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THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S WAR OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES FOR NATIONAL SALVATION WINS TOTAL VICTORY

Hanoi HOC TAP in Vietnamese No 233. May 75 pp 48-57

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[Text] The Cambodian people's tradition of stubborn, unyielding resistance against foreign aggression never reached the pinnacle it did during the years of the war of resistance against the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, the traitors. In 1970, the history book of the majestic land of the temples began a new chapter, the chapter of the great war of resistance against the United States for national salvation. More than 5 years later, on 17 April 1975, the people of Cambodia wrote an end to the greatest chapter in their 2,000 year history of building and defending their country. That was the day when the heroic people of Cambodia performed their most brilliant miracle: they liberated the capital of Phnom Penh and went on to liberate the entire country! The Cambodian revolution has won total victory! The sacred war of resistance against the United States for national salvation has totally defeated the insidious and cruel "Cambodianization" of the war of the U.S. imperialists and ushered in a new, brilliant period of history for the people of Cambodia.

In 1950, the United States intervened and supported the French in their war of aggression against the three countries of Indochina. Following the 1954 Geneva Convention, the United States boldly declared that it was placing Cambodia under the "protective umbrella" of the Southeast Asian aggressor bloc established by the United States. Then, the United States began using every possible trick, from bribery, influence, provoking hostilities, threats, and embargos to coup d'etats, and launched a cruel war of aggression to destroy the national independence of the royal kingdom of Cambodia. However, none of their tricks or material strength could conquer the brave hearts and indomitable will of the Cambodian people who were determined to fight and win.

On 18 March 1970, the United States arranged a military coup d'etat, the highpoint of a long-held U.S. plan, which was carried out by their lackeys, Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and so forth and had the purpose of destroying the independent, neutral Cambodian state, destroying the progressive and patriotic Cambodian forces, transforming this peaceful royal kingdom into a neo-colony and military base of theirs, establishing the Bangkok-Phnom Penh-Saigon defense line, and using Cambodia as a springboard for attacks against the revolutionary forces in Vietnam and Laos and isolating and surrounding the patriotic movement in South Vietnam. The U.S. imperialists thought that this coup d'etat would be the last game of cards dealt in the gambling houses of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos; however, the harsh realities of the situation were not what they thought they would be. Following the coup d'etat, the role and influence of the peaceful, neutral Cambodian state continued to have an impact both in and outside the country. Each stratum of people and each Cambodian patriotic revolutionary force united more tightly together under the banner of the National United Front of Cambodia and directed spearheads against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, the traitors.

Less than a few months after it was established, the Phnom Penh puppet government faced the danger of collapse. On 18 May 1970, the UPI News Agency had to admit that

the Lon Nol puppet government "had become an unusual government in Asia, it is the weakest and most threatened government in the world today." On 30 April 1970, in order to save the Lon Nol regime from a young death and in a vain attempt to smash the war of resistance of the Cambodian people and escape the danger of defeat in Vietnam and Laos, Nixon escalated the war to a very dangerous level by conducting an armed invasion of Cambodia, thereby widening the war to all corners of Indochina. Through this new act of aggression, the U.S. imperialists caused the more than 50 million people on the Indochinese peninsula to unite together in an anti-United States bloc. At that time, an American commentator said: "The consequence of the coup d'etat in Phnom Penh has been to transform Indochina into one anti-American battlefield." In fact, the U.S. war of aggression against Cambodia made the fighting unity and spirit of fraternal friendship amongst the three nations of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos as strong as a brass wall. This militant unity was expressed in the joint declaration of the high-level conference of the people of Indochina held on 24 and 25 April 1970. The three fraternal nations united together, fought together, and won victory together.

Over the past 5 years and more, developing upon their tradition of ardent patriotism and undying loyalty, the people of Cambodia, under the leadership of the National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of fraternal Vietnam and Laos, waged a people's war against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, and won the greatest victory in the history of the nation of Cambodia, liberating the entire country and ushering in a new era, one in which the Cambodian people can move steadily forward to successfully build a new Cambodia which is truly independent, sovereign, neutral, non-aligned, democratic, and prosperous and possesses territorial integrity.

