.

On January 13, the Kampuchean government issued a statement which stressed: "The frenzied invasion by the Vietnamese aggressors supported by their master, the Soviet Union, is a most criminal act aiming at exterminating the nation and the people of Kampuchea. This situation causes indeed temporary difficulties to the Kampuchean people. But the heroic Kampuchean people and the heroic Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea have most courageously opposed the enemy in this capacity as the holders of the glorious banner of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea, the banner of national honour and dignity of the Kampuchean people. They are resolute in fighting the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, annexationists and swallows of territories and their master with burning hatred and loftiest revolutionary heroism."

Viet Nam's great "victory" of January 7, 1979 is slowly being drowned in a sea of people's war. The Vietnamese have seen smashed their dream of annexing Kampuchea at one stroke in a quick and decisive battle so as to realize the creation of an "Indochina Federation" and to lay the foundation for future hegemonism in Southeast Asia. Relying on their superior military strength and with the support of Soviet aircraft, tanks and guns, the Vietnamese succeeded in temporarily over-running Phnom Penh and other major cities, as well as the country's main



communication lines, and of propping up a puppet regime with force of arms.

Meanwhile, the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army avoided a head-on clash, preserved its effective strength and established bases in the countryside, jungles and mountains where it gathered strength. The Kampuchean army and people are using these bases to fight a guerrilla war, springing unexpectedly on the enemy from the jungle and mountains to launch quick, decisive offensives. The Kampucheans are utilizing their strong points and exploiting the enemy's weak points to inflict heavy losses on the invaders. As one Thai paper put it, "The Kampuchean army has so far evaded the thrust of the main invading forces and attacked the enemy's weak points, turning Viet Nam's offensive into stones thrown into a lake with floating duckweed."

Since January, the Vietnamese have been forced to send in reinforcements to Kampuchea. In most places the Vietnamese aggressors have been besieged in the cities. Unable to effectively maintain the necessary long communication lines, the Vietnamese are constantly faced with the problem of bringing in supplies and munitions. They have effectively been placed in a passive position, defenceless against the Kampuchean's guerrilla war.

On February 1 and 2, a National Congress of the Supreme Military Commission of the Kampuchean Communist Party was held in Kampuchea. This meeting was attended by 183 leading cadres in charge of guerrilla warfare in various regions and 230 cadres from various departments. The Congress analyzed the situation following the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea as well as the strong and weak points of Kampuchea and the enemy. It summed up the experience of the month long guerrilla war and formulated more effective guerrilla war plans with a view to ultimately defeating the Vietnamese aggressors. These tasks included the defence of the political power of the workers and peasants; the overthrow of the Vietnamese-backed puppet regime; defending and organizing the people to develop production and ensuring economic self-sufficiency; and, unfolding the guerrilla war against the Vietnamese aggressors and repeatedly weakening and annihilating Viet Nam's effectives until final victory is won.

The importance of the present war in Kampuchea is not merely national in scope. This war has international significance in the struggle against Soviet social-imperialism. Pol Pot stressed this when he said, "We are waging struggle in self-defence, but our struggle is related to the overall situation in Southeast Asia. For the Vietnamese and Soviet expansionists, their invasion is part of their strategy for occupying Southeast Asia and of their global strategy."

Ieng Sary further stressed the international significance of this struggle when he stated, "The Kampuchean people, who are shedding their blood so that the banners of national independence, national honour and dignity fly always on the soil of Democratic Kampuchea, are resolutely in solidarity with the struggle of the peoples the world over for the triumph of the cause of the revolution, the cause of national liberation and the cause of national independence. The future of the struggle of the people the world over is brilliant."