

## SARY EMERGES FROM JUNGLE BASE TO ATTEND NON-ALIGNED MEETING

# Broad front in Kampuchea

The potential for strengthening the united front of all Kampuchean (Cambodians) opposed to the Vietnamese invasion of their country is greater now than at any time in recent months.

This is the implication of statements by Kampuchean Foreign Minister Ieng Sary on his arrival in Thailand last week. Sary emerged from jungle bases inside Kampuchea where forces loyal to the Pol Pot government are waging guerrilla war against the invaders.

On his way to the meeting of non-aligned foreign ministers in Colombo, Sri Lanka, this week, Sary gave an interview to Henry Kamm of the New York Times. Kamm quoted Sary as saying that "mutual understanding is growing" between the Pol Pot forces and other opponents of the Vietnamese, including Prince Sihanouk and even former officials of the Lon Nol regime and the "Khmer Serei" movement. Sary explained, "Before there was a certain hatred against us and a spirit of vengeance. But now it is a matter of national survival."

The Kampuchean leader stressed the importance of uniting all Kampuchean, regardless of their past political history, into a single struggle against the Soviet-backed Vietnamese aggression. He told Kamm that if such a united front struggle were successful in ousting the aggressors, the future government in Kampuchea would be up to the people to decide. According to Kamm, Sary "did not rule out the possibility that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the former head of state, might assume leadership of such an anti-Vietnamese front."

"Frankly," Sary was quoted as saying, "we consider Sihanouk a patriotic personality." This is in spite of the fact that Sihanouk has made quite a few bitter remarks about the Pol Pot forces recently, and for the time being, has refused to cooperate with them since his January appearance at the United Nations as a representative of Democratic

Kampuchea appointed by Pol Pot.

In the interview, Sary praised the attitude taken by Thailand towards the Vietnam-Kampuchea fighting, pointing out that it is in Thailand's own interest to oppose Vietnam's efforts to dominate Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Sary also commented on the controversial "human rights" issue, noting that some of the atrocities which were alleged to have taken place in Kampuchea over the last four years were actually the work of Vietnamese agents. Local authorities had also committed some excesses, he told Kamm, but the charge that the Pol Pot government has massacred large numbers of people was groundless.

Ieng Sary told Kamm that Kampuchean guerrillas are currently able to attack the Vietnamese in places all over the country. At the same time, he acknowledged some of the problems faced by the resistance, including the food problem. According to the Times account, Sary said that "even at their

constantly shifting headquarters, Mr. Pol Pot, President Khieu Samphan and [Sary] did not always have enough to eat."

At a recent meeting of the Kampuchean Council of Ministers, held somewhere in territory still controlled by the Pol Pot forces, the food problem was also discussed. It was decided to launch a production drive among the guerrilla troops and the people, and take other measures to solve the short supply of food.

Although Vietnamese forces have inflicted heavy damage on Kampuchea in the most recent fighting, the fact that Ieng Sary can travel freely in and out of the country, and that the Council of Ministers could hold a full session, shows that the resistance forces still hold real power inside the country. The forging of a single unified resistance front encompassing all patriotic Kampuchean would be a major step forward and could alter the situation in the fighting significantly.



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