The past 5 years have been a period of glorious combat filled with hardships and difficulties and a period of brilliant feats of arms by the heroic army and people of Cambodia who continuously defeated one enemy strategy after another and finally won total victory.

Faced with the survival of their nation, the people of Cambodia, in whose veins flow the blood of their brilliant Angkor ancestors of thousands of years ago, the late A-cha heroes, and the other heroes and righteous people who fought French colonialism for almost 1 century, bravely rose to wage a people's war against the United States to save the nation and their families. The revolutionary forces in Cambodia fought the enemy strongly and continuously, routed a large portion of the forces of the Phnom Penh puppet government, and took control in many provinces and large areas.

At the time the people's movement against the United States and the reactionary clique of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Cheng Heng, and so forth was spreading widely, the 5-point declaration made public on 23 March 1970 by Chief of State Norodom Sihanouk served to further build the momentum of the struggle of each strata of people in Cambodia and caused the mass movement to grow like a flood tide. In slightly less than 1 month and by coordinating military attacks with uprisings by the masses throughout the country from the countryside to the cities, the Cambodia revolution rapidly liberated a large area extending from Ratanakiri to Kampot, thereby creating a strong revolutionary current and putting the puppet government in a very perilous position.

In the face of this danger, Nixon, with total disregard for the hammer and hatchet of public opinion, recklessly launched a "blitzkrieg" operation comprised of more than 100,000 U.S. troops and Saigon puppet troops supported by several hundred aircraft (including B-52's), tanks, armored vehicles, and warships and invaded Cambodia on 30 April 1970 in a vain attempt to smash the young Cambodian revolutionary forces, rescue the floundering Lon Nol, work closely with the Phnom Penh puppet army so that it could form the backbone of the "Cambodianization" of the war plan, and, at the same time, rescue their lackeys in Saigon from danger and isolate the revolution in South Vietnam. Although this lightning-like armed invasion was disguised as necessary to "protect the lives of U.S. soldiers in South Vietnam and withdraw U.S. forces from Indochina" and was called "an operation limited in time and scope," it fooled no one. After 2 months of being upset by the army and people of Cambodia and encountering strong opposition from the peace and justice-loving people of the world, including progressive Americans, this "lightning operation" turned into a defeat and they withdrew on 30 June 1970. The blitzkrieg invasion by the United States and its lackeys was defeated and five provinces in eastern and northeastern Cambodia (Stung Treng, Krache, Ratanakiri, Monduliri, and Preah Vihear) which have a population of approximately 2 million people were totally

liberated. The majority of the land in Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Siem Reap, Kompong Speu, Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham, and Takeo Provinces was liberated. This resulted in a situation in which the cities, provincial capitals, and towns still under the control of the Phnom Penh puppet government were surrounded and isolated. Following this defeat, the United States became weaker, became more bogged down, and fell into an increasingly difficult position.

The "blitzkrieg" war strategy and the stage of the "exception" to the Nixon doctrine and its formula U.S. troops + Saigon puppet troops + U.S. firepower were tragically defeated. The "Cambodianization of the war" strategy was continued in order to carry out aggression against Cambodia. The U.S. army was forced to withdraw from Cambodia, but the Americans left behind 30,000 Saigon puppet troops and transferred 18,000 Cambodian troops from the ranger units of the Saigon puppet army to Cambodia to form the nucleus of the Lon Nol army; at the same time, they increased their military aid to 341 billion dollars in fiscal year 1971-1972 (the military aid given in fiscal year 1970-1971 was 285 billion dollars).

To develop upon the great victories they had won, the army and people of Cambodia continued to step up their fight and gradually defeated the "Cambodianization" war of the U.S. imperialists.

