

The new government's program

The following excerpts, taken from the Declaration of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation and released on Dec. 3, 1978 by Saperamean Kampuchea (SPK), news agency of the Front, contain the key elements of the Front's program for transforming ravaged Cambodia into a modern industrial republic.

... Following the restoration of our total independence, our people could have enjoyed peace, devoted might and main to national reconstruction, and established relations of solidarity and friendship with socialist countries and all countries loving peace, independence and freedom in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

However, during the past three years, things have happened in a completely opposite way. A dictatorial, militarist, and fascist regime, matchless in history for its ferocity, has been installed in Kampuchea. The reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang and their families have totally usurped power, sought by all means to betray the country and harm the people, causing innumerable sufferings and mournings to our fellow Kampucheans, and threatening our people with extermination. It is the Chinese authorities who have encouraged and backed to the hilt these traitors and tyrants.

Only a few days after liberation, under the signboard "all-round, radical social revolution", and "social purification" they razed the towns and forced millions of people in cities and urban centers to leave their homes and property for the countryside to lead a precarious life and die slowly through hard labour.

They have cut all sacred sentiments of people toward their parents, between brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, and even among neighbours. In fact, they have razed villages where our people have lived and woven sentimental ties for thousands of years.

They proclaim "forcible co-operativization", "abolition of money and markets" and force people to eat and sleep in community. In fact, they have herded our compatriots into camouflaged concentration camps, robbed our people of all means of production and consumer goods, forced them to overwork while giving them the minimum of food and clothes, forcing all strata of the population to live in misery as slaves. They classify people into different categories with a view to subduing them more easily and to making them kill one another.

Decidedly the crimes of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang, can no longer be counted! Everywhere our people have witnessed massacres more atrocious, more barbarous than those committed in the Middle Age or perpetrated by the Hitlerite fascists.

They have even declared that they would not hesitate if they had to sacrifice millions of our compatriots for the sake of building socialism the way they chose. In many places they have massacred the people in whole villages and whole hamlets. They spare not even foetuses inside mothers' wombs! Worse still, they intend to massacre more than 1,700,000 peo-

ple in the Eastern Region. In the face of this situation, hundreds of thousands of people have risen up against them, tens of thousands of people whose lives are threatened have been forced to leave the Motherland for abroad. Those who stay back in the country live in constant fear — like fish caught in a net not knowing when their turn will come to be massacred. ...

To camouflage their abominable crimes against our people and fool public opinion at home and abroad, to serve their dark design of building a barbarous dictatorial and militarist regime ready to kill all those who refuse to submit to them, and to serve the strategic aims of great-nation expansionism of the Chinese authorities, they have provoked a border conflict with Viet Nam, thus turning friend into foe. They have transformed our revolutionary armed forces into mercenaries for the Chinese authorities, and into a tool to suppress the people's uprising movement. ...

To fulfil its historic mission, the newly-formed Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation undertakes:

1. To carry out a policy of great national union, and overthrow the dictatorial, militarist and nepotist regime of the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. To dissolve the people's representatives assembly created by Pol Pot-Ieng Sary. To hold general elections to a National Assembly; to reorganize a people's democratic power at all levels; to work out a new constitution guaranteeing the people's democratic power at all levels; to work out a new constitution guaranteeing the people's rights to equality, to real freedom and democracy, and to establish the legislation of an independent, democratic state advancing to socialism.

2. To build revolutionary mass organizations of Kampuchea affiliated to the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation. ...

3. To build and develop the Kampuchean revolutionary army which, together with the people, have the task of crushing the reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary administration. ...

4. To realize the people's rights to real freedom and democracy and respect their dignity. All Kampucheans have the right to return to their old native land, and to build their

Cambodia's Dark Age

"They (the Pol Pot regime) abolished family life, the existence of villages, and the structure of society. They deprived the people of all freedoms, all democratic rights, all means of production for everyday life, and forced our compatriots into labor camps as in the Dark Ages. So many of our cadres, combatants and compatriots were massacred or died of consumption in this slave-like existence." (From the Jan. 11 manifesto of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council.)

family life in happiness. All Kampucheans have freedom of residence, movement, association, and religion, and have the right to work, recreation and education. To guarantee freedom of person. All ethnic groups in the Kampuchean social community have the right to freedom, equality, and share the same rights and duties.

5. To carry out an independent and sovereign economic policy tending towards genuine socialism. To rebuild our war-torn country. To restore the national economy ravaged by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime. The new economy shall serve the people's interests on the basis of agricultural and industrial development. It will be a planned economy with markets, meeting the needs for progress of society.

