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CONTINUING COMMENT, REPORTAGE ON WAR IN CAMBODIA

USSR's 'Sham Support' Hit

Peking Domestic Service in Mandarin 2230 GMT 18 Mar 75 OW

[PEOPLE'S DAILY 19 March article by (Tung Fang): "Facts Cannot Be Covered Up With Lies"]

[Text] Since the beginning of this year, the Cambodian people have won splendid victories on the battlefield. This has forced the sham friends of the Cambodian people to hurriedly change into opportunists and act in every possible way as if they were true friends of the Cambodian people.

PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA, mouthpieces of the Soviet revisionists, recently published a series of articles alleging that the Soviet revisionists are, have been and always will be on the side of the just struggle of the Cambodian people. However, such lies can in no way cover up the facts.

On 17 May, 1970, nearly 2 months after the traitorous Lon Nol clique came onto the stage in complete splendor, the Soviet revisionist maintained diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol clique while their news agency TASS openly slandered the RGNUC as a government in exile in an attempt to please the Lon Nol clique. By doing this, the Soviet revisionists would be able to further collude with the clique.

On 29 February, 1971, Radio Moscow even went further by describing Prince Sihanouk, the head of state of Cambodia, as the former head of state of Cambodia, thus completely withholding recognition of him as the head of state publicly extended by the Cambodian people and other nations.

In October 1972, the Soviet revisionists' representative to the 17th UNESCO conference openly stood up to protect the Lon Nol clique by voting for the clique long spurned by the Cambodian people to represent Cambodia at the conference.

In May and August 1973, the Soviet revisionists' PRAVDA and U.S. imperialism echoed each other in clamoring for a peaceful settlement to the Cambodian problem in a vain attempt to force the Cambodian people to lay down their arms, to extinguish the blazing flames of the Cambodian people's just war for national salvation, and to acknowledge the legal existence of the traitorous clique. It was precisely when the Cambodian people took punitive actions against the Lon Nol clique that the Soviet revisionists gave the clique a shot in [the] arm under the cloak of any pretext. After Lon Nol staged the coup d'etat, (Mao Sha), vice minister of finance of the Lon Nol clique, acknowledged that the Soviet revisionists had never stopped their economic aid to the Lon Nol clique. The Soviet revisionists are still providing aid as usual and are maintaining diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol clique even now. Facts fully prove that the Soviet revisionists have never stood on the side of Cambodia's just cause for national liberation. To the contrary, from the date of the reactionary coup d'etat staged by the Lon Nol clique, the Soviet revisionists, harboring ulterior motives, have placed their bets on the Lon Nol clique and have sat on the same bench with the clique. The Soviet revisionists have never taken into serious consideration the Cambodian people's just struggle.

Over the past 5 years, the Soviet revisionists have spared no efforts in engaging in political sophistry. As the situation on the Cambodian battlefield has changed, the Soviet revisionists have made constant attempts to change their attitude toward the two diametrically opposed forces in Cambodia.

Whenever the Cambodian people make progress in their war to punish the Lon Nol clique, the Soviet revisionists move a step forward in showing their sham support for the Cambodian people.

Now the situation in Cambodia has become increasingly favorable to the Cambodian people and unfavorable to the traitorous Lon Nol clique. The patriotic Cambodian army men and people have liberated more than 97 percent of their country inhabited by a population of 6 million people. The RGNUC so far has won formal recognition by more than 60 countries in the world. The patriotic Cambodian army men and people are advancing from victory to victory and are tightening their encirclement of Phnom Penh. The Soviet revisionists are gamblers consistently good at political speculation. Now the Lon Nol clique is not far from total collapse and a great victory is awaiting the Cambodian people. It is precisely at this time that the bets formerly placed on the Lon Nol clique by the Soviet revisionists are all going up in smoke. Therefore, they have again shamelessly disguised themselves as friends of the Cambodian people in an attempt to profit from the sharply changing situation in Cambodia and to pave the way for their future intervention in its internal affairs. This represents the true objectives and substance of the Soviet revisionists' propaganda that they are, have been and always will be, on the side of the Cambodian people's just struggle.

