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AKASHI: UN MUST RESPOND TO KHMER ROUGE DEFIANCE

PERM 5: 'DEEP CONCERN'

UNTAC head Yasushi Akashi says it would "be good for the Security Council to take stock of ... (the Khmer Rouge's) refusal to disarm," but the Perm 5 show no inclination to act. In a joint statement late this month, the Foreign Ministers of the U.S., China, Russia, Britain and France seemed satisfied to repeat their concerns about the Khmer Rouge. On June 12 the Security Council said it was "deeply concerned" over KR intransigence on the UN peace plan; on September 24 the Perm 5 said they still had "deep concern." However, diplomatic sources said the prevailing view is "to leave things where they are," rather than to impose sanctions or even exclude the KR from the elections. The Security Council will meet in October to consider Khmer Rouge defiance. [AP 9/25; NYT 9/26; UPI 9/28]

BOUTROS-GHALI: KR 'IMPAIRING' PEACE

UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali reported to the Security Council on September 24 that Khmer Rouge refusal to comply with the terms of the peace plan is "seriously impairing" the ability of the UN to carry out the plan. "The time is approaching when some difficult decisions regarding ways and means of pursuing this operation will have to be seriously considered," the Secretary-General's report said. Boutros-Ghali later added that he would seek to exclude the KR from the upcoming elections unless they disarm according to the peace plan. [NYT 9/26]

SIHANOUK: 'EXCLUDE THE KR'

At a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta early this month Prince Norodom Sihanouk called for the KR to be excluded from the elections next year. He was later quoted as adding, "This is the only solution left to us, to organize the elections for the '90 percent of the population and 85 percent of the territory, and we put aside the Khmer Rouge." Sihanouk says the KR "already let me know the results of the election would be unacceptable to them." [RNA 9/2; FBIS 9/8; AP 9/26]

US THREATENS SANCTIONS

For the first time a high US official has mentioned the possibility of stopping Thai/Cambodian border trade between the Khmer Rouge and the Thai military. US Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said in an interview that the US may have to consider such economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for non-compliance in the peace process. "I think if we isolate them long enough they are going to find they are the losers in this, not the winners," Eagleburger said. [AP 9/9]

KHMER ROUGE REJECT ANTI-RACISM LAW

Supreme National Council Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk overruled objections from KR representative Khieu Samphan and approved a new UN-drafted criminal code for Cambodia which includes a provision punishing anyone who provokes "national, racial or religious hatred." "If such provisions are adopted," Samphan argued, it would "increase the flow of Vietnamese settlers, accelerate the process of Vietnamization of Cambodia (and) tie the hands of the patriotic resistance." UN representatives have repeatedly accused the Khmer Rouge of fomenting racial hatred against ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia. [RNA 9/10; UPI 9/11]

SOC SOLDIERS FIRE ON UN BOATS

An unarmed UNTAC team conducting a "sting" operation against SOC soldiers suspected of extorting money from river traffic came under small-arms fire from a government checkpoint on the bank of the Mekong River. UN sources said that when the team surprised soldiers who were accosting the crew of a ferry, the soldiers broadcast an all-stations bulletin "to all CPAF units to open fire on UNTAC boats." About thirty rounds were fired, and there were no injuries. SOC sources later said that some of their unpaid soldiers had fallen into banditry, and were acting against orders. [RNA 9/16]

WHAT IS THE KHMER ROUGE STRATEGY?

NATE THAYER:

The Khmer Rouge's current intransigence is () only a tactical move designed to contribute to the further collapse of the Phnom Penh regime and to buy them time to build support in the countryside. None of the Khmer Rouge actions in recent months -- including their refusal to enter into Phase II of the cease-fire -- are sufficient grounds to conclude that they will completely abandon the peace process ... Internal documents make it clear that the Khmer Rouge are under no delusion that they are currently capable of winning a military victory ... they are focusing on building a base through political and electoral means ... The Khmer Rouge will most likely accept a limited success in the 1993 elections, allowing 5 to 10 years to regain political supremacy in Cambodia. They hope to gain enough seats in the first election in order to have representatives in the constituent assembly arguing the issues they hope will gain them popular sympathy ... By seizing

on the issues which improve the lot of the desperately poor and neglected 80% of the population who are farmers, their disciplined and non-corrupt organization will look increasingly good in comparison to their opponents. So while maintaining a strong underground network that secretly maintains their military strength, the Khmer Rouge will likely continue with a dual political program that will include participation in the 1993 elections. What happens after the UN leaves Cambodia to the control of its own elected leaders and new political parties depends on whether other Cambodian parties can address the issues that contribute to the Khmer Rouge's growing political strength. Whatever happens, the Khmer Rouge are prepared for either war or peace, through a war with bullets or with a "hearts and minds" political strategy. [PPP 8/27]

NAYAN CHANDA:

All the evidence points to the unchanged Khmer Rouge goal of capturing power and subjecting the population again to their xenophobic and Maoist policy of revolutionary transformation. While the United States should stress the full implementation of the accord, it has to consider every possible means to prevent the Khmer Rouge from using overt or subtle threat and deceitful propaganda to make electoral gains. Contrary to the common belief that a free election would overwhelmingly reject the Khmer Rouge, there is a distinct possibility that they would use their new-found legitimacy and propaganda against Vietnamese occupation and corruption of the Phnom Penh regime to secure a large share of the seats. The deep-rooted fear of the Vietnamese among the

Cambodians and ineffective and corrupt government in Phnom Penh could be attractive themes for an election campaign. The growing presence of the Khmer Rouge in villages could also have a chilling effect that no guarantee of secrecy of ballot by foreign observers could counter. And once they have strengthened their toe-hold in Phnom Penh through parliamentary gains and quiet building of terrorist networks, disarray of their political opponents, corruption and the growing gap between the city and the countryside and between the rich and the poor in the urban areas, these factors could open the door for a power grab without the need for a large military campaign. [TAI 5/10]

KAVI CHONGKITTAVORN:

The KR have shown good diplomatic skill, and won't leave the peace process as long as its beneficial to them, which it has been thus far. They probably will join Phase 2, but have been buying time. The KR won't allow the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on them ... They've gotten to Phnom Penh without fighting although the military option is still open. They've done so well with the plan, they have no need to abandon it ... Thailand ... wouldn't want the KR isolated, so it (is trying to get) the KR to participate. [CPR 7/13]

ANONYMOUS PHNOM PENH EDITOR:

Khmer Rouge leaders know they cannot win the election and that they cannot win very many seats because nobody will vote for them. They prefer to continue the war because they have had very good success being guerrilla fighters against Lon Nol (in the 1970s), against Vietnam (in the 1980s), and against the Cambodian government (in the 1990s). As guerrillas, they could not be beaten ... (Pol Pot) now has a safe area to collect the gems from the mines. Pol Pot has become stronger because of the UN treaty. [BKP 8/14]