In early September 1970, taking advantage of the rainy season, the enemy assembled 20,000 Lon Nol troops in 50 battalions reinforced by the Americans and the Saigon puppets and opened the Chenla I operation in (Tang-Coc)-Skoun-Kompong Cham in order to relieve the siege on Route 6 and the city of Kompong Thom and then spread out to occupy the liberated zone. But things did not go as planned! The troops of Lon Nol departed amidst a fanfare of drums and flying flags but, when they reached (Tang-coc), they were stopped, fell silent, were gradually killed one after the other, and did not dare blow their bugles or beat their drums. The first test application of the Nixon doctrine in its "clearest and purest" form through the "Cambodianization of the war" strategy of the U.S. imperialists in Cambodia was bankrupted. Thus the remainder of the formula the Saigon puppet army + U.S. and Saigon firepower reinforcements was also defeated.

Like a gambler who loses who wants to do nothing but gamble some more, the United States again used the Saigon puppet army coordinated with the Phnom Penh puppet army reinforced by U.S. firepower in a vain attempt to destroy the Cambodian revolutionary forces, attack their rear areas and the eastern Cambodia corridor, and bolster the Lon Nol clique; however, the operation conducted by the Saigon puppet army also met with tragic defeat at Snoul and Mimot (Kompong Cham).

The Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces not only defeated the operations conducted by the Phnom Penh puppet army in the triangle area, (Tang-coc)-Skoun-Kompong Cham, and the operation conducted by the Saigon puppet army at Snoul-Mimot, but they also opened strong offensives against practically every key position of the enemy in the vicinity of the city of Kompong Cham, along Route 7, and along the banks of the Mekong River (9 kilometers from the center of the capital of Phnom Penh) and destroyed the Kirirum base; of significance is the fact that they destroyed the entire puppet air force comprised of 100 aircraft and practically all the forces protecting the airfield, the aircraft pilots, the technicians, warehousemen, and so forth at the Pochentong Airfield; at the same time, they inflicted heavy damages on the Chrouy Chanavar naval base and launched many artillery attacks against crucial enemy positions and agencies. The enemy was repeatedly defeated at many places and Phnom Penh was isolated. Thus, the formula of the Saigon puppet army + the Phnom Penh puppet army + U.S. firepower was also rendered useless.

Having suffered additional painful defeats and drawing ever closer to total defeat, the U.S. imperialists again turned to using the Saigon puppet army as its main force, this time in an operation called "total victory 1-71" the intention of which was to destroy the base of the resistance, occupy Krache and Kompong Cham, threaten Mondonkiri, Stung Treng, and so forth, loosen the siege on the cities, open communications, and breathe new life into the Phnom Penh puppet army; however, this operation was smashed at Chup, Suong, Snoul, and Dam Be. This glorious victory by the army and people of Cambodia perfectly coordinated with the great victory won by the armies and peoples of Vietnam and Laos on the Route 9-southern Laos front by defeating the "Lam Son 719" campaign of the Saigon puppets.

Following this rout, the Saigon army lost its role as the "assault" force, the "base," the "key" force, and so forth of the Lon Nol army and the U.S. imperialists

returned to the "Cambodianization of the war." Between August and December 1971, the enemy assembled 70 battalions under the command of U.S. officers, that is, one-fourth the military forces of Lon Nol, one-half of which were "Khmer Crom" troops who were considered to be their "best trained" troops and who served as the nucleus of this force, and many tank and armored vehicle units as well as practically the entire Phnom Penh air force, Saigon puppet aircraft, and U.S. aircraft, including B-52's, for the purpose of opening Route 6 and breaking the siege of Kompong Thom in the hope of regaining their battlefield initiative. However, this experiment met the same fate as the first experiment in the "Cambodianization of the war" which met with increasingly heavy defeats as its scale was expanded.

