KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE RESIST VIETNAMESE INVASION

Soviets back aggressors

Over 100,000 Vietnamese troops armed with Soviet tanks, heavy artillery and hundreds of Mig jets launched an all-out invasion of Socialist Kampuchea at the end of December. Backed by Soviet and Warsaw Pact advisors and pilots, the invading forces have penetrated deep into Kampuchea, taking control of Phnom Penh and several other major towns.

The Vietnamese military immediately set up a puppet government headed by a handful of unknowns claiming to be Kampuchean but whose past appears to be a total fabrication. The KNUPNS (Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation) was irregularly recognized by the USSR in several Warsaw Pact countries, as well as Ethiopia and Afghanistan, two countries under Moscow’s thumb.

A few hours before Phnom Penh was falling, Prime Minister Pol Pot delivered a radio message to the people and Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea, warning a people’s war by blending into the countryside and by drawing the enemy forces deep into our territory before attacking them on their flanks and isolating them. “Vietnam will never take Kampuchea”, he said, “we won’t let them do it.”

Thanks to the leadership of its communist party, the Kampuchean people had been preparing for this protracted war for a long time. Supplies and arms had been hidden in the countryside, and the population had been organized in self-sufficient cooperatives. The enemy took over towns that were practically deserted.

The January 11 issue of the New York Times reported that fighters were hitting the Vietnamese units, not only in the western provinces but also in regions east of the Mekong “that Vietnam had passed through in its lightning advance on Phnom Penh.”

World opinion has condemned this brazen attack and invasion of a socialist country. China has denounced Vietnam’s war of aggression, aided and abetted by the Soviet social-imperialists, and promised full support to the struggle of Democratic Kampuchea under Prime Minister Pol Pot.

In the southeast Asian countries of ASEAN, are holding an emergency meeting to consider steps to counter the Vietnamese threat. Rumania and Yugoslavia, along with a growing number of countries, have condemned Hanoi’s invasion of Kampuchea.

Kampuchea’s Deputy Prime Minister Eng Sary sent a message to the United Nations, January 2, condemning the Vietnamese-Soviet aggression. The UN Security Council voted to continue to recognize the government of Democratic Kampuchea, led by Pol Pot, January 11.

Former Cambodian head of state Prince Sihanouk flew to New York to seek support for Democratic Kampuchea at the Security Council emergency session.

League Central Committee delegation returns from China and Kampuchea

A delegation of Central Committee members led by the chairman of the Central Committee, Roger Rashi, returned early January from a visit of three weeks in China and one week in Kampuchea.

In China, our delegation visited Beijing (Peking) and Shanghai and other cities. We went into a mine, toured various factories and people’s communes. Everywhere, we saw the enthusiasm of the Chinese people, for the socialist four modernizations of the country.

Comrade Geng Biao, a member of the Political Bureau and vice-premier, received us in Beijing on December 22. This meeting and others with the Communist Party of China greatly strengthened the fraternal ties between the CPC and the League.

From December 23 to 30 our delegation visited Democratic Kampuchea, the last foreign visitors before the Vietnamese invasion. We travelled for seven days over 1000 km through six provinces. We talked with the leaders, Comrade Pol Pot, Secretary General of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, and to Comrade Eng Sary, Deputy Prime Minister, we visited the fighters of the Revolutionary Army at the front, and we talked to the people. What we saw and learned convinced us of the capacity of the people of this socialist country to wage a successful war against the aggressors, and of the inevitable victory that lies ahead.

We have come back to Canada determined to give our strongest support to the struggle of the Kampuchean people.

Beginning with this issue of The Forge, the delegation will share with the readers the wealth of lessons learned in the course of the visit to these two socialist countries.

The delegation