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Nonaligned expel Pol Pot from the world community

The Kampuchea (Cambodia) issue was perhaps the most heated of the Havana Nonaligned Summit. The result of that battle however was decisive: the genocidal criminals of the overthrown Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime were repudiated, as were their claims to represent Kampuchea at the Nonaligned summit, and they were isolated completely from the international community. The new government in Kampuchea, the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea led by Heng Samrin, while it was not seated at the summit, received widespread support including the announcement of recognition of that government by many states right on the floor of the conference.

The Kampuchea issue was the first major political fight of the conference. Following the January overthrow of Pol Pot by Cambodian revolutionaries with the support of the Vietnamese armed forces, the Non-aligned movement had met in a Coordinating Bureau meeting in June in Colombo. That meeting, faced with rival claims of the new government and the Peking-backed exile remnants of Pol Pot, had been unable to reach a clear decision on who should hold the seat. At that time, Pol Pot was left in the seat but deprived of all rights to speak and vote. The matter was left up to the summit to decide.

When the Havana summit convened, the Cubans as hosts were faced with resolving this problem. Although the Cubans made it quite clear they favored the seating of Heng Samrin and the ouster of the murderous Pol Pot regime, they invited both to Cuba while allowing neither to actually attend the conference until a decision was made.

The Pol Pot crew, represented by Khieu Samphan, were left by their hosts well housed in a beach resort some 20 or 30 kilometers outside of Havana. For days the Chinese feverishly searched for their bloody friends, along with a horde of journalists led by the *New York Times* who were preoccupied with finding these crimi-

nals. Once located, the Chinese eagerly ferried journalists out for interviews with them.

These efforts proved fruitless. The friends of Pol Pot were few and far between and even they could support their cause only by first announcing their repudiation of the murder of almost half of the Cambodian population by the Pol Pot regime. The argument of the pro-Pol Pot circle, led by Singapore, was a procedural legalism which argued that the presence of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea violated the principle of nonarmed intervention.

In the first week of preliminary discussions—including on a Foreign Minister level—it proved impossible to reach a consensus on the issue, leaving the matter to the decision of the Heads of State. However it was clear very early on that the only possible solution was a clear decision to leave the seat empty, a decision viewed as a clear victory for the Vietnamese and the Kampuchians as it was a declaration of de jure expulsion of the Pol Pot claimants.

That result was finally reached after long deadlock due to the continued objections of the Singapore-led group of some dozen or more countries by means of a dramatic 6 hour meeting of the 25 heads of state of the Coordinating Bureau late in the night of the fourth day of the summit.

This was only part of the story though. For the days preceding this a steady wave of support for the Heng Samrin government had been building up, marked by the announced recognition of that government from the plenary podium by countries such as Panama, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Grenada, and the Seychelles. Denunciations of Pol Pot and the announcements drew waves of applause from the delegates.

The result was not only the repudiation of Pol Pot, which now eliminates the last shreds of semi-legitimacy in the world community, but a breakthrough in the partial diplomatic isolation of the new government which up to the conference had only been recognized by the socialist countries and its closest friends in the Third World—some 20 states. The extent of this support will be measured when the UN General Assembly convenes this month and must decide the same question of who will hold the seat, with the Pol Pot band still formally occupying it in that international body.

Crimes of Pol Pot denounced

The culmination of this victory over a regime whose systematic butchery of its own population goes beyond even the crimes of the Nazis was the appearance in a dramatic press conference of the Foreign Minister of the new government, Hun Sen. In a calm, quiet manner, broken only briefly by displays of anger at his country's near extinction by Pol Pot and the Chinese, Hun Sen told a hall full of journalists some of the grisly details of what happened in his country. He described the

almost complete elimination of every educated person in the country, carried out in torture chambers, the creation of a vast system of slave labor camps throughout the countryside where the "useless eaters" were worked to death producing rice for their masters, the complete eradication of any form of education, of the national culture of the Khmers, and the destruction of all industry, organized economy, even of the right of marriage in the fascist holocaust that was Kampuchea.

The most incredible facts revealed concerned the method to the Pol Pot madness. Under that regime it seems millions of tons of rice were harvested—many millions more than were consumed by the shrinking Cambodian population. Where did all that food go? Almost 750,000 tons a year was exported to China; the rest—several million tons at least—was stored in huge granaries. He also revealed that large stockpiles of Chinese arms were found. It now seems clear that the Chinese were building up supplies to use Kampuchea as the base for a massive military invasion of Vietnam, probably in coordination with an attack from the north. When the Pol Pot gangsters fled they burned these granaries—scattered throughout the country—which burned for days and even weeks. Left behind were the charred remains of the rice which the people of Kampuchea died producing for the Chinese and their puppets.

