



## THE REBIRTH OF KAMPUCHEA

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Following a series of uprisings and offensives in a number of localities, on January 7, 1979, the Revolutionary army liberated Phnom Penh. On January 8, 1979, the People's Revolutionary Council was set up with comrade Heng Samrin as its President. In his January 8, 1979 message addressed to the President of the U.N. Security Council, President Heng Samrin clearly pointed out that as of 12.30 hours on January 7, 1979, the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary reactionary government had been overthrown. The People's Revolutionary Council controlled the whole Kampuchean territory. Two days later, on January 10, 1979, the Council announced the founding of the Peoples Republic of Kampuchean. Having escaped from the danger of extermination, the Kampuchean people have closely united under the banner of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and the Peoples Revolutionary Council, the banner that has brought Kampuchea to freedom and happiness.

The Pol Pot - Ieng Sary regime has been abolished for good. Yet, its long-term consequences continue to weigh heavily on the country, while Peking expansionism, in close collusion with imperialism and other reactionary forces, has been trying to reimpose that genocidal regime on the Kampuchean people. That is why, the already huge post-liberation difficulties have become even worse, which demand that the new administration and every Kampuchean man and woman do their best to defend their independence and freedom and rebuild their country.

An American, Mr. John Quigley, a law professor at Ohio University, after visiting Kampuchea, said: The conditions left by the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary gang are such that it is very difficult to create overnight an acceptable living standard for the Kampuchean people.

### A DYING COUNTRY

In consequence of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime, at the time of liberation, Kampuchea was dying. Here are some facts and figures :

- Nearly 3,000,000 people were killed, 45% of them able-bodied persons of whom 80% were skilled and experienced workers. The remaining four million people were suffering from bad health - the result of hunger, disease and overwork.

- In September 1979, the number of surviving teachers, writers, artists, journalists and intellectuals was only 10% of the figure. Whereas there had been 4,000 doctors in 1970, there remained now only 50.

- All cities were empty. Phnom Penh had once been a beautiful city with nearly 3,000,000 inhabitants. Under Pol Pot - Ieng Sary, the population was only about 37,000, and at the time of liberation it was but a ghost city having suffered a lot of destruction.

- Before fleeing, the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique had destroyed almost all factories and enterprises. Workers had been expelled from their factories and were now dispersed everywhere. Those who served under Pol Pot - Ieng Sary were forced to flee with them, whoever refused to leave was killed in cold blood, some were slain right beside their machines.

- The majority of the people, both in the country side and in the city, were herded into concentration camps labelled "communes" and to work 12 hours daily in the harshest conditions. A part of the paddy grown was exported to China by the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique in exchange for weapons or stored away in preparation for war against Viet Nam, the peasants had to live on this rice gruel supplemented with earth-worms, crickets, frogs, etc. More wicked still, before taking to their heels, the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique burned all the paddy stocks and forced the people to go with them to areas where no rice was grown and to continue being their slaves. After liberation, when they were able to return to their former villages, the only possessions they had were the black clothes on their backs. Farm tools and seeds were lacking. In some areas, all the peasants in a village shared a single knife and a couple of ploughs and hoes.

- At the time of liberation, no schools, no hospitals and no cultural establishments were in existence anywhere in the whole country. Schools and pagodas had been turned into store houses, prisons or arms depots.

In those circumstances, the Kampucheans for a long time kept in bondage in the "communes", went back to their former living places. This was a new upheaval in the whole country. People were returning to Phnom Penh from Battambang, to Kompong Som from Takeo, to Kampot from Kompong Som, etc. No transport means, no money, no food, no medicines were available. Yet they had to be fed on their journeys.

It has been said that the Kampuchean people have to start from scratch in their work to rebuild their country. The real situation is even worse since, after four dark years under the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary regime, not only was the entire foundation of their society destroyed, the agricultural structure seriously disturbed, industry ruined, and commerce, communications, transport, schools and hospitals, etc. Driven out of existence but people were physically crushed and morally repressed. They no longer led a human life, they suffered from disease and hunger. The Kampuchean society was rotten and exhausted, it was bleeding and dying. In consequence of that situation right from the beginning, the revolutionary government had to cope with the serious and lasting consequences which had exerted efforts to bring a dying country back to life.

- Even before liberation, famine, the result of the reactionary policies of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique, had appeared in many places. Therefore, the prime task of the new administration has been famine relief.

The new administration has called on the people to practise mutual help and at the same time has effectively organized the reception and distribution of tens of thousands of tons of rice sent by the peoples of Viet Nam, the Soviet Union, and other fraternal and friendly countries. Thousands of trucks, together with means of water transport like ships, boats and barges, as well as more rudimentary means have been used in a round-the clock transport campaign of relief food and medicines.

This initial amount of aid played an important part in famine relief in the first days following liberation has helped the Kampuchean people quickly return to their former native places stabilize their life and resume production work.

Together with famine relief, the revolutionary administration has striven, on the one hand, to help the people settle down and stabilize their life and, on the other hand, to restore the national economy, first of all :

- The revolutionary administration has helped millions of peasants to return to their former native places, to stabilize their life and quickly resume production. United production teams have been set up in all localities.

