



BULLETIN MENSUEL DE DOCUMENTATION
du Cabinet de Samdech Norodom Sihanouk,
Chef de l'Etat du Cambodge

N^o SPECIAL

JANVIER 1973

SOMMAIRE

LES FORCES DES F.A.P.N.K.

(Forces Armées Populaires de Libération
Nationale du Cambodge)

LES REALITES DES F.A.P.L.N.C.

(Forces Armées Populaires de Libération
Nationale du Cambodge)

- - - - -

Nous présentons ci-dessous quelques témoignages récents et probants de la Presse du "monde libre"-presse anglo-saxonne, non soupçonnable de complaisance à l'égard du Func et du Grunc. Ces témoignages détruisent totalement la lâche et mensongère propagande des "services d'information" de Lon Nol et de Richard Nixon, selon laquelle "la guerre au Cambodge est faite, en ce qui concerne le "camp de Sihanouk", par ... les Forces Armées.. de la R.D. du Viet Nam"(!)

I/- Revue hebdomadaire U.S. "NEWSWEEK", numéro du 14 Août 1972: "A BLOODY STANDOFF"?... To the leaders of the hard-pressed cambodian (lonnolite) Government, the matter had always seemed simple: if North Vietnamese forces would only get out of the country, then Phnompenh's forces would quickly mop up the local communists and put an end to the nation's two-year-old civil war. Yet in recent weeks, the (lonnolite) cambodians seem to have muffed a good chance to prove their point. For with most of Hanoi's forces tied up in the big offensive next door in South Vietnam, the cambodian communists, known as the Khmer Rouge(1) have clearly been holding their own in battles with (lonnolite) government troops. Indeed, despite the (lonnolite) cambodian army's solid edge in both numbers and firepower, the Khmer Rouge units appear to be getting ever stronger. What makes that strenght remarkable is the fact that only two years ago, the Khmer Rouge(1) hardly existed at all.. But with the overthrow of the popular, fiercely independent Sihanouk by a group headed by pro-western Gen. Lon Nol,... the expanding rebel force numbers an estimated 30.000 troops (2).. The local Communists (1) now control.. no less than 85 per cent of Cambodia's territory. In addition to their military successes, the Communists.(1) have won many skirmishes in the war- as people used to say- for the hearts and

minds of the Cambodian people.. Cambodians have simply had enough of a regime that seems to condone rampant official corruption and to stay in power on the strenght of shady elections.. "Many people are simply fed up with Lon Nol and his government", explains a western diplomat in Phnompenh... "While the (lonnolite) government is better armed, the Communists(1) are more ideologically prepared to really fight it out", observes a western military adviser in Phnompenh. "It will be a standoff for a few years at least - but it will be one damned bloody standoff".

- Journal australien "THE AGE", numéro du 24 Octobre 1972:

"KHMER ROUGE (1) NOW A FORCE WITH A MIND OF ITS OWN", from HOLGER JENSEN of the Associated Press, (extraits):
"Cambodia's.. Khmer Rouge (1) guerillas have grown teeth..(have) burgeoned into a well-equipped, newly aggressive guerilla army with a mind of its own-one that might choose to ignore any Indo-China settlement worked out by the Americans and the Vietnamese. Khmer Rouge (1) strenght has jumped from little more than 5.000.. to 40.000 (2) combat-honed troops.. U.S. officials.. conceded they "drastically underestimated" the Khmer Rouge (1) as a military machine and a potential negociating entity in any political settlement."They grew more rapidly than anyone realised or reported. It's as simple as that", said one high-ranking American. "They're not dependent on the North Vietnamese.. The Khmer Rouge (1) are actively engaged in combat against (lonnolite) cambodian government forces and they're making a maximum effort"... Khmer Rouge-Red Cambodians- is something of a misnomer for the guerilla factions (1), since they include not only card-carrying communists (1).. but also Sihanoukists-royalists who seek a return of .. Prince Norodom Sihanouk- (and) anti-government nationalists who simply oppose the Lon Nol regime.. Pessimists, mostly Cambodians, feel the guerillas have already demonstrated their unity in military operations, so why not in political negotiations (3), at least until they accomplish their common goal of ousting Lon Nol (3)? (Lonnolite) cambodian government leaders who refused to

acknowledge the existence of the Khmer Rouge (1) only a few months ago now want to begin negotiations with them(3).. Now that the Khmer Rouge outnumber the North Vietnamese, 85 per cent of Cambodia.. is outside (lonnolite) government control.. Khmer Rouge (1) guerillas have assumed the task of pressuring Phnompenh, and they are conducting sizeable combat operations south and north-west (4) of the cambodian Capital. U.S. military officials who dismissed the guerillas as "not a viable force" seven months ago now admit the (lonnolite) cambodian troops have not been able to contain the Khmer Rouge(1).. The (lonnolite) government's armed force is better equipped.. but it is plagued by corruption.. "Let's face it, a lot of people are joining the Khmer Rouge simply because there's less corruption on the other side (5).."

