

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
Press and Information Section

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I. SUCCESS OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE ON THE PRODUCTION FRONT AND THE SECURITY FRONT OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS,
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The genocidal Pol Pot - Iengsary clique had plunged Kampuchea into such a ruined and devastated state that when they were overthrown, the Kampuchean survivors who came back to their old homes and also foreign visitors could not imagine that this country could return to normal life within a few years. But as soon as the People's Republic of Kampuchea was born, the country began changing day by day. Within four years, Kampuchea has achieved miraculous successes in her recovery. The desperate misery the abandoned ruins legacy of the genocidal Pol Pot clique have been left in the past.

Among the innumerable urgent problems to be tackled, the Party and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea mobilized all the forces of the country on two main fronts : first restoring and developing production and second defending the country's security.

With the object of reviving the whole nation in a spirit of overcoming all difficulties, the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea has mobilized and encouraged the people to start from the scratch, restoring and developing the economy, first of all agriculture and has recorded important achievements.

Based on the character of the country which is agriculturally backward with a subsistence economy, the exchange production of which is undeveloped, the People's Revolutionary Government of Kampuchea has laid down the lines for restoring and developing the economy as follows : Firstly agriculture; taking agriculture as central to the solution of problems of everyday life, helping to accumulate capital, and stimulating other branches of the economy. Eliminating famine together with the restoration of agricultural production has become an urgent political task, being vitally important for stabilizing the political and social situation in the whole country.

Sympathizing with the initial difficulties of Kampuchea, the Party and Government of Vietnam sent to Kampuchea thousands of tons of food-stuff, rice seeds, agricultural tools, clothes and medicines, to help relieve famine, restore production and rebuild a stable life for the Kampuchean people. The Soviet Union, other socialist countries and some international humanitarian and

progressive organisations also sent emergency aid to Kampuchea. The work of receiving and distributing food aid from outside has been well organized. The aid distributed in to the hands of people helped to eliminate the terrible famine in Kampuchea.

At the same time, the Kampuchean people also recorded great achievements in restoring agricultural production. Despite the devastation left by Pol Pot's followers, the lack of rice seed, buffalos and oxen, the enemy sabotage in the West and in the North of the country, the Kampuchean revolutionary regime encouraged and actively helped the peasants to begin agricultural production after they had returned to their original homes. Whole-heartedly helped by the Vietnamese sister provinces, in 1979 Kampuchea ploughed and sowed seeds in more than 850.000 hectares and this first crop produced about 600,000 tons of rice. This had great political significance and contributed considerably to relieving the famine.

In 1980 the Kampuchean people overcame these initial difficulties. Thanks to careful preparations and Vietnamese help, especially their own enthusiasm, the whole Kampuchean people successfully fulfilled the production plan, not only meeting the needs of the people but also helping the State to collect more than 175 000 tons of foodstuffs, 50% over the plan. The Winter-Spring crop of 1982/3 (harvested at the beginning of 1983) reached 1.9 million tons of rice and foodstuff. As to the Winter-Spring crop of 1983/4 encouraged and helped by the Party and the State despite unfavourable weather condition, Kampuchean peasants are striving to reach the target of ploughing and seed-sowing 2,000,000 hectares (including rice, and industrial crops and commercial crops).

One question for the Party and Government of Kampuchea is how to carry out agricultural reorganization ? After 4 years of living under the Pol Pot regime, the Kampuchean peasants were horrified by the oppression and heavy labour in the so-called "collective cooperations" of "Angkas". Until now they are still terrified if they hear the word "collective-labour". But the Kampuchean Party and Government cannot let the Kampuchean agriculture come to a standstill at the stage of small, individual production. The peasants cannot be liberated, their life cannot be improved if their individual agricultural production is not reformed and if they are/led to the path of working collectively.
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As Engels pointed out clearly : "The result will be that we cannot liberate the peasants but prolong a little further their time of perishing"; Engels added : "Their property can only be saved and preserved by being transformed into the property of the cooperative and the cooperative economy".

We are glad that, the Party and Government of Kampuchea have found the way to organize agricultural production creatively, in conformity with the practical situation in Kampuchea. This is the form of the "production solidarity team" based on the principle of distribution according to the value of the work done : the better he works, the more he earns, but attention is also paid to the less efficient partner in the spirit of mutual assistance.

Up to now, 90% Kampuchean peasants are organised into 100,000 "production solidarity teams", each team consisting of 10-15 families. These teams have been constantly consolidated so as to become a firm political and economic base. These teams are equipped to oppose the Pol Pot "underground" cliques, defend their village and production, fulfil the policy and plans of the Party, the Government and the Reconstruction Front. "production solidarity teams" are also organized in forestry, fishery and handicrafts.