In their brave defeat of the "Chenla II" strategic counter-offensive, the army and people of Cambodia destroyed or inflicted heavy losses upon five brigades and 30 battalions of the Phnom Penh puppet army, put more than 12,000 troops out of combat, and captured thousands of others. After defeating the "blitzkrieg" operation, the "Chenla I" operation, the "total victory 1-1971" operation, and the "Chenla II" operation, the army and people of Cambodia repeatedly attacked the enemy on the rice front in Battambang and the military transportation front on the Mekong River and then opened the campaign to lay siege to Phnom Penh. The Lon Nol puppet army was greatly weakened and could no longer successfully offer any resistance; the troops of the Saigon puppet army had to withdraw to bolster their defense lines in South Vietnam. By the end of 1971, the position and power of the revolution were far superior to the position and power of the reactionaries. From then on, the enemy was forced to huddle in defensive positions and could no longer launch any major operations. Relief operations on the scale of 15 to 20 battalions, such as the "Phu-nan" and "Ang-co-chay" operations, which were designed to loosen the tight siege around Phnom Penh and a number of cities and larger operations of 30 battalions, such as the "So-ry-a I and So-ry-a II" (Sun) operations, which were designed to open Route 1 and Route 5 in 1972 were also rapidly defeated. The "Cambodianization" of the war strategy of the U.S. was bankrupted.

The brilliant consecutive victories won by the army and people of Cambodia further showed the strength of the people's war and the tremendous development of the Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces. No reactionary force could prevent the war of resistance against the United States for national salvation of the army and people of Cambodia from winning total victory. It was clear that, from this point on, the Lon Nol puppet army was unable to carry out any one of its three strategic missions of "defending the municipalities, cities, and towns; opening communication lines; and supporting pacification." With no hope of "opening communication lines," "carrying out pacification," or "providing protection from afar," the Lon Nol clique was relegated to withdrawing to and trying to defend Phnom Penh and the remaining cities and towns until the last day. The army and people of Cambodia tightened their siege of Phnom Penh and the various provincial capitals, completely cut land and river communications, controlled airfields, paralyzed air traffic, cut resupply routes, and surrounded the Lon Nol clique at the other places they occupied like islands on land where they faced difficulties everywhere they turned.

After being forced to sign the Paris Agreement and admit to a defeat in Vietnam, the United States continued to prop up the Lon Nol clique so that it could maintain the "Cambodianization" of the war. In the face of the Lon Nol clique's inability to stand by itself, Nixon escalated the war, staking everything on an extremely cruel air war. From 8 March 1973 to 15 August 1973, the U.S. pirates mobilized an important contingent of the air force (including strategic aircraft of all types) of the United States in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to drop thousands of tons of bombs each day to kill the people of Cambodia. This air war which lasted for 159 days and nights did not shake the will to fight of the army and people of Cambodia. In the end, the U.S. pirates had to unconditionally halt this bombing campaign. This was a brilliant victory for the people of Cambodia. On 14 August 1973, the AP News Agency commented: "Even American air power cannot stop the advance of the communists." In the Indochina situation, the U.S. imperialists had been defeated in Vietnam and Laos; as regards Cambodia, they only wanted to maintain the "Cambodianization" of the war at a certain level so that they could find a way to withdraw from this country without suffering a serious loss of face. Therefore, although the United States had ceased its bombing, it continued to support the Phnom Penh puppet clique; the United States doubled its aid (from 300 million dollars in fiscal year 1972-1973 to 688 million dollars in fiscal year 1973-1974), sent in many more heavy weapons (155 millimeter artillery pieces) and many other means of war (T28 and C123 aircraft, tanks, and armored vehicles), started an air lift and continued to transport supplies to Phnom Penh, and sent in additional advisors to



control the general staff and important economic and military agencies, establish combat plans, and take direct command of the Lon Nol army in combat.

But these desperate efforts of the United States could not weaken the Cambodian revolutionary forces nor could they block the brave offensive of the army and people of Cambodia who were destroying one base after another and breaking through one reactionary defense line after another. The encirclement of their final hiding place in Phnom Penh tightened. In early 1975, the Cambodian revolution faced an extremely favorable opportunity: the forces of the resistance were in an overwhelming position and the enemy was surrounded and isolated everywhere. The area under their control in Phnom Penh measured less than 10 kilometers in any one direction and only 3 or 4 kilometers in the other cities; communications were crippled and resupply was totally dependent upon U.S. aircraft from U.S. bases in Thailand, and the United States was encountering countless difficulties at home, in the Middle East, on Cyprus, and in Portugal; in particular, in South Vietnam, Thieu was faced with the danger of collapse and, in Laos, the Patriotic Lao Front was in a very favorable position to expand the implementation of the Vientiane agreement.