- Reuter, Phnompenh 11 Janvier 1973, by John Parcell, (extraits):

"Cambodian communist (1) troops are taking over.. battle responsibility on their territory.. and with the takeover by the local insurgents has come a widespread new offensive directly south of Phnompenh.. The local communists are now better trained, better equipped, more aggressive and more numerous than ever before, according to military experts here in the capital. Their numbers have grown from 18.000.. to 41.000 (2) today. The experts now believe they are capable of making good the boast of their nominal leader, .. prince Norodom Sihanouk, that they can fight on alone for at least two years.. Their now confidence is reflected in the southern offensive, which they opened.. just as the new year arrived. Several key positions were quickly overrun and in many districts the vital rice crop.. was captured and carted away. Their belligerence threatens to leave a blot on any Indochina settlement. Prince Sihanouk's.. government has refused all negotiations.. The cambodian (lonnolite) government's main demand on a peace settlement has been for a withdrawal of north-vietnamese troops, but their strenght has already rapidly declined.. In

Cambodia, the northerners are as always mainly occupied in logistic or other non-combat duty.. In Cambodia, all long-term military and political objectives centre on Phnompenh.. The Capital has become a frequent target for sapper attacks and rockets since... January 1971. The rockets.. are now a regular part of Phnom-Penh life.."

* * *

LES F.A.P.L.N.C. CONTROLANT PLUS DE 85 POUR CENT DU TERRITOIRE ET 80 POUR CENT DE LA POPULATION DU CAMBODGE

Ces "estimations" paraissent "exagérées" à certains "observateurs", diplomates et gouvernements étrangers.

Elles ne sont pourtant pas "de la propagande". La preuve qu'elles sont conformes à la REALITE "sur le terrain" réside dans les témoignages suivants de la grande presse du "camp adverse":

- NEWSWEEK (déjà cité), numéro du 14 Août 1972: "The local communists now control no less than 85 per cent of Cambodia's territory".

- THE AGE (déjà cité), numéro du 24 Octobre 1972: "85 per cent of Cambodia is outside (lonnolite) government control".

- U.P.I., 20 Septembre 1972, "Special Report" by Alan Dawson: "... (lonnolite) Cambodia is increasingly losing its territory to the communists. The government of Lon Nol hold the cities but between.. the cambodian communists(1) hold three-quarters of the country.. The government of Lon Nol now controls less than one-quarter of the country."

- FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, Hongkong, numéro du 30 Septembre 1972, by Nayan Chanda, (extraits):
"... "The quarter-billion dollar aid programme for Cambodia", President Nixon claimed in December 1970, "is, in my opinion, probably the best investment in foreign assistance that the United States has made in my lifetime". In a country where the writ of the (lonnolite) government hardly runs beyond the perimeter of the Capital and a few isolated towns (where it is grappling with runaway inflation, skyrocketing prices and food crises), these words now evoke bitter smiles. However, the obvious irony of Nixon's statement aside, observers here are amazed at the rapidity with which (lonnolite) Cambodia has sunk to the depths of waste and corruption.. The problem of corruption is intimately associated with the nature of the (lonnolite) regime.. With about 80 per cent of the population living outside (lonnolite) government control, and the rest hard hit by unemployment and galloping inflation, (lonnolite) Cambodia simply cannot absorb everything the U.S. might pump into the country.. It is now an open secret in Phnompenh that much of U.S. dollar 8,4 million worth of medicines imported with U.S. assistance in 1970 and 1971 have been sold to the Vietcong for hard cash-not only by businessmen but military commanders as well. By the end of last year the U.S. had funnelled in the country dollar 172 million in equipment for an army in which more than 20 per cent are phantom troops. Arms and ammunition for the phantom soldiers, too, have found their way to the other side.."

La grande revue "FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW", toujours bien renseignée en ce qui concerne les pays d'Asie, affirme que 80 pour cent de la population du Cambodge vivent en dehors du contrôle du gouvernement de Lon Nol. Par conséquent, ces 80 pour cent sont sous le contrôle du Front Uni National et du Gouvernement Royal d'Union Nationale du Cambodge.

* * *

(1)- Comme HOLGER JENSEN l'a fait remarquer dans son article publié dans "THE AGE", l'appellation "KHMER ROUGE" ou

"Communistes Cambodgiens" est impropre, car les F.A.P.L.N.C., tout comme le F.U.N.C. et le G.R.U.N.C., sont une union solide des Khmers (Cambodgiens) patriotes ("marxistes", "Sihanoukistes" et autres nationalistes anti-impérialistes, anti-fascistes), Depuis la naissance du F.U.N.C. (Front Uni National du Cambodge) dont les F.A.P.L.N.C. sont l'Armée officielle, tous ses membres ont décidé pour toujours d'abandonner leurs "étiquettes politiques" antérieures pour n'être plus que des "membres du Func". Ils ont en outre adopté une "idéologie" commune, qui est nationale. Cette idéologie est exprimée dans le PROGRAMME POLITIQUE du F.U.N.C.

(2)- L'effectif réel (actuel) des FAPLNC (troupes régulières, non compris les milices populaires ou les villageois guerilleros) est de 72.000 hommes (et femmes).

(3)- Il n'est et il ne sera jamais question de "négociations" ou "compromis" ou "réconciliation" avec le régime des traîtres lonnoliens.

(4)- Le Nord-Est et le Sud-Est du Cambodge (Est du Mékong) sont totalement libérés (sauf quelques villes, d'ailleurs assiégées).

(5)- Il n'y a pas que la corruption (pourriture extrême) du régime des traîtres qui pousse les citoyens en zone non encore libérée à s'enfuir de cette zone pour rejoindre le Func, le Grunc et les FaplnC: il y a surtout leur conscience nationale qui leur dicte le devoir de participer activement à la lutte de libération nationale, contre l'impérialisme U.S. néocolonisateur.

Par ailleurs, il est plus juste de dire qu'il n'y a pas du tout de corruption en zone libérée, au lieu d'écrire "there is less corruption on the other side"!

B.M.D.