Now we advise you, Soviet revisionist gentlemen: You had better save your hypocritical opportunist tactics, because facts tore off your hypocritical mask a long time ago.

Peking Radio Article

Peking Domestic Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 15 Mar 75 OW

[Article by (Yao Shan-liang) and (Chin Ping) of an unidentified PLA unit: "Hail the New Victories of the Cambodian People"]

[Text] Guns are rumbling in the outskirts of Phnom Penh city; the victory news is spreading along the banks of the Mekong River. Upholding the banner of just struggle for national salvation, the heroic Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces have fought bravely and swept through the enemy forces to the den of the Lon Nol clique, Phnom Penh. They have thus created an excellent situation and scored encouraging new victories. We, fighters of China's PLA and the people throughout China, warmly hail the good fight fought by our Cambodian comrades-in-arms.

Reading the news about Cambodia in recent newspapers, we were glad to find that the den of the traitorous clique, Phnom Penh, was tightly encircled by the people's armed forces and that all waterways and land routes to Phnom Penh were cut off. (Penshanlo) and other important enemy positions, as well as Oudong Municipality and Oudong Province, had been taken by the people's armed forces one after another following a series of attacks. At present, the Pochentong airfield, the only connection between Phnom Penh and the outside world, is under continuous artillery attack by the people's armed forces. (Nailliang), an important enemy base, has also been encircled by the people's armed forces.

The Lon Nol traitorous clique is critically threatened by an ammunition and food shortage. It can only live on the U.S. emergency airlift. No wonder important personages and newspapers in the United States have been fearfully shouting that the United States is faced with imminent collapse in Cambodia and that there is utterly no way to save the Phnom Penh traitorous clique from eventual collapse.

U.S. imperialism single-handedly masterminded the reactionary coup d'etat by the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique 5 years ago and pushed the Cambodian people into the abyss of misery. When the country reached this critical juncture, the Cambodian people, in response to the call of Prince Norodom Sinhanouk, rose up under the leadership of the NUFC and the RGNUC and launched a magnificent, just struggle for national salvation. The people's armed forces have matured in the struggle, have fought with increasing strength and have won victory after victory. The victorious stand of the Cambodian people has once again eloquently proved the truth that a just cause enjoys abundant support and is invincible, while an unjust cause finds little support. No matter how rampant the reactionary forces are for a period of time, so long as the revolutionary people can unite, dare to struggle and be good and persistent in struggle, victory will certainly belong to the people.

Recently, in order to enable the Lon Nol clique--a group of political corpses--to steal more days before its end and despite strong opposition from public opinion at home and abroad, U.S. imperialism has tried by hook or by crook to transfuse blood and pump air into the clique. It has openly carried out intimidation and threats against the Cambodian people. At the same time, it has begun to harp on the old tune of so-called negotiation. The premier of the Lon Nol clique, Long Boret, has also hypocritically said that he and the so-called government of the traitorous clique would make any sacrifices if peace and detente can be reached. This is only a trick to try to buy breathing time until the arrival of the rainy season when a counter-attack can be launched. But the Cambodian people who have been tempered by revolutionary struggle can never be bullied and cheated. Whether the United States is giving additional aid, carrying out military threats, or playing peace negotiation tricks, it will never be able to stop the triumphant steps of the Cambodian people to prevent the complete collapse of the Lon Nol traitorous clique in the end.

The people of China and Cambodia are comrades-in-arms and brothers. In the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism, they sympathize with each other, support each other and encourage each other. We, the fighters of China's PLA and the people throughout China, will continue to adhere to Chairman Mao's consistent teachings and pledge to be a strong back-up force of the Cambodian people and resolutely support the Cambodian people in carrying their just struggle for national salvation through to the end. We are confident that the heroic Cambodian people will certainly win complete victory in their just struggle for national salvation with strengthened unity.

NCNA Correspondent's Report

Peking NCNA in English 2009 GMT 17 Mar 75 OW

[By NCNA correspondent]

[Text] Peking, March 17, 1975--The traitorous Lon Nol clique, installed single-handedly by the United States 5 years ago, has been driven into an all-round military, political and economic crisis by the heroic Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces, who are trouncing them in the dry season offensives.