In addition, families are encouraged to develop individual production. For this section the State has not imposed taxation yet. It buys the agricultural produce and in return the peasants have the right to purchase industrial products at appropriate prices. Kampuchean agriculture, with favourable natural conditions and the spirit of hard-working of peasants, encouraged by appropriate policies, is very promising with bright future prospects.

- The Kampuchean people have actively restored fishery, developed industrial crops. In 1980, 5,000 hectares of rubber were restored, Annual fishing output increased from 40 thousand tons in 1980-1981 to 50 thousand tons in 1981-1982.

The Fourth Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (5-1981) laid down the agricultural guidelines for five years as follows :

- increase the total area of cultivated land to 2.3 - 2.5 million hectares.
- raise food output to 2.5 - 2.8 million tons including 2.3-2.5 tons of rice (approximately the same as the level before the anti-American war in 1970-1975); 40-50 thousands tons of rubber, 3-4 thousand tons of cotton...
- 1.4 - 1.5 million buffalos, 800-900 thousand pigs
- catch of fish is 10 000 tons per year.

Kampuchea is striving to export corn, rubber, fish and some other agricultural products.

Kampuchea has also achieved success in its health service, culture and education.

These achievements reached under the revolutionary regime are of strategic significance in a country once devastated by the Pol Pot clique, whose people had reduced to famine. These achievements are providing a firm basis for stepping up recovery and developing the economy, stabilizing the conditions of life and the at the same time they are laying the material and technical basis for a transition to socialism in Kampuchea.

On the security front, the Kampuchean people have made great progress. This should be attributed to the success of the armed forces in pursuing the Pol Pot remnants, preserving political security and social order throughout the country so that the people are able to bring into full play their creative capacities in the field of production. The Kampuchean armed forces with the help and military coordination of the Vietnam army firmly defend strategic position in Kampuchea, prevent enemy incursion from Thailand, and punish the Pol Pot remnants.

The Party and Government of Kampuchea are very concerned with national defence and security. The armed forces which are composed of three elements, the regular, the territorial units and the militia men have effectively defeated every dark scheme of the enemy and built up revolutionary forces strong enough to defend the people and preserve security in Kampuchea.

However, the stronger the Kampuchean revolution, the fiercer the enemy's opposition. On the one hand, the enemies conceal the Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries along the Kampuchean-Thai border, urge them to wage provocations against Kampuchea, even the Thai army gets involved in backing these remnants. On the other hand they try by every means to weaken and discredit the prestige of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the international arena. They tried to raise the so-called "Kampuchean question" at the Seventh Summit Conference of the Non-aligned Movement but suffered a heavy defeat. The Conference agreed with the Havana resolution to leave the Kampuchean seat vacant.

The major task of the Kampuchean revolution in the present period is to simultaneously build and defend the country.

With the feelings of a close neighbour and comrade in arms, the Vietnamese people are extremely happy and proud of the great successes of the Kampuchean people in the fields of production security and defence. At the same time they are deeply aware that these successes and forward steps of the Kampuchean people are also the successes of the militant solidarity between Vietnam and Kampuchea, as well as of the militant alliance of Vietnam - Laos - Kampuchea in the struggle against the common enemy for independence, freedom and socialism.

II- KAMPUCHEA'S POLICY WITH REGARD TO VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS,

Hanoi, VNA, Sept. 24 - The Press Department of the Kampuchean Foreign Ministry has made public a document concerning "the policy of the People's Republic of Kampuchea with regard to Vietnamese residents", SPK reports. The document exposes the perfidy of the Beijing hegemonists, the US imperialists and other reactionaries, Thailand in particular who after having sustained dismal failures in their slander campaign, charging that Vietnam committed aggression against Kampuchea, caused famine in this country, blocked international aid and used chemical arms in Kampuchea, and especially that Vietnam had committed aggression against Thailand, have recently the fable of a "Vietnamization of Kampuchea".

For centuries now, the document says, the Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples have been bound by close relations of friendship in all fields.

Right after the liberation of Kampuchea the Vietnamese residents who escaped the genocide returned to live in the localities where they had lived before. However, their number accounts so far for only 10 per cent of the Vietnamese residents registered before the Lon Nol regime, and is thus very insignificant in proportion to the number of Chinese residents or residents of Chinese descent in Kampuchea.

Kampuchea has always wanted to broaden its ties of solidarity, peace and cooperation with the other peoples in South East Asia, the document adds, and goes on :

Along with improving the life of the people and maintaining stability of the country, the Party and State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have applied a consistent policy with regard to foreign residents based on the respect for the national sovereignty and independence as had been proclaimed in the statement of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea on December 2, 1978.