To abolish the compulsory "work-and-eat-together" system, and to put an end to the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary policy of seizing the people's rice and other property. To assist and encourage mutual-aid and cooperative forms on the basis of the peasants' voluntariness in order to boost production and improve the people's living standards.

To establish banks, issue currency, restore and develop the circulation of goods. To broaden the home trade and increase

economic relations with all foreign countries on equal footing with mutual benefits.

To abolish the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary policy of back-breaking forced labour. To carry out the policy of eight-hour work day and pay according to labour.

6. To abolish compulsory marriage, and encourage free choice in marriage, and restore the happy life of every family. To realize sex equality and create all favourable conditions for women to get education and improve their trades in order to serve society like men.

To care for war invalids, families of war dead, and families which have rendered good services to the revolution.

To care for the people's health, aged and infirm people, and orphans.

To care for and defend the legitimate interests of overseas Kampucheans. To have a correct policy toward foreign residents in Kampuchea.

7. To abolish the reactionary culture of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang. To build a new culture with a national and popular character. To do away with illiteracy, develop the national education, build general-education schools, universities and

Green light for Mekong development

A mammoth multi-phased project for the development of the lower Mekong River in Southeast Asia, involving the construction of a score of dams, dozens of power plants, extensive irrigation grids and numerous industrial facilities spanning four countries, may finally become a reality in the wake of the demise of the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia. The project was designed in the 1960s but largely shelved due to the Vietnam War and since 1975 by the intransigence of the Cambodian government and continuing security problems in several countries.

The Mekong plan calls for four to six mainstream dams on the Mekong River along its course through Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and southern Vietnam, and ten or more dams on tributaries, providing for flood control — a major problem for all countries as demonstrated again by the devastating floods that wracked Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos last fall — large quantities of hydroelectric power generation, and controlled water for irrigation and other uses. The largest single part of the project, the Pa Mong Dam 15 miles upstream from the Laotian capital of Vientiane, would create a lake 10 times the size of that backed up by the U.S.'s Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State, and provide power for places as far away as Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and cities in Vietnam. The dam would generate up to 4,800

megawatts of power, and cost \$2 billion to construct.

The full project would be the central institution for the development of four countries with a total population of almost 100 million — a super TVA dwarfing the original U.S. project. Since 1975, the principal obstacle to proceeding on the project has been the obstruction of the Chinese-backed Dark Ages regime in Cambodia, based on that regime's commitment to turning the clock backward, not forward, and using only labor-intensive manual labor in its agriculture. The very concept of the project, much less the effect it would have inside Cambodia in the direction of modernization, was anathema to the regime. That regime's unlamented demise last week clears away that obstacle.

Other problems included tensions between Laos and Thailand, the Chinese and U.S.-backed insurgencies in Laos and the Chinese-backed revolt in Thailand, and the continuing general instability in the region generated by the Cambodian-instigated hostilities with Vietnam. With the near-term stabilization of a progressive, industry-and-development oriented regime in Cambodia, the entire region should soon enjoy its first secure stability in over 40 years — which should facilitate the immediate implementation of the full Mekong program.

secondary vocational schools. To give the right places to scientific workers, technicians, artists and other men and women of culture.

To protect and restore historical relics, pagodas and temples, and parks destroyed by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang.

8. To warmly welcome and create favourable conditions for officers and soldiers, as well as public servants in the administration of the reactionary regime to rally with the people and fight back against the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang to save the Motherland and their own families.

To duly punish die-hard reactionary chieftains who have committed bloody crimes against the people. To practice leniency towards those who sincerely repent. To give appropriate rewards to those with feats of arms in service of the revolution.

To give humane treatment to those in the ranks of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary administration and army who have been captured in combat and help them to become decent people, useful to society.

9. To carry out a foreign policy of peace, friendship and non-alignment toward all countries without distinction about

thier political and social systems, and on the basis of peaceful coexistence, respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit.

10. To settle all disputes with neighbour countries through peaceful negotiations, and on the basis of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. To put an end to the border war with Viet Nam provoked by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang. To restore the relations of friendship, cooperation and good neighbourhood with other Southeast Asian countries, and contribute to building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, independence, freedom, neutrality, stability and prosperity. Kampuchea will not join any military alliance nor allow any country to build military bases on its territory or send military equipment into Kampuchea.

11. To strengthen solidarity with all revolutionary and progressive forces throughout the world. To firmly support the common struggle of all nations for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.



The Mekong development plan

Overthrow of the Pol Pot regime clears the way for construction of a series of dams on the Mekong River in Cambodia which would regulate the flow of monsoon floodwaters into the Mekong delta in Vietnam, vastly expanding the delta's agricultural capabilities. The Pa Mong dam project in Laos and Thailand would provide hydroelectric power throughout the region.