

revive the small country, which has been horribly devastated by the death cult-style mass extermination and social regimentation policies of the present regime. Western press reports say the program includes "freedom of residence, movement, association and religion ... a planned economy, with markets, banks and a currency, and an end to forced labor."

Analysts of the region have placed great significance on the formation of the United Front, and see it as evidence of the intention of Cambodian nationalists and the allied government of Vietnam to pursue a military overthrow of the Pol Pot regime. The joint Cambodian-Vietnamese military forces already control major portions of the eastern region of Cambodia, and have begun a dry-season military offensive.

Opposing them are the dwindling forces of Pol Pot, who is being kept in power by a Chinese "advisor" corps, estimated by some press sources at 20,000 and by Vietnamese sources at up to 100,000. Chinese arms, particularly jet fighters, have been flowing into the country in an attempt to shore up the regime's fighting capability, but battlefield reports are clear that these efforts have been almost completely unsuccessful.

Manipulated by Peking

The Carter Administration has decided to ignore these battlefield trends and the character of the Cambodian regime, setting the stage for another American fiasco

in Indochina. The U.S.'s consistent backing of losers in Southeast Asia — first the French, then an assortment of minor puppets, and now the Pol Pot horror — stems from its consistent lack of any real policy, except "stopping" somebody else.

Peking is aware of this and has moved to manipulate every shade of American political opinion for its own designs. Last week Chinese Deputy Premier Teng told syndicated columnist Robert Novak that the United States should drop negotiations with the Soviet Union for a SALT II treaty and instead normalize relations with China to "contain" Moscow.

Americans, said Teng, need not fear that China will doublecross them and normalize relations with the Soviet Union after the U.S. makes its move toward China — a possibility entertained by many "traditionalists" in the State Department opposed to the Brzezinski-Holbrooke policy. To entice U.S. conservatives, Teng proposed that Taiwan could still maintain its own system of economy and government while united with China.

The *New York Times* reported on its front page Dec. 6 that the Administration is "seriously concerned" about the conflict between Vietnam and Cambodia and the Treaty of Peace and Friendship recently signed between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. China has denounced the treaty, which Vietnam signed to help bolster its national security, as evidence of Vietnam's "puppet" status of the Soviet Union, a

The USSR-Vietnam treaty

Here is the official translation of the articles of the "Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation" signed by the Soviet Union and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Moscow Nov. 4.

Article 1: In accordance with the principles of socialist internationalism the High Contracting Parties will go on strengthening relations of unbreakable friendship, solidarity and fraternal mutual aid. They will steadfastly develop political relations and deepen all-round cooperation, will give each other all-out support based on reciprocal respect for state sovereignty and independence, equality and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Article 2: The High Contracting Parties will join efforts for strengthening and expanding reciprocally advantageous economic, scientific and technical cooperation with the purpose of accelerating socialist and communist construction, of steadily raising the material, cultural and living standards of the peoples of their countries.

The Sides will continue long-term coordination of their national-economic plans, will correlate forward-looking measures towards developing crucial branches of the economy, science and engineering, will exchange knowledge and experience accumulated in socialist and communist construction.

Article 3: The High Contracting Parties will facilitate cooperation between organs of state power and public organizations, will promote broad ties in the spheres of science

and culture, education, literature and the arts, the press, radio and television, public health, environmental protection, tourism, physical culture and sports, and in other fields. They will stimulate the development of contacts between working people of the two countries.

Article 4: The High Contracting Parties will pursue an all-out and consistent struggle for the further strengthening of fraternal relations, of unity and solidarity among socialist countries on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

They will bend every effort towards the consolidation of the world socialist system, will make a vigorous contribution to the development and protection of socialist gains.

position the Administration has now adopted.

The *Times* article followed by one day similar statements by Holbrooke, who told the *Washington Post* in an interview that the Carter Administration has not normalized relations with Vietnam because of the Vietnam-Cambodia conflict. Later, a State Department press spokesman labeled the Cambodian United Front an "instrument" of Vietnam, while the *Post* quoted an unnamed Administration official as saying the normalization of relations with Vietnam is being considered only within the "strategic" context of United States relations with China and the Soviet Union.

U.S. business stymied

Aside from the strategic disaster of the Administration's current "policy," the concern voiced by the State Department over Vietnam's relations with the Soviet Union is a blatant fraud. Hundreds of American corporations are known to be itching to begin full economic and trade relations with Vietnam, but are being blocked by the refusal of the State Department and the National Security Council to normalize relations with Hanoi.

Officials of the newly formed U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council report that Vietnam is offering extensive trade and other arrangements to American firms, arrangements these officials argue could reduce Vietnam's overwhelming dependence on the Soviet

Union for economic aid. One American businessman who recently visited Hanoi for three weeks was shocked when he returned and tried to brief State Department officials on the extensive information he had gathered during his stay. The State Department wasn't interested.

To internationalize the real issues in the Indochinese conflict, the Vietnamese have sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council laying the blame for the present situation on "the Peking authorities' expansionist policy in Southeast Asia" whose aim "is to exclusively occupy the East Sea, to pit the three Indochinese countries against one another, and to push the Association of Southeast Asian Nations into opposing Vietnam and Laos." They are pursuing a "policy to divide Southeast Asian countries in an attempt to carry out Chinese hegemony in the region," the letter charged. (The full text accompanies this report.)

Most of the region's leaders share this assessment of the situation, despite the delusions entertained by Holbrooke that the U.S. "shares" with Southeast Asia the suspicions of Vietnamese intentions in signing the treaty with the Soviet Union. The Indian weekly *New Wave* reports that the Indonesian Foreign Minister, on a recent trip to New Delhi, told Indian officials that "Chinese aggressiveness" left the Vietnamese no option but to seek such a treaty with the Soviets.

—Dean Andromidas

Article 5: The High Contracting Parties will go on bending every effort for protecting international peace and the security of the peoples, will vigorously counteract all the designs and machinations of imperialism and reactionary forces, will support the just struggle for the final eradication of colonialism and racism in all its forms and manifestations, will support the struggle of the non-aligned countries, the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for strengthening independence, in defence of sovereignty, for the right to freely dispose of their natural resources, for the establishment of new international economic relations free from inequality, diktat and exploitation, will support the striving of the peoples of Southeast Asia for peace, independence and cooperation among them.

They will unwaveringly come out for the development of relations between countries with different social systems on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, for expanding and deepening the detente process in international relations, for the final exclusion of aggression and annexionist wars from the life of the peoples, in the name of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

Article 6: The High Contracting Parties will consult each other on all important international issues affecting the interests of the two countries. In case one of the parties becomes the object of attack or of threats of attack, the High Contracting Parties will immediately begin mutual consultations for the purpose of removing that threat and taking appropriate effective measures to ensure the peace and security of their countries.

Article 7: The present Treaty does not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties under bilateral and multilateral agreements now in force, concluded with their participation, nor is it directed against any third country.

Article 8: The present Treaty is subject to ratification and will come into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification which shall take place in the city of Hanoi at the earliest date.

Article 9: The present Treaty is concluded for the period of 25 years and will be automatically prolonged every time for another 10-year period, unless either of the High Contracting Parties gives notice of its wish to terminate it twelve months before the expiration of the respective period.