In the face of this unprecedented, extremely favorable opportunity, the army and people of Cambodia charged forward in the midst of victory into the final battle to liberate Phnom Penh and the entire country during the 1975 dry season.

In the space of the first few days of January 1975, the Cambodian liberation army overran the defense line in the outskirts of the city, destroyed 137 positions on the northern defense line (Baset--Prek Pho-nau), the southwestern defense line (Ang Snoul--Bec-chan), the eastern defense line (A-ray Kho-sat), and the northeastern defense line (Dach Kho-sach Can-dan), destroyed or inflicted heavy losses upon 16 battalions, captured more than 1,000 troops, cut the roads leading into the capital, took complete control of the Mekong river (on which approximately 80 percent of U.S. supplies reached Lon Nol), moved in on the Pochentong Airfield, threatened air traffic, maintained a constant barrage of artillery fire, and terrified the forces of the enemy more with each passing day.

Faced with the imminent collapse of the lackeys in Phnom Penh, Ford suggested to the U.S. Congress that it allocate an additional 222 billion dollars in supplemental military aid to the Phnom Penh puppet government, he doubled the size of the air lift, he sent Taylor to Phnom Penh to discuss ways of mounting a resistance, and so forth but all of these efforts were useless; from 14 February on, the situation of the Lon Nol puppets became more and more perilous in the face of the strong offensive of the army and people of Cambodia. After the army and people of Cambodia took control of the Mekong River and liberated the old capital of (U-dong) (for the second time), the defeat of the Americans and the puppets had become very obvious. Congressman Mc Closkey, one of the 8 members of the U.S. Congress to "visit" Phnom Penh suggested on his return that Lon Nol should surrender.

On 18 March, the top men of the reactionary clique, (Sot-sten), Cheng Heng, Lon Nol, and so forth, fled one after the other overseas. After the liberation of Neak Luong, the army and people of Cambodia advanced on Phnom Penh from all four directions. On 12 April, the U.S. ambassador and all U.S. military and civilian advisors fled Phnom Penh taking with them acting puppet president Saukam Khoy and dozens of other lackey officials.

On 14 April, the liberation army attacked and occupied the Cam Bon International Communications Center; on 15 April, they occupied the Pochentong Airfield; on 16 April, they attacked the Camcar Mon barracks area. The so called "Supreme Committee of the Republic" fled overseas.

On the morning of 17 April 1975, one force advanced from Pochentong to occupy the defense department; one other force advanced over the (Mo-ni-vong) bridge to occupy the presidential palace (the Chamcar Mon Palace); another force advanced from Chrouy Changvar, crossed the river, and occupied the Phnom Penh Market. At exactly 0930 hours, the offensive thrusts of the Cambodian National Liberation Army assembled their troops at the Defense Department of the Lon Nol puppet army. The entire remaining puppet army force comprised of 5 divisions and 11 brigades with approximately 100,000 troops laid down their weapons and surrendered.

The day 17 April 1975 has become an extremely glorious day in the history of the people of Cambodia: the Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces liberated the capital of Phnom Penh and liberated the entire country. The war in Cambodia

which was unleashed by the U.S. imperialists and lasted for 5 years and 1 month had ended.

Together with the great victories won on the military front, the Cambodian people also won great, important victories on the political and diplomatic fronts.

The unity of all the people, which has been a tradition of the Cambodian tribes throughout the process of building and defending their country, has today been made as strong as an iron wall with spearheads aimed at the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, the traitors. The hope to unite 1 million people as 1 in the recent war of resistance against the United States for national salvation of all the people of Cambodia became reality under the banner of the great cause of the Cambodian National United Front. It can be said that the brilliant political victory won by the people of Cambodia in the war of resistance against the United States was the formation of the Cambodian National United Front.

