

# STAND BY PEOPLE'S CHINA AND Oppose the Vietnam

This is the position adopted by the League for Proletarian Revolution M L in relation to the present conflicts in South East Asia. This position is written with the purpose of arming comrades and friends with an understanding of what is really happening there, what are its implications and our tasks. We felt that the major points

raised here are to be raised in a mass form in shops, schools, and communities in order to rally support for the just cause of the Kampuchean and the Chinese people. Other materials around this question, newspaper articles, statements, leaflets, etc. can be obtained by requesting them from us.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, the present situation in South East Asia poses a fundamental question for revolutionary and progressive people. It is a matter of supporting revolution or counter-revolution, of supporting socialism or social imperialism. As in any other question we have to seek truth from facts. That is why in order to take a correct stand regarding the Vietnam Kampuchean and Vietnam China conflicts, we are to closely examine what have been all the facts influencing those conflicts. Obviously we are to examine those facts from a standpoint of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought, and not from the standpoint of idealism and metaphysics, nor from the standpoint of revisionism and Trotskyism.

Since its victory over U.S. imperialism in 1975, Vietnam has come to be more and more under the influence of Soviet revisionism. Many facts show this concretely. The Vietnamese authorities have given support to all the imperialist actions of the Soviet Union, such as the use of Cuban mercenary troops in Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea and many other places in Africa. They have also given support to the Soviet-backed, fascist Ethiopian Junta. In June 1978, Vietnam joined the CMEA thus placing itself definitely within the economic orbit of the USSR. Their economic dependence on the Soviet Union was further expanded by the signing of a "Friendship" treaty in November last year, which contains a military clause calling for mutual military assistance. Following this treaty, the USSR convinced the Warsaw Pact countries to pledge military support for Vietnam. Over 4,000 Russian military advisers were then shipped to Vietnam to gether with enormous amounts of arms, planes and all kinds of military equipment.

Armed to the teeth by the Soviet Union, and caught with their troubled economy, the grateful Vietnamese had to allow the Soviet Union to use its very modern and strategically located Cam Ranh Bay naval base on a regular basis. Another indication that they are now under the complete influence of the Soviet revisionists was their recent trip through South East Asian countries in which they openly dissociated themselves from the communist parties and revolutionary struggles of those countries and pledged to give no aid to them. At the same time that the Vietnamese authorities used the trip to seek entrance in the ASEAN, they tried to get other ASEAN leaders to agree to a new ASEAN that would fit more into the Soviet Union's old and discredited idea of a "Collective Security Pact."

It is undeniable that the Vietnamese authorities in their course of conciliating with opportunism and modern revisionism have reached the point in which they not only support the revisionist policies and imperialist acts of aggression of their USSR masters, but are also peddling their ideas and doing their dirty work for them! Obviously, this view can be challenged by those who claim that the Soviet Union is a socialist country (like the CPUSA and all revisionists) and by those who have some mild criticisms of Soviet revisionism but support its imperialist actions which they call "progressive" (Guardian, Comite-MINP, Trotskyites, etc.).

Another important feature of post liberation Vietnam is its attempts to force Kampuchean and Laos to join an Indo-Chinese federation under Vietnam's hegemony. This ambition has been historically cherished by the Vietnamese. Today, Vietnam keeps Laos under its military intervention and for all intents and purposes they are ruling that country. On December 25th, more than 100,000 regular Vietnamese troops invaded Kampuchea, took over the major cities and established a puppet government. Again this is known history. And again, only the revisionists and the Trotskyites can support such actions

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did what is their sacred duty. That is, take the necessary steps to protect and safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their socialist motherland.

When forced to take this action the Chinese made clear that this counterattack was a "punitive action," that they were "not interested in a single inch of Vietnamese territory" and that they were "ready to stop the fighting peacefully negotiate with the Vietnamese authorities." In fact, the People's Republic of China has already stated that as of March 5th it is starting to withdraw all its troops from Vietnamese territory since they have accomplished "the goals set for them since they were compelled to launch a counterattack in self de-

fense on February 17 against ceaseless armed provocations of the Vietnamese" (See framed statement on next page).

Despite these facts, the revisionists, Trotskyites, and social democrats in chorus raise hell about "Chinese social imperialism" about "Chinese imperialist designs," etc. It is clear that what's behind all these slanders and distortion is a stand against socialist China and a defense of the Vietnamese revisionists and their social imperialist masters.

