

League delegation meets fighters of Revolutionary Army

Kampuchea wages people's war

Five members of a CCL(ML) delegation visited Democratic Kampuchea Dec. 23-30. The following article is the first in a series that will bring FORGE readers exclusive reports of what they saw and heard.

"We will win victory", said Ieng Sary, Kampuchea's Deputy Prime Minister, after leaving Kampuchea on a trip to China January 11. Comrade Ieng Sary reports that the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army and people are fighting the invaders throughout the country, including around Phnom Penh. Indicating that "there are liberated zones," he added that Pol Pot, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, is alive and well leading the resistance in the countryside.

Our visit to Kampuchea just before the invasion convinced us that the Kampuchean people, led by their Communist Party, are well prepared to wage a successful protracted people's war against the Vietnamese ag-

gressors:

On the morning of Dec. 28 our delegation, protected by Kampuchean revolutionary soldiers, was taken for a first-hand look at Kampuchea's defense preparations only five kilometers from the Vietnamese border. On Route 2 in Takeo province we could hear quite clearly the thunder of Vietnamese bombardments. A counter-attack by Kampuchea's revolutionary army silenced the Vietnamese guns at 11:30.

In the distance, about a kilometre from the frontier, we could see a group of peasants gathering rice. Comrade Roueng, the military commander of the region said: "our peasants are ready at any time to



Forge photo

DELEGATION of the CCL(ML) led by Roger Rashi meets with Kampuchean Prime Minister Pol Pot (centre) and Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary (right) in Phnom Penh Dec. 29.

lay down their scythes and take up their guns. In our country the army works like the people and the people fight like the army".

The Kampuchean people are no strangers to people's war. In 1975, after a five year battle, they successfully defeated the US superpower despite its B-52's 5000 tons of bombs a day and napalm.

As the Kampuchean comrades explained to us, the people have not been idle in the three years since liberation. They have used the time to prepare for the inevitable attack from the Vietnamese aggressors and their Soviet backers.

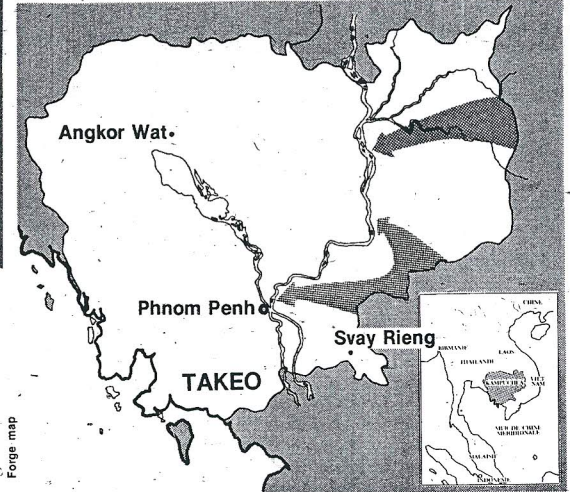
Roueng, a former poor peasant and a member of the CPK, had already fought against the forces of former South Vietnamese puppet Thieu, the army of the Cambodian traitor Lon Nol, and the US. He told how the Kampuchean had turned back Vietnamese aggression in Takeo province, a year earlier,

by classic guerilla warfare. "When they entered our country, we attacked on their flanks and behind, cutting the enemy into groups and wiping them out one by one. In 17 days they had been routed".

Comrade Pol Pot told the League delegation: "The Communist Party of Kampuchea is firm and we will always refuse to be slaves of Vietnam. We have a people who are united and if it takes 10, 20 or 100 years we will never let the Vietnamese swallow our country."

This is the same strategy of people's war that the Kampuchean people follow across the country: allow the enemy to enter and then attack, harass the enemy so he doesn't have a minute's rest, cut off the enemy's supply and communication lines, never engage a superior enemy in a frontal battle. The peasants also set mines and traps of camouflaged pits hiding lethal bamboo spears in which the enemy, who doesn't know the territory, inevitably falls.

We saw in Kampuchea that the whole country was organized



Forge map

to wage a people's war. The cities are empty since the Kampuchean people have no intention of providing the Vietnamese with a target for their attacks. In a country like Kampuchea the countryside is the key to con-

trolling the country, and it is here that the CPK and the revolutionary army have organized the people.

The network of agricultural cooperatives was custom made for guerilla warfare; each is self sufficient and can supply and organize its own guerilla force.

VIETAMESE AGGRESSION

The Vietnamese aggression over the last two weeks shows us how the Party was well prepared for the massive invasion and that its decisions were correct: to evacuate the cities, targets of enemy bombs and occupation, to organize self-sufficient cooperatives and to maintain a guerilla army, as one with the people.

Delegation holds press conferences

Upon its return, the League delegation organized or participated in press conferences in three of the country's large cities: Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa.

Several dailies, including the Toronto Star, and Montreal's La Presse and Le Devoir, published articles on the delegation's visit to Kampuchea and their statements denouncing Vietnam's naked aggression.

The delegation gave interviews on the CBC and Radio-Canada national television networks as

well as on other private stations. Several radio stations invited the delegation on information or open-line programs.

At the press conference organized January 10 by the Committee of Patriots of Democratic Kampuchea, a Committee member exposed the new regime installed by Vietnam as a gang of puppets. He stated that out of 12 members of the new "government", six names weren't even Kampuchean, and that no Kampuchean had ever heard of the six others.

He demanded that the Canadian government not recognize the puppet regime.

The same day 90 people picketed the Vietnamese embassy in Ottawa to denounce the invasion. The protest was organized by the Third World People's Anti-Imperialist Committee (CAPT) and the Kampuchean patriots, and supported by the League. This was the first of a series of meetings and actions to be organized by CAPT, with the support of several other groups, in the coming weeks.



Forge photo

SOLDIERS of Kampuchea's revolutionary army on the Mekong River near Phnom Penh.