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SUCCESSIONS OF CAMBODIAN REVOLUTION DURING PAST YEAR HAILED

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[Station commentary: "The Big Leap Forward of the Cambodian Revolution"]

[Text] The year 1973 marked a great victory of the three Indochinese peoples in their anti-U.S. national salvation struggle. With the signing of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam on 27 January 1973 and the Vientiane Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos on 21 February 1973, the U.S. imperialists had to admit defeat in the aggressive and interventionist policy they had pursued for more than 10 years in these two countries and pledge to respect the sacred basic national rights of the Vietnamese and Lao peoples, end the aggressive war and withdraw the U.S. expeditionary troops.

Against this historical background, in 1973 the Cambodian revolution made a marvelous big leap forward, smashing the most reckless war escalation maneuvers of the U.S. Air Force, seriously defeating the Cambodianization strategy and driving the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in Phnom Penh into the most critical situation and isolation they have ever known.

HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR ON MICROFILM

Early in 1973, in violent and sudden offensives, the CPNLF repeatedly attacked and destroyed hundreds of military bases and posts, putting out of action a large military force and war means of the puppet Lon Nol army. The offensive of the Cambodian armed forces and people developed so strongly that the U.S. imperialist lackeys in Phnom Penh were driven into an extremely critical defensive position and faced with the danger of collapse.

To recover from this setback, the U.S. imperialists mobilized their great air force; especially their strategic air force in Southeast Asia, to continuously bomb and destroy the liberated areas of Cambodia. In particular, in early March 1973, the United States used B-52s to carpet-bomb for more than 100 consecutive days, with an average of 45 sorties a day, thus committing extremely cruel crimes against the Cambodian people.

The anti-U.S. national salvation resistance of the Cambodian people was confronted with their greatest challenge, which appeared to be insurmountable. However, with their firm will and for the sake of the independence and freedom of the fatherland, the Cambodian people and armed forces heroically overcame all difficulties and the fiery barrages of the U.S. Air Force, and continued to step up their offensive, constantly harassing the enemy and winning repeated victories. They attacked and encircled the enemy in the provincial and district capitals; cut many vital routes on the ground, on the rivers and in the air; and achieved resounding victories.

In the face of the stalwart, undaunted spirit of the Cambodian people and armed forces, and of the strong criticism of public opinion worldwide, the Nixon administration was forced to declare the cessation of the bombing of Cambodia on 15 August 1973. However, with their aggressive and extremely stubborn nature, the U.S. imperialists accelerated their interventionist and aggressive acts against Cambodia and intensified aid to the puppets to prevent them from collapsing. Along with massive introduction of weapons and war materiel to the Lon Nol clique at a rate of \$1 million a day and with an increase in military and economic aid to \$400 million a year, the United States ordered its puppets to send tens of thousands of free Khmers, who are Vietnamese of Khmer origin and who were fighting in the Saigon army's ranks, to Cambodia to strengthen the Phnom Penh mercenary troops who were on the brink of collapse.

To strengthen the Lon Nol puppet army, the United States also ordered the reactionary puppets in Bangkok and Taiwan to secretly send so-called volunteers to Phnom Penh. U.S. Embassy [officials] and the U.S. military advisers disguised as personnel bringing military equipment to the Phnom Penh administration actually had full power in Phnom Penh to organize and equip the Lon Nol army, draft combat plans and directly command this army.

However, the U.S. imperialists' activities could only prolong the survival of the Lon Nol clique, but could not absolutely reverse the situation, nor could they safeguard the Lon Nol clique from complete collapse.

Realities in Cambodia since the United States was forced to end its bombing on 15 August 1973 have proven this. Although this was the season of downpours and unfavorable weather conditions, the Cambodian armed forces and people continued to take the initiative in launching offensives on all battlefields and in winning new victories. Some 99,120 enemy aggressors were annihilated during this rainy season, double the number wiped out in the 1972 rainy season. The number of enemy vessels shot at and sunk or set afire increased 14 times.

The U.S. mercenary army in Cambodia was forced to shrink back to defend Phnom Penh and a number of cities and towns. Although the Lon Nol clique tried to establish a closely woven troop net around the city of Phnom Penh and strengthen its strong fortifications to defend its lair, Phnom Penh continued to be relentlessly shelled and attacked.

In this outburst of vigorous and relentless offensive, the Cambodian armed forces and people continued to wipe out the control machinery of the puppet administration at the basic level, thus weakening and isolating the puppet Phnom Penh administration from the central to the provincial levels and driving it into an increasingly serious crisis.

The fact that within only 1 year--last year--the Lon Nol clique had to reshuffle its cabinet four times as a result of its heavy military setbacks and numerous difficulties in all fields reflects very clearly the extreme seriousness of this crisis.

The Cambodian liberated zone, which has not only been firmly maintained but has also been increasingly expanded and occupies more than 90 percent of the territory with more than 80 percent of the entire Cambodian population, is a large, strong rear area that provides manpower and material resources for the Cambodian people's anti-U.S. national salvation resistance. In this immense liberated zone, the people's administration at all levels has been consolidated ever more firmly and strongly, and the people's livelihood has been constantly improved in all aspects. This is a support for the strong struggle movement of the masses in the areas still under temporary enemy control. This movement has been conducted against the fascist ruling yoke of the Lon Nol clique and has increasingly isolated and distressed it.

The Cambodian people's great, steady and comprehensive successes last year constantly enhanced the prestige of the NUFC and the RGNUC within the country as well as throughout the world. Tens of thousands of patriots, including a great number of notables, intellectuals, civil servants and officers, have left the ranks of the puppet administration and army for the liberated zone to participate in the anti-U.S. national salvation resistance. A number of these people turned their rifles against the aggressors before joining the revolution. For instance, in 1972 and 1973 two patriotic and progressive officers of the Phnom Penh air force dropped U.S. bombs on the Lon Nol clique's lair and then (rejoined) the liberated zone.

In the international sphere, 1973 was a year in which the position and prestige of the NUFC and the RGNUC were unprecedentedly upheld. The fine, successful visit to many African and European countries by Samdech Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk, the great support gained by the Cambodian people at the Summit Conference of Nonaligned Countries in Algiers, at the World Conference for Solidarity With the Cambodian People in Paris and at the 28th UN General Assembly session, and present recognition of the RGNUC as the sole genuine, legal government of the Cambodian people by almost 60 countries are eloquent proof of this very great diplomatic success of the Cambodian revolution.

The very great, steady and comprehensive successes of the Cambodian armed forces and people last year have created a great change in the balance of forces to the increasingly greater advantage of the Cambodian revolution and have opened up a fine new situation, filled with bright prospects for 1974. Although the U.S. imperialists continue to stubbornly prolong their aggressive war in Cambodia, to cling to and maintain the Lon Nol clique as a tool with which to implement the Nixon doctrine in Cambodia and to intensively breathe life into this clique, the practical situation in Cambodia permits us to assert that the more intensively the United States intervenes in and invades Cambodia, the farther it drives itself on its stalemated and defeated path.

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