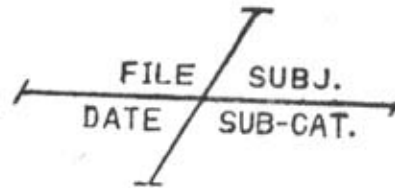


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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



#### EDITORIAL LAUDS AMERICAN DEFEAT IN CAMBODIA

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Apr 75 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Unprecedented Defeat in America's Policy of Aggression and Intervention"]

[Text] That the Ford administration has withdrawn all American foreign service, military and civilian personnel from Phnom Penh, ignoring their lackeys who feel as unhappy as chickens who have lost their mothers, is Washington's most bitter admission of the total defeat of the American imperialists in their prolonged 5-year policy of military aggression, intervention and involvement in Cambodia.

As with Vietnam and Laos, Cambodia has been one of the high-priced objects of U.S. neocolonialism for the past 20 years. The last several American presidents have tried everything to force Cambodia off the road to peace and neutrality and to change it into an American colony and war base. However, these plots were resolutely resisted by the Cambodian people. In 1970, Nixon blatantly caused the overthrow of the legal Cambodian government led by head of state Norodom Sihanouk and set up in Phnom Penh a puppet regime modeled after that of Nguyen Van Thieu in order to achieve the objectives which previous American presidents were unable to obtain. The counterrevolutionary coup d'etat of 18 March 1970 was the opening curtain of the American imperialists' tragedy in Cambodia and their recent withdrawal on 12 April was the closing curtain.

During the 5 years of implementing this policy against the Cambodian people, the American imperialists suffered at least five serious defeats:

They conducted a counterrevolutionary coup, placed the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group in power and gave this group a "republican," "democratic" and "coalition" appearance, but the Cambodian people were determined to resist this act of robbery and the deceitful tricks of the Americans. World opinion also violently denounced the White House and the CIA. They planned to separate the Cambodian people from the people of Vietnam

and Laos but the people of the three Indochinese countries united more closely than ever before and joined together in solidarity against the common enemy. Meanwhile, the American puppets in Phnom Penh constantly contradicted and fought each other, becoming weaker and closer to defeat.

From the end of April to the end of June 1970, Nixon ordered more than 100,000 American and Nguyen Van Thieu puppet military forces into Cambodia with the purpose of eliminating the young resistance forces and to consolidate the lackey puppet regime; but this invasion was met by strong resistance from the people and guerrillas. Contrary to the desires of America, the Cambodian resistance movement matured rapidly as a result of these initial challenges.

On 12 November 1971, Nixon announced loudly that "Cambodia is the purest Nixon theory." To implement this reactionary theory, he proposed the policy of "Khmerizing the war" and supplied the lackey regime with 7 billion dollars in modern weapons and means of war, established a puppet army of nearly 200,000 men, brought thousands of American military advisers into Cambodia to organize and train the puppet army and to command this army during sweeps and encroachments of liberated areas. The army and people of Cambodia, with a courageous and intelligent spirit, smashed the enemy offensives while at the same time continued to expand the resistance and enlarge the liberated area. The glorious victories of the Liberation Army which smashed the "Chen-la 1" operation at the end of 1970 and the "Chen-la 2" operation at the end of 1971 caused the partial bankruptcy of the "Khmerization of the war" policy and caused the puppet army and puppet regime to be surrounded in Phnom Penh and a few other cities.

Continuing the air war, from March to August 1973, Nixon mobilized thousands of aircraft, including hundreds of B52's, to launch an extremely barbarous bombing campaign on Cambodian territory. This terrible crime of the Americans caused many personnel and property losses to the people, but it could not impede the army and people of Cambodia from stepping up the resistance and achieving greater victories.

On the way to victory, from the beginning of this year, the Cambodian Liberation Army and people opened general offensives and concentrated attacks on Phnom Penh and communication centers. With the aim of rescuing its lackeys, the Ford administration provided military aid to the puppet regime and airlifted arms and ammunition into Phnom Penh. But the revolutionary noose continued to tighten, the number of puppet army troops killed continued to grow, and (Pochen Tong) airfield, the remaining lung of the puppet army and puppet regime, was shelled violently. Meanwhile, Americans and the American Congress no longer wanted to pour more money into the bottomless pockets of Phnom Penh and Saigon; finally, realizing the situation was hopeless, Ford was forced to order the orderly evacuation of the American Embassy, admitting complete bankruptcy of American policy in Cambodia.

The defeat of the American imperialists in Cambodia was a total defeat. This was the failure of virtually all the familiar strategies and acts of imperialism and neocolonialism which bore the label of the Nixon Theory: from the counterrevolutionary coup d'etat to military intervention and from sending in American military forces to using counterrevolutionary forces against patriotic forces. Countless terrible crimes such as this finally led to withdrawal. This was a major defeat in the history of aggression and intervention of the American imperialists and an example of the changes of our era. Where are the boasts which everyone remembers: "America must control every wave of the Pacific" (Dean Rusk), "We have arrived there and will remain there" (Johnson), "Teach them a lesson (Nixon), and so on. American imperialism is inherently weak because of the irreconcilable and growing contradictions of capitalism, the violent competition of developed capitalist nations, the struggle to achieve sovereignty of nationalities, and it is obviously declining after defeats in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Recently received information indicates that the Ford administration has stated that it will continue to provide aid to Phnom Penh; however, the time has come when it can do nothing further. If, in their unprecedented weak posture, the American imperialists stubbornly pursue policies of resisting peoples as well as strategies of global aggression, warmongering and exploitation, they will suffer many new defeats.

The heroes who chased America out of Phnom Penh and who are about to free the entire country of Cambodia are the Liberation Army and people of Cambodia, the National Unified Front and the Cambodian Royal Government of National Unity, the people who elevated revolutionary heroism, who were not afraid of sacrifice and hardships, who were determined to fight and defeat the enemy army, and who were determined to regain complete independence for the fatherland and freedom for the people. The great victory of the Cambodian people reaffirms a truth about the ability of a small country that is determined to struggle to defeat the leading imperialist. This glorious victory is a brilliant page in the history of Cambodia and the history of national liberation.

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