

Invasion

Cambodian Liberators Making Gains

Well over one-third of the territory of Cambodia is already solidly in the hands of the National United Front (NUF)—a total of 25,000 square miles.

In most of the rest of the country, except for the capital of Phnom Penh and a few other big towns, government control by the military clique headed by Gen. Lon Nol is virtually nonexistent.

The Lon Nol regime, which deposed neutralist head of state Norodom Sihanouk in March, is in deep trouble on every front and may well demand and receive considerable American aid.

The Nixon administration appears to be setting the stage for vastly increased U.S. involvement. The White House statement April 24 that Cambodia has been subjected to an invasion by North Vietnamese troops seems the first move in this direction.

Giving the lie to this myth—the same that was used as a pretext for the U.S. invasion of South Vietnam and the bombings of the North—is the fact that the NUF-controlled areas include the mountains along the border of Thailand in the extreme West, hundreds of miles from frontiers with Vietnam. Elephant mountains, overlooking the coastal areas in the South and most of Stung Treng province that adjoins Laos in the North.

The regions controlled by the NUF include some of the richest—in terms of rice and fish—and most densely populated. Apart from the CIA-trained "Khmer Serei" (Lon Nol's storm troopers recruited mainly from the Cambodian minority in South Vietnam), the Cambodian army is refusing to fight.

Cambodian liberators in control

A French journalist has described on Paris radio and television this weekend how he was captured in the "Parrot's Beak" in Svay Rieng province. He thought his captors were "Vietcong" but they were in fact from the Cambodian liberation army which controlled the whole area where he was captured and through which he was taken to the point he was freed.

Reports in the French press in the past week insist on the decisive role being played in the fighting by the Cambodian resistance forces. This aspect plus the massacres of Cambodian civilians of Vietnamese origin has undoubtedly influenced the French government in its attitude toward the Lon Nol regime.

An official delegation headed by Lon Nol's foreign minister Phou Proung and the army chief of staff Brig. Gen. Srey Saman was ignored when it arrived at the Paris airport last week. Its request for military aid was rejected. One of the tasks of this delegation was to preside over a meeting in Paris of 14 Cambodian heads of diplomatic missions in Africa and Europe and give instructions that Cambodian students abroad—who are almost unanimously for Sihanouk—are to be brought under control. The diplomats were also told the Cambodian missions in the socialist world would be cut to the minimum but that diplomatic relations would be established with South Vietnam, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia.

At the Paris conference on Vietnam, delegates of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam vigorously attacked Nixon's April 20 speech promising new troop withdrawals. Nguyen Minh Vy pointed out that even if the 150,000 troops were withdrawn according to Nixon's schedule, there would still be 280,000 U.S. troops and 70,000 from satellite countries in South Vietnam in the spring of 1971. He accused Nixon of wanting to prolong "indefinitely the U.S. occupation of South Vietnam."

up U.S. intervention and aggression and their own role as U.S. henchmen, traitors to the Khmer people and opponents of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression. It is also for this purpose that they are feverishly launching an anti-Vietnam campaign, repressing and terrorizing the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia, causing enmity between the two peoples. The most savage evidence of this can be found in the massacre of the Vietnamese nationals in Prasaut April 9.

The United States has shamelessly clamored about its so-called respect for the right to self-determination of the South Vietnam population, the independence and sovereignty of Laos and Cambodia, the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos. However, the realities in the past years have shown clearly that in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, it is the United States which has infringed upon the national rights of the Indochinese peoples, trampled underfoot all these international agreements and created all the troubles and tension in that area.

Cycle of involvement

Just as has been pointed out by many people in U.S. political circles with regard to Vietnam, the United States has gone from military aid to logistics and air support and then direct involvement of U.S. or satellite troops.

At present in Laos, the United States is almost nearing the end of that path. Troops from Thailand have already been introduced in Laos. To complete the process, it has only to massively introduce U.S. troops for direct armed aggression.

Meanwhile in Cambodia, that process has just been started by the March 28 coup and the coup makers are trying to pave the way for the next steps of U.S. aggression.

That is why, the United States must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from the serious situation it has deliberately created.

In such a situation, the facts that the Nixon administration escalated the war in Laos, staged a coup d'etat in Cambodia and attempted to expand the war to the whole of the Indochinese peninsula are but aimed at retrieving its defeat in South Vietnam and gaining a position of strength at the Paris conference on Vietnam.

By Wilfred Burchett
Guardian staff correspondent

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON

This Saturday, May 9th, in Washington, there will be a demonstration to protest U.S. involvement in Cambodia. It is being organized by Sam Brown through the New Mobilization committee. Supposedly there will be two meeting areas one in LaFayette Park, which as of this time is illegal, and one in the Washington Monument area which is legal. As many different colleges as possible are asked to send at least two representatives, but of course there is no limit to the interested people who may attend. The group is acting as a lobby and will not disband until Congress takes action.

Washington — The House has refused to either oppose or endorse President Nixon's decision to send troops into Cambodia.