- Siem Reap-Ot-Do Mien Chay province, <sup>took</sup> the lead in rice growing, cultivated 76,000 hectares.

The acreage under summer rice in the provinces of Siem Reap-Ot-Do Mien Chay and Kompong Thom surpasses even the peak figure under the Pol Pot- Ieng Sary regime.

Tens of thousands of tons of rice seeds, over 80,000 hoe blades, nearly 30,000 plough-shares and 37 water pumps-in part given as fraternal gifts by the Vietnamese people and in part made by local workshops have been distributed to production teams.

- A good crop of short-growth rice has been harvested in many places with an average yield of 1.5 tons per hectare. In Kompong Speu, some districts recorded a yield of 3 tons per hectare.

True, the figures are small. But if they are put in the actual context of a country which has just been liberated they carry the full significance of the great efforts made and the promise of new vitality ...

#### INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Kampuchean workers made their way back to their factories after liberation. However, to resume production was not an easy task when machinery had been dismantled or destroyed, when fuel and raw materials were scarce, and especially when a great number of skilled workers and engineers had been killed by Pol Pot executioners.

By September 1979, in the whole country, over 40 factories were restored to normal operation, including relatively important ones such as provincial agro-mechanical repair factories, power plants, waterworks, etc.

The 260-km-long Phnom Penh - Kompong Som railway with 108 bridges and 15 stations, many portions of which were damaged during the war against U.S. aggression for national salvation has been restored.

- Kompong Som port has resumed its activities. Late in September and early in October, 1979, the S/S Song Chu of Viet Nam and the S/S Ockotsk of the Soviet Union carrying thousands of tons of rice for the Kampuchean people berthed there.

- Fishing is also being quickly restored particularly in the 5 provinces around lake Tonle-Sap : Siem Riep, Battambang, Kompong Speu, Kompong Chalang, Kompong Thom, thousands of fishermen's households have organized themselves into teams, hundreds of tons of fishing equipment, such as fishing nets floats, etc, have been supplied to these localities by the state.

#### EDUCATION

From the beginning, although great efforts had to be made to overcome famine and rehabilitate the economy, the Revolutionary People's Council has paid due attention to the building of a genuine revolutionary education with a fully national democratic and progressive character - the foundation on which gradually to build a socialist education.

- The 1979-1980 school-year is regarded as the first school-year after liberation. According to still incomplete figures, at present, there are already 515,400 pupils in 1,333 primary schools.

- Kandal province ranks first in the number of pupils, teachers and schools : 75,000 pupils, 1,875 teachers and 1,400 classes. In Phnom Penh, there are 24,000 pupils, 429 classes and 610 teachers.

- It is estimated that during the four years under the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime, 4 out of every 5 teachers were killed. The new regime has successfully built up a contingent of 12,388 teachers including survivors from the former regime and newly trained instructors.

A text - book writing commission has been set up to produce teaching materials in accordance with the development of a revolutionary education. Up to now, 40 text-books totalling 4,206 pages, have been written for the first four classes of primary education.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

Immediately after liberation, the revolutionary medical service set itself urgent tasks : sanitary measures to prevent epidemics and restore the people's health. As a result of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary regime, hygiene conditions in Kampuchea were at the lowest level and malaria, malnutrition, and serious physical exhaustion were prevalent.

- The new regime opened urgent short - term medical classes at the same time searching for surviving doctors, nurses, and midwives, and set up mobile medical teams which travelled to densely populated areas to give preventive inoculations and dispense medicines. As an initial step, over 270 tons of medicines have been distributed to various localities and epidemic diseases have been curbed.

- The restoration of hospitals has been urgently carried out, by September 1979, in the whole country, there were 25 hospitals, 60 infirmaries and 100 medical stations.

- In Phnom Penh, there are already over 10 medical establishments, big and small, including 3 major hospitals : the revolutionary hospital (formerly Calmette hospital), January 7 hospital (formerly overseas Chinese hospital) and April 17 hospital (formerly Ong Sai hospital).

## CULTURE

The preservation of cultural and historical monuments, particularly the Angkor Temples, evidence of the brilliant ancient civilization of the Kampuchean nation- has been made the duty of the revolutionary army and every citizen.

- Popular cultural activities have been organized everywhere. Every province has its own art troupe. In Phnom Penh, there are now three art troupes : the central popular culture and art troupe, the army troupe and the municipal troupe. Their repertoires are built on the basis of restoring the ancient national culture while developing a new revolutionary culture many well-known actors and actresses who survived the persecutions of the old regime thanks to the people's protection, have now come back to the stage.

- The museum of antiquities in Phnom Penh has been reopened. The Sorya, Capitol, Vemear Teup Motion picture theatres have been repaired and cater to an ever-increasing number of cinema-goers. In April, only 3 months after liberation, the Chaul Chnaun (New Year) Festival - the traditional national festival which had been abolished by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique- was observed throughout the country.