Through its correct political platform (uniting all the people, struggling against each plan and act of aggression of the U.S. imperialists, and overthrowing their lackeys dictatorial system in order to build a Cambodia of independence, peace, neutrality, democracy, and prosperity), the National Front widely assembled each stratum of people, each tribe, and each patriotic force to resist the United States with the sole hope of winning independence and freedom for the nation and true democracy for the people. The front is comprised of the working class and class of farmers (which serve as its foundation), national petty bourgeoisie and bourgeoisie, monks and nuns, important personalities, intellectuals, patriotic members of the imperial family, and so forth. The front was not only the most important factor in the victorious development of the Cambodian revolution in the national liberation struggle, but it is also a very important factor in protecting and building Cambodia in the new stage of the revolution.

The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia which was established by a congress of the National United Front played an important role in the war of resistance of the Cambodian people. As their only legal representative, this government, which extends from the central to the basic level and is called "the People's Service Committee" on the various echelons, has gained more and more prestige both in and outside the country. Today, this government is recognized by more than 90 governments and national liberation movements. Following liberation day, the legal seat of Cambodia in the United Nations was restored.

This government, which devoted its efforts to establishing a democratic national system, an autonomous, independent national economy, and a progressive and wholesome culture in the liberated zone, is now making every effort to play a strong role in protecting the fruits of the revolution, maintaining the security of the country, and building a Cambodian society which is new in every respect in this new stage of the revolution.

The liberation of Phnom Penh was a decisive victory, a victory which concluded the extremely brave war of resistance of the Cambodian people. The people of Cambodia can truly be proud of contributing to the third world and all of mankind the remarkable exploit of totally defeating the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the bullees of the age, the cruelest and most barbarous enemy of mankind.

In the space of only 1,855 days, the Cambodian people heroically recorded very brilliant feats of arms; they defeated the war of aggression being waged by more than 100,000 U.S. troops and Saigon puppet troops together with 50,000 Lon Nol puppet troops; they defeated the savage 159 day air war conducted by the American air force; they defeated the neo-colonialist war of U.S. imperialism carried out by nearly 200,000 Lon Nol troops with U.S. advisors, weapons, and dollars and they totally defeated the "Cambodianization of the war" strategy, the child of the Nixon doctrine in Cambodia.

The victory of liberating Phnom Penh and totally liberating the country of the brilliant Angkor culture is a great event, an unprecedented miracle in the glorious 2,000 year history of building and defending the country of the Cambodian people, the highpoint of the victorious struggle of the Cambodian people for more than 1 century against colonialist and imperialist aggression. This great victory is a marvelous and immortal epic of the patriotism and self-reliance of the determined army and people of Cambodia who have become the master of their destiny.

The glorious victory of the revolutionary struggle of the Cambodian people is a victory of the strength of 1 million people united as 1, of a heroic nation which has a just cause and a tradition of undying patriotism, is unafraid of sacrifices and hardships, is talented and resourceful, enterprising, and creative, is determined to overcome each difficulty and obstacle and determined to fight and win victory for the independence and freedom of the fatherland and for democracy and social progress; it is the victory of the correct, independent, autonomous, and self-reliant leadership line, the victory of the people's war line creatively applied to the specific conditions and circumstances of Cambodia, the Cambodian revolution, and the Cambodian revolutionary war. In an appeal made on 22 April calling for the entire country to develop upon the victory which had been won, Deputy Premier Khieu Samphan called it the victory of "the most correct leadership line possible which guided our people and our people's armed forces in waging an extremely powerful, extremely vigorous people's war..."; the victory of "the Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces, a revolutionary army determined to fight and die for the liberation of the nation and the interest of the people, an army which has the deep respect of the people, is supported by them, and has rapidly matured, an army which won victory as a result of its spirit of initiative, enterprise, and creativity..." And, it is the victory of "our great people who bore extremely great sacrifices and hardships, never talked of quitting, never yielded to the enemy, wholeheartedly supported the army..."(1) It is also the victory of the fighting unity and fraternal friendship of the peoples of the three countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos who have shared "similar adversities, wholeheartedly helped one another, fought together, and won victory together" and received the sympathy, support, and assistance of the countries of the socialist camp, the nationalist countries, peace and justice loving forces, friends near and far, and progressive mankind, including progressive Americans.

