

III. KHMER ROUGE TRADE UNION URGES
URBAN UPRISINGS--AND MIGRATION
TO "LIBERATED ZONE"

CRAN
1/72

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On 5 January Mr Nguon Eng, Chairman of the Cambodian Workers' Trade Union, issued an appeal urging workers in Phnom Penh and other towns temporarily controlled by the enemy to rise up and struggle more strongly against traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh, and to join the liberated zone together with their families.

Following is the full text of the appeal:

Brother and Sister Workers in Phnom Penh and other
Towns Temporarily Controlled by the Enemy:

Since 18 March 1970, the day when traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh fomented the criminal coup d'etat to destroy Cambodia's independence, neutrality and peace, there has not been a single day when our workers and people have not been assailed by misfortune. The traitors have opened the door for their masters and sub-masters--the U.S. imperialists and Saigon and Bangkok puppets--to commit aggression against our beloved Fatherland and massacre our people, not allowing them a moment of peace during the past two years. They have pitilessly exploited, arrested and massacred workers in the cities still under their temporary control. Taxes are very heavy and the prices of goods have skyrocketed. In Phnom Penh, spoiled rice sells for 20 riels per kilo and is still hard to find. Salt sells for 30 riels per kilo, and fish for 160 or 170 riels per kilo. Firewood and charcoal are extremely expensive and hard to find.

What can our workers buy with their monthly salaries of 1,000 or 1,500 riels? How can they feed their families? Where can they find money to buy medicine when their children are sick? Many workers are heavily in debt because of unemployment and difficulties. They even have to pawn their mosquito nets and mats. They have to tighten their belts and toil from dusk until dawn just to make a meager living.

Traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh do not care about the misfortunes of our brothers and sisters. All they care about is living a good life, indulging in debauchery, and pocketing dollars for their foreign bank accounts. In every town they build bars, dance halls and nightclubs. They push the workers in the cities as well as the people in regions still under their temporary control into an increasingly critical situation to force them to serve as soldiers or turn their children into commandos and their wives into prostitutes. This is the traitors' anti-people policy. If someone dares to oppose their oppressive acts, they will pursue, arrest and eliminate him. However, our brothers and sisters have refused to bow down to the traitors. They have always been in the front ranks of the struggle waged by the people in towns temporarily controlled by the enemy. They have displayed great courage in the struggle against the traitors by organizing demonstrations, demanding pay raises, mobilizing the masses in the political struggle against price hikes, fascist acts and isolation in the 10-and 50-house groups. They have also organized armed forces and clandestine guerrilla units in the cities, used mines and grenades to set up boobytraps, and carried out acts of sabotage against plants and depots. They have ambushed soldiers of the traitors and their masters, the U.S. aggressors. These various forms of struggle are aimed at embarrassing and wearing down the traitors.

Brother and Sister Workers in Phnom Penh and Other Towns Temporarily Controlled by the Enemy:

Your attacks in the zone temporarily controlled by the enemy, in coordination with the continuous CPNLA attacks on other fronts, have shaken the power of traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh in Phnom Penh. The chronic crises inside the traitors' regime have erupted anew and traitors Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh, In Tam, and other ousted generals are killing one another openly.

Appalled at this situation, the U.S. imperialists have resorted to all means to save the Phnom Penh traitors. They have sent planes to drop thousands of tons of bombs on our Kampuchea and introduced South Vietnamese troops to commit aggression against our country. They have also sent their own troops to invade Kampuchea. However, the U.S. imperialists will never be able to save the traitors from total annihilation.

Reality clearly shows that the struggle waged by the people of Kampuchea, who are united in a monolithic bloc under the leadership of NUFK, presided over by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, against U.S. imperialism and its valets is powerful and effective.

Brother and Sister Workers in Phnom Penh and Other Towns Temporarily Controlled by the Enemy:

At present the enemy troops are being defeated on all fronts, while the CPNLAF are launching attacks against them in all regions. The traitors' organ of central direction in Phnom Penh [words indistinct]. Brothers and sisters living near the enemy are urged to launch more violent attacks inside his ranks and unite and rise up more vigorously by organizing demonstrations and strikes for democratic rights and liberties, for the increase [words indistinct], against price hikes, against all acts of exploitation, against the shortage of rice and other goods, against the fascist acts, arrests and massacres committed by the Phnom Penh traitors, against the fascist of general mobilization, which was promulgated by the traitors to force our brothers and sisters to become commandos, soldiers and members of self-defense units to die in the traitors' place, against the barbarous acts of aggression of the ferocious Saigon puppet forces, and so forth. You must accomplish these tasks to safeguard your rights and drive the enemy into an even more confused situation.

You must increase such activities as planting mines, throwing grenades at the enemy, shooting him, and punishing him in his hiding places. You must rise up to overthrow the puppet administration of the traitors in Phnom Penh and other urban centers. You must launch attacks inside the cities and closely coordinate these attacks with those unleashed by the CPNLAF outside the cities. We are certainly capable of totally annihilating the enemy.

Those workers who have not been able to join the liberated zone are urged to join the liberated zone with their families. They can go to any place and in any number, the more the better. Our Cambodian Workers' Trade Union and NUFK are responsible for helping your families solve daily problems in the vast liberated zone. You will not have to worry about anything. Your security will be assured. You will be provided with lodging and land. Medical care will be given to you when needed. Numerous workers in urban centers have successfully rejoined the liberated zone and have been warmly welcomed! They have been given assistance by the trade union and NUFK, which ensures for them a happy life and perfect security.

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Long live the valiant struggle of the workers of Kampuchea against the acts of aggression and oppression of U.S. imperialism and its valets! Long live NUFK!