Hun Sen also revealed that since an offensive earlier this year the last remains of the Pol Pot army have been driven out of the country and general peace—though marked by the threat of starvation of the remaining population—now exists. The Pol Pot forces however are being safeguarded and harbored inside Thailand with the assistance of the Thai regime where they are receiving supplies of Chinese arms. Hun Sen vigorously denounced the role of the Thai regime in aiding these criminals, who have been sentenced to death in absentia by a genocide crimes tribunal recently held in Phnom Penh.

—Daniel Sneider
Asia Desk

Vietnam Foreign Minister:

This interview with Vietnamese Foreign Secretary Nguyen Co Thach, their acting foreign minister, was conducted by Asia editor Daniel Sneider early in the days of the Havana summit, before the final decision of the conference to oust the Pol Pot regime from its remaining claims to represent Kampuchea in the Nonaligned movement. The Vietnamese minister spoke with confidence and at times with anger over the present situation in Kampuchea, particularly when he revealed the startling news that the U.S. government has attached incredible political condi-

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tions to the supply of vital food aid to Kampuchea. More than 2 million of the population that remains after Pol Pot's murder of some 3 million Kampuchians are in danger of famine and starvation. It was Thach who earlier this year revealed to Western reporters—subsequently confirmed by State Department officials—that normalization of relations between the U.S. and Vietnam was all but concluded, minus only the names on the dotted lines, when the rug was pulled out by the State Department in deference to the U.S.'s new-found Chinese allies, with whom the U.S. established diplomatic relations last December.

EIR: *What is your position on the seating of the Heng Samrin government at the Nonaligned summit?*

Thach: The Heng Samrin government is the expression of the aspirations of the peoples of Cambodia because they have come up from the uprising of the population of Cambodia to overthrow the criminals of Pol Pot who were acting against the people of Cambodia. So we are for the seating of Heng Samrin.

EIR: *How can there be an argument against the Heng Samrin government being seated when the new Uganda government is to be seated? Do you see a comparison between what happened in Uganda and what happened in Kampuchea?*

Thach: It is really a question of the double standards of the governments that had supported the seating of Uganda and refuse to seat the Heng Samrin government. In this question of seating Heng Samrin or not there is a shadow of China over there, so there is a difficulty. If you would like to see the real picture of Vietnam-Cambodia relations you must put it in the

genocide is the issue in Kampuchea

context of China-Vietnam-Cambodia relations. So this is the reason why Heng Samrin is not seated.

EIR: *Do you think there is an effort to split the Non-aligned Movement along East-West lines that is going on also in this conference?*

Thach: I don't think so. There is a design from the American government and from Peking to divert the movement from their objective of struggle against imperialism, against colonialism, divert it from these objectives and go to the line of China. That is, against the socialist countries and against the revolutionary movement in the world and for the sake of the hegemony of U.S.A. imperialism and of Chinese hegemony in the world.

EIR: *Don't you think that the argument around the question of Kampuchea has also diverted attention from other issues, particularly the economic issues of the new world economic order?*

Thach: Certainly, there are many big issues in this conference and the Cambodian issue had taken a long time, too much time from the conference. But it could help, the long discussion of the Cambodian question has helped form very much the discussion of other matters because this discussion not only benefits the Cambodian people but benefits also the anti-imperialist trend. It contributes to help the anti-imperialist trend in other matters because after the debate on the Cambodian question, even the seating could not be solved, but the main trend is for anti-imperialism and anticolonialism. You see 19 countries had urged the seating of Pol Pot and 18 countries had urged the seating of Heng Samrin and about 10 countries had asked for an empty chair. The numerical aspect is not very important, but the content of the debate is very important. Why? Because even among the 19 countries who had asked for seating of Pol Pot, nobody dared to defend the Pol Pot regime. On the contrary, out of 19 countries who had urged the seating of Pol Pot, more than 10 countries had condemned the Pol Pot regime. Even Singapore, which is leading this group, had told the conference they have repugnance for this barbarous regime, you see, and of course other delegations all condemned the Pol Pot regime. So this demonstrates, you see, that the main trend of the conference is against imperialism and colonialism. As for the countries who had urged the seating of Pol Pot, their argument is only procedural.

EIR: *What you said made me think of something. It is very obvious that even the United States and certainly its allies here, like Singapore, can no longer defend Pol Pot. Therefore it becomes equally clear that they must try increasingly to go for what is called the Sihanouk option. And I have heard reports that Mondale, when he was in Peking, was discussing with the Chinese dropping Pol Pot and going for Sihanouk to form a new government in exile, which he has already declared he will do; and that this is the government that they will support rather than Pol Pot. This is a step back, but it is a new approach toward the same objective. How do you understand that?*

Thach: I understand that this shows only that they manipulate the government in Cambodia. They could choose one or the other and how to impose it upon the Cambodian people. This shows only their indifference for the Cambodian people. How to decide who will lead the government? It was decided in Peking and in Washington, not in Cambodia.

EIR: *On the question of the new world economic order, does the Vietnamese government favor the creation of a new international monetary and credit system, a universal system, to replace the IMF and the World Bank?*

Thach: We are for restructuring the old economic order of the world. Not only monetary and financial assistance, also trade assistance. It must be restructured for a new world economic order.

