In passing, it is worth drawing the reader’s attention to another book, of scant intrinsic merit to be sure, which also is obliged to condense the point that the Khmer Rouge took pains to care for foreigners who fell into their hands—evidence that they could be hostile. I refer to the American crew of the Mayaguez, whose testimony on this point is apparently unanimous (they swelled their lives to the sacrifices made by their Kampuchean captors).

The book in question is The Four Days of Mayaguez, by N. Basen (Warten, 1975). The only time they were in real danger was when they were under the warrant and unsanctioned aerial attacks mounted against Kampuchea by President Ford in totally unnecessary retaliation. One could also quote in this context the experiences of foreigners who have had to stay across the frontier from Indonesia in order to help the refugees, and in particular to help the Khmer Rouge. I am happy to have seen the text itself of one about some impact there (pp. 18-19 of the official report). The text was made available to me by the United Nations in the form of a draft report submitted to the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Cambodia in 1978 by the 12 member nations, which has not been released to the public.

Malcolm Caldwell

In the nose dive, there is a strong claim to be made that the Khmer Rouge, in order to attract foreign aid and to continue to build up a sense of national identity, have been promoting a sense of national pride and national identity that is based on the idea of a Khmer state. This is a dangerous idea, as it is based on the idea of a Khmer state, and it is this idea that is being promoted by the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge have been trying to create a sense of national pride and identity by using national symbols such as the Khmer language, the Khmer flag, and the Khmer national anthem. The Khmer Rouge have also been trying to create a sense of national identity by using the Khmer language as a way of promoting the idea of a Khmer state. The Khmer Rouge have also been trying to create a sense of national identity by using the Khmer flag as a way of promoting the idea of a Khmer state. The Khmer Rouge have also been trying to create a sense of national identity by using the Khmer national anthem as a way of promoting the idea of a Khmer state.

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Cambodia. Democratic Kampuchea's leaders are not prepared to accept these -- or any other costs -- which would detract from the country's hard-won independence and right to go its own way: "With both Vietnam and Thailand relying upon installations deep inside Cambodia, the Cambodian leaders would face the choice of serving their rivals' interests -- or facing the military and political consequences if they did not. There is little doubt what the consequences might be. Vietnam and Thailand together have a population of some 90-95 million people. The Cambodians number less than 8 million." So much for Kampuchea's "irrationality", "xenophobia", and all the rest of the vilification reserved for it in the Western media...