In the 2,000 year history of the Cambodian people, this victory is one of the greatest victories ever won and has ushered in a new era in which the people of Cambodia can move steadily forward to successfully build "a new Cambodia which is truly independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral, non-aligned, democratic, and prosperous and possesses territorial integrity." This victory has given Cambodia a new stature and raised it to the position of the vanguard nations in the struggle against imperialism throughout the world. The great victory of the Cambodian people offers further proof of the truth of the age, namely, that a small, sparsely populated nation can, if it is determined and unites to fight for independence and freedom, has correct and creative political and military lines, and receives the sympathy and support of the revolutionary forces of the world, possess invincible power and defeat aggressor imperialists, even the ringleaders of imperialism with their much wealth and many weapons regardless of how aggressive, cruel, and obstinate they might be.

This victory of great historical significance, which has further enhanced the fame of the great country and people of Cambodia, has made a worthy contribution to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress throughout the world, helped further change the balance of power in the world in a manner favorable to revolutionary forces, driven back imperialism, led by the United States, another step, and helped bankrupt the global strategy of the United States. This victory has strongly inspired the peoples of the three countries of Indochina and the national liberation movements in Southeast Asia and the world to charge forward to win even greater victories.

Vietnam and Cambodia are two close neighbors, two close comrades in arms who, for generations, have fought in the same trench against their common enemies, French colonialism, Japanese fascism, and U.S. imperialist aggression, and who have had the same combat objectives, namely, national independence, the freedom and happiness of the people, and social progress.

In the course of their fight, our two nations have shared both joy and sorrow, showed concern for one another in times of difficulty, and shared the joy of each other's victory. The destinies of the two nations of Vietnam and Cambodia are closely linked together. Immediately after they were invaded by the French colonialists, the patriots and people of our two countries began closely coordinating in combat. Each time the French imperialists submerged an uprising by the people of Vietnam in a sea of blood, they also killed and imprisoned Cambodian patriots who resisted them. During the years between 1930 and 1935, they massacred people who partook in the Nghe-Tinh Soviet movement and, at the same time, suppressed the (A-cha Miec) and (A-cha Po-rinh) movements in Cambodia. In 1940 they very cruelly terrorized the participants in the Nam Ky uprising and, in 1942, they massacred

the people who participated in the (A-cha Hem-chieu) uprising. The people of Vietnam have great admiration for the fraternal people of Cambodia and are very excited and enthusiastic over the great victory they have won by liberating the entire country of Cambodia and we consider this great victory our victory, too.

The great victory of the Cambodian people has strongly inspired the people of Vietnam to implement the Testament of the revered President Ho: build a Vietnam of peace, unity, independence, democracy, prosperity, and power.

With boundless joy over the great victory won by the people of Cambodia, the people of Vietnam firmly believe that these two nations which have worked so closely together in combat for these many years will grow closer together in order to build their countries together and build a spirit of unity and friendship as strong as the immortal "Truong Son and O-ran."

The Vietnamese are determined to strengthen their unity and friendship and develop their mutual cooperative relations with the Cambodians in a warm fraternal spirit and on the basis of respecting the independence, sovereignty, and equality of each nation, enhancing the independence and freedom of each nation, and for the sake of developing each country in keeping with the course chosen by it. The Vietnamese pledge to work with the peoples of Cambodia and Laos to make the three countries of Indochina independent, peaceful, democratic, and prosperous nations in which the peoples of the three countries are the masters of their own destinies and will always live together in happiness, love, and mutual respect.

The revolutionary struggle of the Cambodian people has won a great victory and is entering a new stage, a stage which offers many new advantages. Firmly confident that the Cambodian revolution will move steadily forward, the people of Vietnam sincerely wish the fraternal people of Cambodia many new and increasingly large victories in their work of protecting the fruits of the revolution and successfully building a Cambodia of independence, sovereignty, peace, neutrality, non-alignment, democracy, and prosperity.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Speech delivered by Khieu Samphan at the reception for the PRG delegation which visited Cambodia in December 1974.

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