

Form Kampuchea support group at NYC meeting

New York—A national Kampuchea Support Committee was established here Feb. 18 to plan coordinated activities in support of the Kampuchean resistance and against the Vietnamese invasion of that country.

Activists from more than 10 cities took part in the meeting. Among those who attended were several Southeast Asian scholars, veteran activists from the anti-war movement, Kampuchean patriots living in the United States, and individuals who have been active in local Kampuchea support coalitions.

In a statement adopted by the meeting, the new committee declared: "We support the current struggle of the Kampuchean people led by the government of Democratic Kampuchea to restore their country's national independence. In this light, we oppose Vietnam's invasion and armed occupation of Kampuchea."

It was agreed that the main point of unity and main thrust of the committee's work would be support for Kampuchea's independence, and that people with differing views about the domestic policies of the Kampuchean government over the last four years would be welcome to join on the basis of common opposition to the current invasion.

If the committee's work is to be successful in mobilizing U.S. public opinion, the meeting emphasized that it must be done in a very broad way. Ideas included mobilizing artists to defend Kampuchea's cultural relics from pillage by the invaders, organizing doctors to donate medicine, and developing trade union support for the resistance. A consistent theme throughout the meeting was the need to reach out to all those who opposed the U.S.-Indochina war in the 1960s and '70s and reactivate them against the Vietnamese aggression that is now taking place with the heavy backing of the USSR.

It was decided that the immediate activities of the Kampuchea Support Committee over the next two months should be the building of a mass educational conference at the end of April in New York. The conference would seek to bring together a variety of scholars, experts and activists to offer in-depth education about the Kampuchean struggle.

The new committee urgently needs funds as well as assistance in carrying out all the tasks it has set for itself. To contribute to these efforts, contact: Kampuchea Support Committee, c/o London, 41 St. Marks Place, New York, 10003.