## Two Variants of the Same Line

Thus in the main we see two positions coming from these forces. The first one is the official position of the Soviet Union, Albania, the CPUSA, SWP, and other animals of the same species. They defend the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea and attack China for "invading" Vietnam. According to these marsh forces, Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea is proletarian internationalism, and China's counterattack in response to Vietnamese aggressions is "imperialist aggression."

According to their logic their "Socialist Vietnam" has every right to overthrow the government of another country and establish a "Socialist" and "Revolutionary" government. In the particular case of Democratic Kampuchea the invasion did precisely the contrary. They overthrew the legitimate revolutionary government of a country that was building socialism in order to establish a puppet, pro Soviet social imperialist government. But even if this were not the case, their logic is that of revisionism and social imperialism. If it is a historically proven fact that revolutions



As a matter of fact even among these marsh forces there have been dissidents who have come out criticizing Vietnam, although when you study their positions, it becomes clear that they are doing it for the wrong reasons.

Both the revisionists and Trotskyites that support the Vietnamese invasion (Soviet Union, Party of Labor of Albania, CPUSA, PSP, Cuba, and others) and the ones that mildly criticize Vietnam (Guardian, PWOC, etc.) share in common their hatred for the Kampuchean revolution and its Communist Party under the leadership of comrade Pol Pot, as well as their absolving the Soviet Union of any wrong doings in Kampuchea. This makes all those forces, despite their small squabbles on whether or not Vietnam should have done it in this or that way, objectively accomplices of the Soviet Union and Vietnam and their hegemonic actions in that region. In fact, in the conflict between Vietnam and China these forces show their true colors.

Another important feature of post liberation Vietnam is their attacks against the People's Republic of China. These have been political and military. For over two years Vietnamese forces have been violating the sovereignty and national integrity of the PRC. They have also unfolded a fascist repression against Chinese nationals and Vietnamese of Chinese descent. Ample documentation of those attacks has been available for months now. Not only has the Chinese press consistently raised the issue but also diplomatic complaints have been presented to the Vietnamese embassy in China and official protests have been made to the United Nations and its General Secretary.

On a consistent manner also the Chinese government has requested of the Vietnamese authorities to hold conversations at a top level in order to solve both the border conflicts and the question of the Chinese nationals. The Vietnamese consistently refuse to hold these conversations and instead escalated their attacks against People's China. Under these circumstances, the Chinese people, their armed forces, their government and their Communist Party

## KAMPUCHEA SUPPORT COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA is growing all around the world. Communists and other progressive and revolutionary minded people are taking the lead in organizing such support. The tasks ahead are to broaden the support work in order to include all sectors of the population. We must unite all those who can be united in support of Democratic Kampuchea and in opposition to the Vietnamese aggression.

We see this work going on at various levels. Due to the complexity of the situation we see the need for both advanced coalitions as well as broad mass based coalitions. The first ones are necessary in order to put forward the Kampuchean question in all its political significance. That is the revisionist character of Vietnam, its alliance with Soviet social imperialism, the correct revolutionary stand of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, under comrade Pol Pot, the revisionist Trotskyite alliance against Kampuchea, the treason of the Party of Labor of Albania and other anti China and anti Three world theory forces and other relevant political points that only revolutionary forces can unite with at this moment. On the other hand, we are to build massive support for

Kampuchea based on the principle of self determination. Kampuchea has been invaded by a foreign state and independently of particular views on the character of Vietnam and Kampuchea, its Communist Parties, its relations with the Soviet Union (and even the character of the Soviet Union), the Three Worlds Theory, etc. People can and must be united on the fact of the incorrectness of the invasion and therefore support Democratic Kampuchea's struggle against it.

The League for Proletarian Revolution Marxist-Leninist is actively participating in efforts in both directions. We are part of the left based New York and Colorado coalitions in support of Democratic Kampuchea. We also participated in a Feb. 18th meeting to launch a campaign to build a nationwide Kampuchea Support Committee (that will be the kind of broad coalition we described above). A conference will be held in New York on April 21st and 22nd to officially get the coalition formed.

For more information, on every aspect of the Kampuchean support work, how to get in contact with other coalitions around the country, you can contact us or write to

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can not be exported. It is not for the Vietnamese, or the Cubans, to go around overthrowing governments and making "instant revolutions." Only the revolutions of each country can make their own revolutions.