The encirclement of Phnom Penh by the people's armed forces is being drawn tighter every day. Water and ground lines of communication to and from Phnom Penh have all been cut. The traitorous Lon Nol clique has become like a turtle in a jar and shows signs of panic as the chaos in the city mounts.

Five years ago, the traitorous Lon Nol clique, encouraged by the United States, staged a reactionary coup d'etat designed to turn Cambodia into a U.S. imperialist colony of a new type. Under the banner of the National United Front, the Cambodian people drew on their glorious revolutionary tradition to form their own armed forces and rose up in resolute struggle against U.S. aggression and the Lon Nol clique. Growing from small beginnings to big and strong, the armed forces have now liberated 97 percent of the country's territory with a population of 6 million. Particularly since the beginning of this year, they launched powerful offensives on various fronts. They attacked Phnom Penh from the east, west and north. In 2 and a half months, they wiped out large numbers of enemy effectives as they took one major position after another. Highways 1, 4, 5, and 7 were cut. The Phnom Penh-Saigon section of the Mekong River was blocked and Phnom Penh became a beleaguered city. At the same time, the few enemy-held cities have also been isolated and encircled. The U.S. imperialists are now trying to buttress the faltering traitorous clique on airlifting supplies from Saigon and Thailand. The Pochentong airport, the remaining link with the outside world, is being pounded hourly and daily with shells from the guns of the people's armed forces. Many enemy planes there were destroyed and the airlift was interrupted time and again.

In the face of imminent collapse, the traitorous clique has been driven to utter confusions. The puppet troops are dispirited, demoralized and desperate. A New York TIMES report quotes a puppet sergeant: "We have armor, artillery, airplanes, but we will lose the war," "the people don't support us." Antiwar mutinies, desertions and crossing over to the liberation army are taking place in increasing numbers. Under a slashing attack by the people's armed forces on February 16, over 1,000 Lon Nol troops on Peah Reaing Island in the Mekong River surrendered.

To meet the shortage of manpower, the Lon Nol clique resorts to the fascist means of pressganging. In Phnom Penh, gendarme and military policemen take people off the streets, encircle markets and docks and even break into theaters and cinemas, forcing them into service. They take children aged 14 or 15 for the front. They have even driven detainees and wounded soldiers to the battle field. But even all these infamous practices cannot fill their needs. Senator Paul McGloskey, after making a fact-finding tour in Phnom Penh admitted that "there are combat units out there taking 25 percent casualties in a month that are not being replenished by a vigorous recruiting effort of Cambodian civilians." A Western press agency reported that some recruits run away within 3 days after being forced into the army.

While the Phnom Penh traitorous clique finds itself with no way out, its officers and officials go on plundering, taking bribes and get ready to flee. It was reported that a former senior puppet high-ranking official, now out of power, said that "60 percent of U.S. aid "is ripped off and pocketed by corrupt officers and officials." A U.S. senator, recently returned from Phnom Penh conceded that: "It (additional U.S. aid) is going to go to the generals (the puppet officers) and they're going to steal half of it."

Confusion and panic seized the traitors in Phnom Penh after water and land communications and transportation were cut. Phnom Penh, a once beautiful city, is now "in chaos", writes one Japanese journalist. The puppet military troops and police are robbing passers-by in broad daylight and murders have occurred daily. The report says that in Phnom Penh "all shops facing the streets are barred," "field military hospitals in Phnom Penh are crowded with wounded soldiers brought from the fronts by helicopters." Prices of daily necessities have gone up 300 percent since February 11. Daily necessities such as rice, oil and kerosene are among the ones that have risen most. Fuel is running out, electricity is restricted and water supply is limited. A Western journalist revealed that by order of the Lon Nol clique no rice airlifted to Phnom Penh by the U.S. can be placed on sale to the inhabitants but is reserved to supply puppet troops. Four big markets in Phnom Penh are virtually closed down. Puppet officers hoard rice or sell it on the black market where 30 U.S. dollars will hardly buy a 41 kilogramme sack of it. With skyrocketing prices and little chance of employment, people in Phnom Penh lead a life of hardship. The economic situation is going from bad to worse.

