

# Burchett can't be believed anymore

*The following letter is reprinted from the July 1, 1979, issue of the Manchester Guardian.*

Wilfred Burchett's article (May 20) on the alleged atrocities of the Democratic Kampuchean government of Pol Pot is in the final analysis an attempt to apologize for Vietnamese and Soviet aggression in Kampuchea (formerly called Cambodia). The Vietnamese and Soviet news agencies have consistently spread these slanders in an attempt to somehow justify and divert attention from what amounts to nothing less than an outright invasion and military occupation of Kampuchea.

The fact that Mr. Burchett's main source of information is none other than Vietnam's puppet government in Phnom Penh must raise serious questions as to his own credibility. . . .

At the very end of his article Mr. Burchett finally comes to the main point he is trying to establish: that all is now well in Kampuchea as elections are being held in villages and people are taking part in the planting of rice. Yet, on the contrary, because of the widespread destruction of irrigation dams by Vietnamese troops and their transporting of Kampuchean rice to feed Vietnam's own starving population, Kampucheans under this new government are facing famine for the first time since the defeat of the U.S. in '75.

Virtually every account (besides those from Vietnam and the Soviet bloc) of the current situation in Kampuchea reports of country-wide resistance against the Vietnamese, Russian and Cuban occupying troops. . . . Kampucheans have cut all the major highways, blown up bridges and even made raids on the capital city.

One question that Mr. Burchett continues to avoid is if the alleged atrocities were true how is it possible that Pol Pot can be leading such a widespread war of resistance against the Vietnamese occupying troops and this new government they have installed? History is showing that Mr. Bruchett simply does not have an answer.

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