The second position is the one represented in this country by groups like the Guardian and the PWOC. The upholders of this position attack the genuine communists in Kampuchea. They repeat every lie and slander made by the revisionist and imperialist press against the Pol Pot government. In fact, for a while, the Guardian held a position of supporting the Vietnamese invasion under the cover of "history will tell." They make some mild criticism of Vietnam saying that it was incorrect to invade and overthrow the "counterrevolutionary" government of Pol Pot. But the criticism in no way links the Vietnamese actions to their revisionist line. The Soviet Union's role is either denied or downplayed. Vietnam continues to be a socialist country that has to be defended as such, despite their actions against Kampuchea.

And obviously those forces join the chorus of the Soviet Union, the PLA and the CPUSA and the Trotskyites in condemning People's China's response to the Vietnamese aggressors. In their bourgeois logic, crossing the borders of one nation means invasion, and "invasions are invasions." These forces are either incapable of, or refuse to make concrete analysis of concrete conditions that will clearly reveal the differences between the two events. And not making the distinction is, in ef-

fect, covering for Soviet social imperialism. In fact they are more militant and prompt in attacking the People's Republic of China's actions against Vietnam, than in attacking the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea. Vietnam is just "making errors," and China is revisionist, such is the position of these false defenders of the principle of no intervention in the internal affairs of other nations.

A comparison of the Vietnamese actions against Kampuchea as opposed to those of the Chinese against Vietnam will show a clear difference in aims and purposes. In fact, one is a flagrant act of imperialist aggression and the other a correct action

in defense of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Let's see.

### Vietnam's Invasion of Kampuchea

This invasion has as its purpose to overthrow the legitimate government of Kampuchea. It implies the military occupation of Kampuchea by foreign Vietnamese troops. It also implies the seizure of Kampuchean territory by the Vietnamese. (This through the so called peaceful solution of the border conflict agreed upon between the Vietnamese government and the puppet government of the KU for NS.) It implies also moving towards the Indochinese Federation of which the Vietnamese expansionists dream



Kampuchea's children, including the young, are heroically fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors.

This is definitely a lie. On the question of war and the correct attitude toward it, the Chinese have clearly established their position. First, they don't want war, second, they are not afraid of it. They also made clear that they will never attack another country, but that if they are attacked, they will definitely counterattack. This is a correct position that we wholeheartedly support.

Opposing war means actively working against it. At this moment that means concretely to oppose the superpower's war preparations. Only by resolutely struggling against superpower hegemonism and bullying, by exposing and opposing their war mongering policies can we put off the outbreak of the war. But in doing so we cannot be afraid of the war. Being afraid of the war can lead to a policy of conciliation towards the superpowers, a policy of making concessions to them in the false hope that these concessions will stop their drive for war. But the actual case of Vietnam shows the contrary. They took Laos and they didn't stop. They took Kampuchea and they didn't stop. And if they are left to their free will they will take every inch of territory in South East Asia.

When the Chinese did not respond militarily to their aggression the Vietnamese weakness, and thought that the Chinese were afraid of fighting them and that they would get concession from them in order to avoid war. Especially after signing their military treaty with the Soviet Union the Vietnamese felt they really had it made. They know that China is militarily, economically, technologically and in many other ways much weaker than the Soviet Union, and they reasoned that under such

circumstances China would not dare to counterattack, afraid of a Soviet Union intervention. But China, consistent with its policy of opposing appeasement as a way of combatting war preparations acted in a resolute and revolutionary way. The resulting events show in practice that this is the concrete way of dealing with the expansionists and war mongers.

Definitely it was a risk, and the Chinese comrades are the first ones to acknowledge that the Soviet Union could have used the opportunity to strike at China. But let's be realistic. What were the alternatives? Cross your hands and make believe that the Vietnamese were not carrying out military incursions in your country? If you allow the Vietnamese to do this, why not allow it also to the Soviet Union?

We felt that the Chinese people's action spells out the message very clearly. China is for peace and to protect that peace they are willing to pick up the gun. This should not be strange at all for true revolutionaries.

Obviously those who are scared to death of the prospects of war and the revisionists who preach "peace through détente" disagree with us. For them, the Kampuchians and the Chinese should have welcomed the Vietnamese "liberators" and, in the name of peace, give up their freedom and their socialist homeland.

