

# 'THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE WILL DEFEAT THE AGGRESSORS'

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF PATRIOTS OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA IN FRANCE

On April 12th, in Paris, comrade Nghet Chopininto, Chairman of the Committee of Patriots of Democratic Kampuchea in France, gave an interview to *Class Struggle*. We reprint below a shortened version of the interview.

*CLASS STRUGGLE: Could you tell us something about the origins of Kampuchea's struggle against Vietnamese aggression?*

N.C. The Kampuchean people and the Communist Party of Kampuchea have long suffered from the deceit and aggression of the Vietnamese authorities. This goes back into history, and it continued after the formation of the Communist Party of Kampuchea in 1960. The Vietnamese authorities opposed the line of our Party which was one of independence and combined political and military struggle against US imperialism. They said that it was impossible for a Party to be independent and sovereign in the present day. You can read about this long struggle in the *Black Book\** on Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea.

From 1977 onwards this contradiction became extremely acute. In that year, the Vietnamese authorities launched a full-scale attack on Kampuchea. That attack was defeated on January 6th, 1978. Since then the people of Kampuchea have been stocking food, arms and medicine in preparation for a further invasion and in anticipation of a people's war of resistance. So when the invasion came at the end of last year, we were prepared.

The invasion was of the most barbarous kind. At first the Vietnamese troops were unable to advance against our forces. So they carried out widescale and indiscriminate bombing attacks. As they advanced they burned everything; they massacred the people. (They were particularly inhuman to members of the Communist Party of Kampuchea), and raped and bayoneted women and young girls.

*CLASS STRUGGLE: What was the reaction of the Communist Party of Kampuchea to this attack, and what is the present situation?*

N.C. Under the leadership of comrade Pol Pot, the Communist Party decided on a strategic retreat, in order to save lives and regroup our forces. On January 5th, Pol Pot called on the people to wage a popular war of long duration. After regrouping the Kampuchean forces counter-attacked. Their basic tactic is that of encircling the Vietnamese armies and defeating them little by little.

At the present time, all the Vietnamese troops are surrounded by Kampuchean forces. The Vietnamese are suffering heavy losses - they haven't enough food or drink, and can't attend properly to their wounded. Every time that the enemy leaves the towns to steal rice from our people our Revolutionary Army intercepts them.

On March 17th, our forces liberated the strategic town of Kompong Speu, 50 kilometres from Phnom Penh and on Highway 4. Over 600 Vietnamese soldiers and one Russian commander were killed. This was a serious blow to the Vietnamese aggressors.

*CLASS STRUGGLE: How much international support have you received in your struggle?*

N.C. The Vietnamese aggression, supported by the international expansionism of the USSR has been denounced by all the countries and people who stand for peace, independence and justice in the world today. In the Security Council of the United Nations, 13 out of 15 countries denounced Vietnamese aggression and called for the immediate withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. Only the USSR and Czechoslovakia opposed this demand. Twice now the USSR has vetoed resolutions of the non-aligned countries in support of Kampuchea. It has also vetoed the resolution supporting our struggle from the ASEAN countries (Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Phillipines). Everywhere the Vietnamese aggressors and Soviet expansionists are being denounced, exposed and isolated.

We have received help from many friendly countries, in particular from the People's Republic of China. Indirectly, too, the just counter-attack of the Chinese people against Vietnamese aggression helped the Kampuchean people in their protracted struggle. We have also received support from many parties and organisations throughout the world.

*CLASS STRUGGLE: The people of Britain, like people throughout the world support the struggles of small countries against aggression, but what is the wider significance of the Kampuchean struggle?*

N.C. In Vietnam at present, martial law has been declared and there is a massive general military mobilisation. The whole country is on a war footing. At the same time Soviet warships are delivering large numbers of armaments to Cam Rhan Bay naval base - the former US base which the Vietnamese authorities have now given to the USSR. They are also airlifting supplies continually to Hanoi. I have already spoken of Russian "advisers" in Kampuchea. Well, their numbers are increasing, as too is the number of Cuban troops.

All this is a prelude to an intensification of the war threat, not only against Kampuchea but against the whole of South East Asia. This is turn is only part of the USSR's aggressive aims against the whole world.

The Soviet hegemonists, together with their Vietnamese and Cuban mercenaries want to extend their tentacles everywhere. In South East Asia they are aiming for control of the Straits of Malacca, the main sea route between Asia and Europe.

Faced with this aggression, the people of the world are fighting back against the expansionism of the USSR and the tensions created by them and their mercenaries throughout the world. You can be sure that the Kampuchean people will defeat these aggressors. We are also confident that in the rest of the world as well, the people will be victorious and peace will win out over war.

\*Black Papers (Excerpts) Vols 1&2. Facts and evidence of the acts of aggression and annexation by Vietnam against Kampuchea. September 1978. pp76. Red Flag Publications, Canada. 50p each (+15p postage) Available from New Era Books.