- The radio broadcasting station of Kampuchea, built before liberation, is now broadcasting over 10 hours a day<sup>in</sup> the Kampuchean, English, French and Thai languages. Every day SPK (Kampuchean News Agency) sends out news items about the activities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Kampuchea, a weekly publication, is now read in all parts of Kampuchea with a circulation 122,000 copies.

- Religion and religious beliefs are respected, pagodas and churches have been restored, people are free to worship. In August 1979, the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea organized a religious rehabilitation for 7 monks at (Una Mom) pagoda in Phnom Penh, the youngest of them being the buddhist monk Tep Vong who has just been elected Vice-President of the Central Committee of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea at the recent second congress of the Front.

#### BUILDING UP THE REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION

The revolutionary power has been set up, consolidated and developed from the Central level down to the grassroots to administer the affairs of the whole country.

- Mass organizations are attracting people of all walks of life and constituted firm bases for the administration. On December 2, 1978, the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea held its first congress with a view to uniting the entire population, stepping up the struggle to overthrow the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique, and liberating the country. Ten months later, on September 29, 1979, the Front's second Congress was convened in Phnom Penh, at which tasks were set forth.

For the new stage, the Front's membership now consists of representatives of every branch, popular strata, and nationality, including monks and members of the royal family. This is a symbol of national unity.

- In August 1979, the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Kampuchea held a public trial to judge the genocidal crimes committed by the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique, more than 500 representatives and many foreign lawyers of high repute and journalists attended. The Tribunal sentenced Pol Pot and Ieng Sary to death in absentia for their genocidal crimes and issued a warrant of arrest against them.

- Self-defence, militia and guerrilla units have been established to keep watch, safeguard the revolutionary administration, and ensure order and security in every village. In the areas where remnants of the enemy are still operating, these units have joined forces with the local people to encircle them and have caused tens of thousands of Pol Pot soldiers to surrender. The revolutionary army has carried out many mopping-up operations, putting out of action 50,000 soldiers and capturing a large quantity of weapons and ammunition.

#### ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

During 4 years under the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary regime, Kampuchea closed its doors to the outside world. But now 31 countries and national movements have recognized the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Right after liberation, the People's Revolutionary Council proclaimed a foreign policy of peace, friendship and non-alignment and its readiness to establish friendly relations and cooperation with other South-east Asian countries on the basis of respect of each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefits. The People's Revolutionary Council has sent a High-Level Delegation led by President Heng Samrin and Vice-President Pen Sovan visits to Viet Nam, Laos, the Soviet Union, Cuba, The German Democratic Republic ... Kampuchea Embassies have been established in Viet Nam, the Soviet Union



and will be established in many other countries, representatives of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have joined many international organizations and participated in many international conferences. Foreign delegations have visited Kampuchea concerning the media alone, nearly 400 journalists, film - makers and T.V. cameramen from many countries have come to Kampuchea.

Ten months is but a short period in a nation's history. But in the past ten months there have been great changes in Kampuchea. Under the clear-sighted leadership of the People's Revolutionary Council and with the help of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, Kampuchea is coming to life again.

Although the genocidal regime of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique is gone forever and those blood - thirsty criminals have been sentenced to death by the People's Revolutionary Tribunal, the Kampuchean people still have to overcome many difficulties and obstacles. The famine that occurred even before liberation is still a serious threat. To overcome this, the People's Revolutionary Council is encouraging the entire people and revolutionary army to united and help one another in rehabilitating and developing the national economy in conformity with the directions and tasks put forward by the second congress of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea. Besides, the People's Revolutionary Council is calling on countries and organizations the world over to intensify their help to the Kampuchean people, on the basis of respecting the independence and sovereignty of Kampuchea and without attaching any conditions to this assistance.

#### IN THE COMING DAYS

Nowadays, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Kampuchea, after the genocide perpetrated by the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique, have been speeded up. The serious sequels of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime have been gradually overcome. Political security has been ensured and constantly consolidated. A new life, full of joy and promises, is spreading all over the country.

It was in that situation that the second congress of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea was convened marking a new development of the revolution and setting forth new tasks for the coming years :

"To hold high the banner of independence, sovereignty, to consolidate and develop the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea. To rally all patriots who love their people regardless of political tendency, religion, party affiliation, age and sex so as to fight the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique and the other reactionary henchmen of Peking and the imperialists for national salvation and the liberation of the people. To energetically build a firm revolutionary administration and continue to pursue the remnants of the enemy in order to ensure order and security. To strengthen the close unity and cooperation between the armies and peoples of Kampuchea and Viet Nam, and to strengthen international unity in order to defeat every new wicked design of the enemy and build a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea and step by step advance to socialism."

Determined to build a new Kampuchea, the Kampuchean people are also resolved not to tolerate any attempt by the Peking expansionists acting in collusion with the imperialist and other reactionary forces to restore the genocidal regime against the Kampuchean people. More than anybody else, the Kampuchean people know the true face of Peking expansionism whatever form it may take, they know the dark nature of the imperialists, whatever masks they may wear.

At the second congress of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea, President Heng Samrin said : " The Kampuchean situation is irreversible. This is a certainly and the profound conviction of the Kampuchean people " ./.