It rejected five amendments that were offered to the 20-billion dollar weapons bill. After an all-day debate, it approved the bill 326 to 69.

Neocolonialist aggression

Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh, speaking for the PRG said the speech "only confirmed our opinion when we say that the Nixon administration has in no way abandoned its policy of neocolonialist aggression in South Vietnam."

Both delegates accused the U.S. of having escalated the war in Laos and of having plotted the coup in Phnom Penh to extend the war to Cambodia.

The DRV-PRG position on the expanded U.S. aggression into Laos and Cambodia was summed up by Nguyen Minh Vy at the Paris conference the week earlier. Following are portions of his remarks:

It is more and more evident that the Nixon administration talks peace but makes war; it talks of the respect for the right to self-determination of other nations, but in fact, commits aggression.

Since the end of the first Indochinese war, the United States—in the framework of its global strategy—has been systematically carrying out a policy of intervention into and aggression against the Indochinese countries.

We have on many occasions pointed out the U.S. ambition of turning the Indochinese countries into new-type U.S. colonies and military bases, an ambition which many U.S. officials in the past have spoken about without scruple. And for dozens of years now, the United States has not for a single moment stopped pursuing that scheme of aggression.

Sham independence

The familiar maneuver of the U.S. is to set up a reactionary administration to serve as its stooge under a signboard of sham "independence" or at times "neutrality." Such an administration would be an instrument and at the same time a smokescreen for the U.S. policy of intervention and aggression.

That is the nature and the role of the successive Saigon administrations, from Ngo Dinh Diem in the past to the Thieu-Ky-Khieu at present. That is the nature and the role of the present Vientiane administration headed by Souvanna Phouma in Laos. Despite the efforts made by the Nixon administration to sow confusion on the issue, it must be borne in mind that this administration is quite different from Lao National Union government set up after the 1962 Geneva Conference on Laos, consecrated by the King of Laos and headed at the time by the same Souvanna Phouma who was then the representative of the neutral party. Since the National Union Government was an obstacle for the implementation of U.S. scheme of aggression in Laos, the U.S. subsequently replaced it by a stooge administration which is the present Vientiane government.

Traitors to the Khmer people

That is also the nature and the role of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak group in Phnom Penh, which staged the March 28 coup in Cambodia.

They are trying to put up a face of "independence" and "neutrality" in an attempt to cover

Legal Issues of US Position

Based on committee research under leadership of Hon. Wayne Morse of Oregon

For the reasons documented in our memorandum our committee has reached the regrettable but inescapable conclusion that the actions of the United States in Vietnam contravene the essential provisions of the United Nations Charter, to which we are bound by treaty; violate the Geneva accords, which we pledged to observe; are not sanctioned by the treaty creating the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization; and violate our own Constitution and the system of checks and balances which is the heart of it, by the prosecution of the war in Vietnam without a congressional declaration of war.

The principal argument advanced in the State Department's memorandum is that our Government's action in Vietnam is justified under article 51 of the United Nations Charter sanctioning "individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations." However, South Vietnam is indisputably not a member of the United Nations and, indeed, under the Geneva accords of 1954, is merely a temporary zone. Moreover, since the Geneva accords recognized all of Vietnam as a single state, the conflict in Vietnam is "civil strife" and foreign intervention is forbidden.

In addition, the right of collective self-defense under article 51 is limited to those nations which are within a regional community which history and geography have

developed into a regional collective defense system. The United States—a country separated by oceans and thousands of miles from Southeast Asia and lacking historical and ethnic connections with the peoples of that area—cannot qualify as a bona fide member or a regional collective defense system for southeast Asia.

The State Department's memorandum also contends that the actions of the United States "being defensive in character and designed to resist armed aggression, are wholly consistent with the purposes and principles of the charter and specifically with article 2, paragraph 4." Yet article 2, paragraph 4, declares in clear and unambiguous language that "all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

Our Government has often urged that our presence in South Vietnam is solely to preserve freedom for its people and to uphold the democratic process. Yet the series of regimes supported by the United States in South Vietnam have been authoritarian in character, quite without popular support and largely indifferent to the welfare of the local population.

As we have stated, our committee has also come to the painful conclusion that our Government's action in Vietnam violates the clear provision of our Constitution which vests in Congress exclusively the power to declare war—a power not constitutionally granted to the President.

Allies Pursuing 3 Cross-Border Drives



The third major allied operation (1) in Cambodia was opened yesterday in the northeastern province of Ratanakiri. Light contact with Vietnamese Communist forces was reported.

In one of the other allied cross-border operations, in the Fishhook sector (2) northwest of Saigon, additional substantial caches of enemy war materials, food

and medical supplies were uncovered.

In the Parrot's Beak (3), sweeps of enemy base camps and suspected areas continued.

The Vietnamese Communist forces (4) that are advancing in the direction of Phnom Penh from the capital, but the pressure on it appeared to be more psychological than military.