We call on all comrades and friends, on revolutionary and progressive minded people to close ranks in defense of Democratic Kampuchea and the People's Republic of China and to oppose the expansionist drive of the Vietnamese revisionists and their Soviet social imperialist master. You can help in this task of educating the broad masses of people in this country about the real meaning of the recent events in South East Asia. With your help leaflets can be brought to factories, schools, and communities across the land. There are films available that show the criminal aggression by the Vietnamese of Democratic Kampuchea which can be used to educate the people. Forums and other public events can be held to further educate the people who show interest. Let's unite all that can be united in defense of the fraternal Chinese and Kampuchean people.

## Text of China's Statement on Withdrawal of Troops

**HONG KONG, March 5 (AP) — Following is the text of the official New China News Agency announcement from Peking that Chinese troops are withdrawing from Vietnam.**

The Chinese frontier troops have attained the goals set for them since they were compelled to launch a counterattack in self-defense on Feb. 17 against ceaseless armed provocations and incursions of the Vietnamese aggressors against China.

The Chinese Government announces that starting from March 5, 1979, all Chinese frontier troops are withdrawing to Chinese territory.

The Chinese Government reiterates that we do not want a single inch of Vietnamese territory, but neither will we tolerate incursions into Chinese territory. All we want is a peaceful and stable border. We hope that this just stand of the Chinese Government will be respected by the Government of Vietnam and the governments of other countries in the world. We warn the Vietnamese authorities that they must make no more armed provocations and incursions along the Chinese border after the withdrawal of the Chinese frontier troops. The Chinese Government solemnly states that the Chinese side reserves the right to strike back again in self-defense in case of a recurrence of such Vietnamese activities.

### Negotiations Proposed Again

We have always held that disputes between nations should be settled peacefully through negotiations. The Chinese Government proposes once again that the Chinese and Vietnamese sides speedily hold negotiations to dis-

cuss ways of insuring peace and tranquility along the border between the two countries and then proceed to settle the boundary and territorial disputes. We sincerely hope that the Vietnamese side will respond positively to our proposal. The Chinese Government is prepared to give serious consideration to any proposals that will help safeguard peace and tranquility in the border areas and resolve the disputes concerned.

Between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples there is a traditional friendship which is not only in the interests of our two peoples but also in the interests of the people of Southeast Asia, of Asia as a whole and of the entire world. The Chinese people highly value their friendship with the Vietnamese people. Although this friendship has in recent years been damaged to our distress, we eagerly hope that it may be restored. We hope that the Vietnamese authorities will take the fundamental interests of the two peoples at heart and stop pursuing their hostile anti-China policy so that the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples may live together in friendship from generation to generation.

We believe that our positive and constructive stand will enjoy widespread international sympathy and support. At the same time, we hope that all countries and people that love peace and uphold justice will take measures to urge the Vietnamese authorities to stop promptly their aggression against Kampuchea [Cambodia] and withdraw all their forces of invasion back to their own territory so as to serve the interest of the peace, security and stability of Southeast Asia and of Asia as a whole.

about. This is clearly an imperialist action. The objective is seizing territory, enslaving people, getting natural resources (the Vietnamese are stealing a lot of much needed rice from Kampuchea). Because this was the real purpose of their invasion the Vietnamese have to create the phony KUNS to make believe that the events in Kampuchea were an internal struggle among the Pol Pot "reactionaries" and the KUNS "revolutionaries." Even people like the PWOC have had to reject such obvious bourgeois manoeuvres.

### China's Counterattacks are of a Different Nature

To begin with, People's China has not denied that they are the ones attacking Vietnam. They have not come with a phoney "Vietnam Liberation Front." More important, the Chinese were not the first forces to attack, but rather they were responding to Vietnamese attacks and provocations. More important is the fact that the Chinese have no intentions of trying to overthrow the Hanoi revisionists nor of keeping a single inch of Vietnamese territory. The Chinese will pull out of Vietnam as soon as the purpose of their attack is fulfilled. Now how is that action similar to the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea? Independently of the fact that the Vietnamese authorities are revisionists and that they are doing the dirty work for Soviet social imperialism, the Chinese are making no attempt to overthrow their government, thus they correctly understand it as the task of the Vietnamese revolutionaries.

A task that we are confident will be accomplished that will bring Vietnam again to the correct road of national liberation, independence and socialist construction.

### China Putting Off World War

There is a final question we want to address. That is the accusation by the marsh forces that China is provoking a world war because of its attacks against Vietnam.

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