In these circumstances, the internal contradictions among the traitors' clique are sharpening. Puppet officers and officials abuse each other. The officers are charged with being dictatorial while the officials are accused of incompetency. The puppet supreme chief-of-staff Sosthene Fernandez was forced to resign not long ago. Lon Nol ordered Long Boret to form a new cabinet. But attempts to form a new cabinet reached deadlock as a result of dog-fighting within the clique. Reports state that plots to force Lon Nol to step down are multiplying. Immense indignation is being expressed by the people in Phnom Penh at the criminal rule of the traitorous Lon Nol clique. Despite ruthless repression by the clique, people are putting up a fierce struggle. Students are boycotting classes to protest against hunger while people often attack the reactionary military police. Many make their way to the liberated areas at the risk of their lives.

The Cambodian people's armed forces are advancing victoriously, hitting hard at the enemy and winning splendid victories. No matter how much the U.S. imperialism tries to prop up the Lon Nol traitorous clique, it cannot save it from complete defeat.

Hong Kong Paper on Call for Talks

Hong Kong WEN HUI PAO in Chinese 12 Mar 75 p 2 OW

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States Has Dished Out the Trick of 'Peace Talks'"]

[Text] Shortly after the report on the replacement of the commander-in-chief was released in Phnom Penh, Washington put forward a sinister scheme of holding "peace talks" at the expense of Lon Nol.

The scheme was dished out by Scott, leader of the U.S. Republican Party in the Congress. According to his plan, Lon Nol will be forced to step down and another puppet will then organize a transitional government; which will be charged with the responsibility of negotiating with the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and the Cambodian liberation forces on the matters of a cease-fire and forming a new government.

This sinister scheme is nothing but a trick to buy time. The schemer intended to sacrifice Lon Nol and foster another puppet regime administered by a group of traitors in order to maintain U.S. neo-colonialism in Cambodia.

This sinister plan was once used in old China. When the reactionary Kuomintang troops were collapsing as a result of the powerful offensives of the Chinese PLA, Chiang Kai-shek, under U.S. pressure, staged the trick of "stepping down" in an attempt to secure "peace talks." He hoped that by negotiations he might keep part of the country and that he might stage a comeback after a short respite. But the Chinese revolutionary army men and people were not fooled. Following Chairman Mao's instruction of carrying out the revolution through to the end, they displayed the spirit of "spending their spare power to pursue the tottering foe" and finally crushed the Kuomintang troops and drove the Chiang Kai-shek clique out of the Chinese mainland.

Today the Cambodian people are fully aware of the U.S. trick of holding "peace talks." Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, and RGNUC have repeatedly stressed that they will never negotiate with Phnom Penh traitorous clique or with any puppet fostered by U.S. imperialism.

Recently the Second National Assembly of Cambodia issued a statement on the major issues of the current situation, declaring that Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh, Cheng Heng, In Tam, Long Boret and Sosthene Fernandez are all harsh traitors, and that all traitors must be eliminated. This indicates that no matter which puppet is going to replace Lon Nol, U.S. efforts to enhance "peace talks" will be futile, and that the new puppet, aside from being eliminated, will have no other way out.

Who dares to take the risk of being the new puppet? This is really an interesting question.

New Zealand Weekly Comments

Peking NCNA in English 1252 GMT 18 Mar 75 OW

[Text] Wellington, March 18, 1975 (HSINHUA)--The latest issue of the weekly PEOPLE'S VOICE carries an article hailing the new victories won by the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces.

The article says that "five years after the CIA coup in Phnom Penh, a determined Cambodian people are about to deliver a final blow to the Lon Nol regime. Massive U.S. aid is failing to save the Lon Nol regime, just as it failed and is still failing in South Vietnam."

The article points out that with each defeat, the morale of the Lon Nol troops sinks lower. Large numbers of Lon Nol troops desert and cross over to the liberation side. It notes that no amount of U.S. maneuvering to replace Lon Nol with another traitor can save their regime. However, the situation calls for utmost vigilance from the progressive forces throughout the world. It is imperative to support the Cambodian people actively, so as to head off any desperate imperialist moves.