EIR: *I think that if you look at the role of the IMF, let us say for example, in Nicaragua, you'll see that the IMF gave credits to the Somoza regime only weeks before it fell—\$66 million. The IMF said Somoza was credit-worthy, but the IMF at other times—as I think is pointed out in the draft document—has used the pressure of its credit, its debt, to impose economic policies against the interests of those nations. Even where there is a great need for international aid, for food, to look now at the situation in Kampuchea, the IMF imposed conditions with the granting of that aid. Do you see that the struggle against the IMF, against the role of the IMF, therefore links together many of these questions?*

Thach: Yes, yes, you are right. We agree that the IMF is doing business with the Third World, so they would like to impose conditions. We are against any humiliation, interference or subjugation of the third world by the IMF.

EIR: *Do you feel that the Chinese and American pressure is responsible for the position of the ASEAN nations here on the Kampuchean issue? And let me add one other thing to that: Do you see a difference between the position that Singapore takes—and I would view Singapore as virtually a British colony—and the position, let us say, of Indonesia? Because it is my impression that Indonesia does not feel so strongly as Singapore does about this question.*

Thach: You are right. There are nuances. But on the whole, you see, they base their objectives on the so-called principle of non-interference, non-armed intervention. Who are they? They are China, they are U.S.A., they are Japan and they are ASEAN. And if you look into the past, the U.S.A. had a great war, aggression against the Cambodians, Vietnam and Laotians. Now they say that they are against armed intervention. China had invaded my country. They say that they are against armed intervention. And you see Japan, they invaded the Indo-Chinese states during the second world war. And as for ASEAN, they have supported the U.S.'s aggression against Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. So it is a double standard. Their game is against the independence and peace of the Indo-Chinese states. And you see, now they have a double standard in this way also. They ask for the pulling out of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. But in the same time they urge the staying on of American troops in Southeast Asia—the Chinese, the ASEAN, Japan. Furthermore, you see that our presence in Cambodia is not the same as Americans staying on, because we were in Cambodia this time, for the third time. First, during the French war, second during the American war, and now the third time during the Chinese war. The two preceding times, we withdrew after the war. Now we will withdraw after the Chinese threat against Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos will end, and the security in this area and of these countries will be guaranteed.

EIR: *Let me switch to the subject of U.S.-Vietnam relations. When the congressional delegation was in Hanoi, there seemed to be some progress on this question, and you revealed some very interesting facts concerning the past history of the negotiations. What do you think are the prospects now for normalization of relations?*

Thach: We are very optimistic. Because, first, we had a very long war with the U.S.A. Now the war at last has ended. This is progress you see. Now we have talks, now suspension [of the talks], if they like to suspend them, but there is no more war between Vietnam and the United States. It is a new thing. We are eager, or we are ready for normalization tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow. But what is the difficulty now? It is the shadow of China on our relations.

EIR: *Very obvious. A last question: The Cambodian*

situation, according to the reports from many people—including from the editor of New Wave [of India], who was just there—is a very serious situation, and very horrifying in many ways, particularly the conditions of the people. What must be done, and what must the United States and other countries do? Vietnam is already doing a great deal, but what is still needed, and what can you say especially to the American people as to what the needs are that they can fulfill in Cambodia?

Thach: You see, if you compare the danger now, or the difficulty now of the Cambodian people and their difficulty under the Pol Pot regime, the difficulty now is much less than before, because now the people are master of their country so they can deal with it with less difficulty. But even so, there are difficulties they must face. Firstly they must face their own means. That means production, to produce the things that have a very short harvest time; and they must tighten the belt. These are the things done by people who have self-respect and at the same time, they ask for the help of friends, of peoples of the world. But the Vietnamese and Cambodians, we are self-respecting people. We ask help. We welcome any help. But we will not bow our head before the conditional aid from the U.S. government, or from China and others who would like to use the aid as a means of grasping Vietnam and Cambodia in their hands.

EIR: *Has the U.S. government put specific conditions to you for the transfer of food aid, for example, to Cambodia?*

Thach: Yes, they are very tricky. They would like to divide the aid into three parts. One is for Heng Samrin. One is for Pol Pot. Another is for a non-controlled zone. It is pure imagination. This imagination is only to support their policy, to have three components in the solution of the political problem in Cambodia. It will not work, you see. A trick is a trick. A trick would not work.

EIR: *Where would they deliver the aid to Pol Pot, to Peking?*

Thach: Yes. They have helped Pol Pot through Peking, because they play the China card.

EIR: *It's the only card they have.*

Thach: Yes, and this China card could not help its player. Because for instance in Iran, the Shah of Iran collapsed after the collusion between, after the visit of Hua Kuo Feng in Iran. Then you see in Cambodia, there is collusion between them. And they could not prevent the collapse of Pol Pot.

EIR: *This is clear. Thank you.*