

Workers' Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist)

Message to the Conference

First Published: International Secretariat. *Documents from the Kampuchea Conference Stockholm 17-18 November 1979.*

Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

Copyright: This work is in the Public Domain under the [Creative Commons Common Deed](#). You can freely copy, distribute and display this work; as well as make derivative and commercial works. Please credit the Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line as your source, include the url to this work, and note any of the transcribers, editors & proofreaders above.

Dear Friends,

Greetings to the International Stockholm Conference on Kampuchea whose appeal we have received and which we fully support. We regret being unable to attend due to lack of resources but we wish to express our full support for the conference and associate ourselves with the international condemnation of the Vietnamese aggression against Democratic Kampuchea. We greatly appreciate the initiative of the organizers of the conference at a time when the Vietnamese are launching a new military and propaganda offensive and when the sufferings of the Kampuchean people are surpassed only by the heroism of their resistance.

We are endeavouring with others to establish a united and effective Kampuchea Support Committee in this country but must inform you frankly that very little is being done. When we suggested such a united campaign to a number of organisations and individuals as long ago as last January there was very little response, and now the committee which has finally been formed is being prevented from taking urgent and effective action to counter widespread Vietnamese-inspired propaganda on the grounds that it is only "preparatory"! For example, a suggestion that press statements (and, if possible, press conferences) should be organised before and after the Stockholm Conference in order to publicise it in the U.K. and counter the intensive attempts to isolate the government of Democratic Kampuchea, was turned down, as was the suggestion that a national TV network which had shown a pro-Vietnamese version of events in Kampuchea should be requested to show Jan Myrdal's film as well. It was stated that these things could be left to separate organisations and individuals – just as the committee itself is not sending any delegate to Stockholm but delegates from this country are attending in their own individual or organisational capacity. Sectarian attempts have even been made to exclude people from the Committee.

We are relating these things frankly to you so that you have no illusions about the situation here. We and others are doing what little we can but the lack of a united and active campaign is leaving the field clear for anti-Kampuchean propaganda. The result is that one of the most popular children's TV programmes (Blue Peter) is relaying it weekly, the Scottish National Party and many others who are by no means pro-Soviet are calling for recognition of Heng Samrin and now there is a report (in the Guardian of 9.11.79) that the British government is reconsidering recognition of the legitimate government led by Pol Pot.

We are of course continuing to make efforts to *unite in action* with all friends of Kampuchea and opponents of Vietnamese aggression as well as making our own independent efforts to publicise the true significance of events in Kampuchea and the Stockholm Conference. We feel sure you will agree that ultimately the Stockholm Conference's success is dependent on the extent to which effective day-to-day work in support of Kampuchea is carried out in each country, and this work in turn has an important bearing on the general struggle for peace and the independence of all countries.

Accordingly we admire and salute your effort and initiative. Please convey our greetings to the Conference and inform us of its result. In this regard may we suggest that an international information bulletin be established to gather news from Kampuchea itself and also relevant information from the support groups in each country, the material then to be edited and the most significant items to be published periodically in English and French editions of the bulletin.

Yours in solidarity with Kampuchea and against Vietnamese aggression,

*Duncan Toms, Secretary,
Workers' Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist).*