Under article 44 of the constitution of the People's Republic of Kampuchea worked out in 1981, foreign nationals residing in Kampuchea must respect the law of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and receive protection from the PRK.

This proves that the above mentioned policy is completely compatible with international law and the declaration on human rights.

The ruling circles in Beijing, the US imperialists and the reactionaries in Thailand, authors of innumerable crimes against the Kampuchean people, have unceasingly tried to prevent the rebirth of the Kampuchean people.

By professing concern for the independence and sovereignty of Kampuchea, they have in fact sought to misrepresent the situation in Kampuchea, and undermine the Vietnam-Kampuchea solidarity while continuing to give shelter to the remnants of the Pol Pot army and other Khmer reactionaries in the hope of perpetuating tension at the Kampuchean-Thai border and sabotaging peace and stability in the region.

Experiences of the past forty years, especially of the past four years, show that all attempts to weaken or destroy the solidarity of the three Indochinese peoples as well as all manoeuvres aimed at discrediting them have met with bitter failures.

The consistent policy of the People's Republic of Kampuchea with regard to the Vietnamese residents is completely correct and equitable, the document stresses./.

III- SCOTLAND-VIETNAM FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED,

On September 28, 1983, the Scotland-Vietnam Friendship Association was founded with Mr. Colin Anderson as its Secretary. At the inauguration meeting, the Association adopted a resolution condemning the imperialist forces and the international reactionaries who opposed food and other aid to Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea. The resolution called on the British Government to support the resumption of the supply of these basic necessities from the EEC. It also called on the British Government to support the expulsion of Pol Pot as Kampuchea's representative to the United Nations and to recognise the People's Republic of Kampuchea as the legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people.

On this occasion, the "Vietnam Solidarity Friendship Committee" on October 10th sent the following message to the "Scotland-Vietnam Friendship Association" :

"VERY HAPPY TO LEARN YOUR ASSOCIATION FOUNDED LATE SEPTEMBER STOP THIS MARKS ANOTHER STEP OF DEVELOPMENT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES STOP HOPE AND BELIEVE YOUR ASSOCIATION WILL TAKE PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES FOR STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH VIETNAM STOP SEIZE THIS OCCASION EXPRESS OUR SINCERE THANKS TO PEOPLE GREAT BRITAIN ESPECIALLY TO PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IN FAVOUR OF VIETNAMESE PEOPLE STOP BEST WISHES TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR ASSOCIATION STOP ".

IV- NEWS IN BRIEF ,

* The International Committee of the Red Cross has announced that it will give 7 tons of commodities and an ambulance as aid to the Vietnamese people.

For its part, the Bulgarian Red Cross sent to Vietnam 43 tons of commodities including medicines and clothes.

The German Democratic Republic Red Cross has announced an offer 39 boxes including 975 woolen blankets, worth 14 thousand roubles.

* The All-India Peace Solidarity Organization has strongly protested against the illegal presence of the Pol Pot clique at the 38th session of the U.N. General Assembly. In a statement issued on 20th September, the organization called on all Non-Aligned countries to demand the ouster of the Pol Pot clique from the U.N. and the return of the Kampuchean seat to the People's Republic of Kampuchea at this forum.

* The National Committee of the U.S.A for the Ouster of the Pol Pot Clique from the U.N. organized a demonstration outside the U.N. headquarters in New York on Tuesday 20th of September. The demonstrators carried placards reading : "The Pol Pot clique out of the United Nations!", "United Nations seat for the People's Republic of Kampuchea !". They called on U.N. member-countries to vote against the Pol Pot clique.

On this occasion, the organisation of Christian churches in Indiana has sent a letter to President Reagan, demanding an end to U.S. support for the Pol Pot clique.

* The typhoon Georgia, struck Northern Vietnam on October 1st, with wind's speed at the center of the storm reached from 102 to 107 km per hour and at times 118 to 133 km per hour. The storm brought heavy rain on the Red River delta and the northern Midland.

The storm caused vast damages to life and property of people in the affected areas. The extent of damages are as follows :

1) 48 people dead, 184 injured and 32 missing.

2) property losses :

- 67,272 houses were completely broken down,
- roofs of 331,516 houses were blown off,

- 2,618 class-rooms were damaged,
- 453 hospital and dispensary houses were destroyed,
- 564 boats were sunk,
- tens of thousands of fishing-nets were lost,
- 20,790 metres of sea-dyke were damaged.

3) On agriculture :

- 248,000 hectares of rice ready for harvesting were flooded,
- the estimated losses on crops are as many as 200,000 tons of food-stuff (including nearly 9 tons of vegetable seed).

* On October 21, 1983, OXFAM has sent to Vietnam an emergency relief of £20,000 to help people in the areas affected by the typhoon Georgia.