

## DEFENDERS HOLDING FIRM

# Vietnam escalates war on Kampuchea

Vietnam is intensifying its aggression against neighboring Kampuchea (Cambodia) and becoming more desperate in its tactics.

The Bangkok Post reported Dec. 10 that Vietnam was moving 40,000 of its troops into position to attack Kampuchea from Laos. This would add a northern front to the ongoing aggression by an estimated 100,000 Vietnamese troops on the east of Kampuchea who have begun employing poison gas, chemical defoliants and anti-personnel cluster bombs with regularity.

The most significant development in the fighting was the announcement last week that something known as the "Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation" had been set up. The real purpose of this Vietnamese puppet organization is to conceal or justify Vietnamese military activity inside Kampuchea.

Commenting on the Vietnamese motives for setting up this front, Agence

France-Press noted, "Vietnam is trying to make people believe the military actions in east Cambodia were carried out by Cambodian insurgents, but they were in fact carried out by Vietnamese regulars."

The Vietnamese dry-season offensive is getting increasingly heavy-handed backing from the Soviet Union. A recently captured Vietnamese prisoner of war revealed to Kampuchean authorities that at Vietnam's Tan Son Nhut airport there were hundreds of Soviet jet-fighters, 300 Soviet pilots and 100 Soviet technicians. Some of the bombing runs are now being flown by Soviet pilots.

The same P.O.W., noted, however, that there was a growing struggle by Vietnamese people to put an end to the war. He told of a demonstration that had been held at Tan Son Nhut by several hundred people who demanded "Soviets get out of Vietnamese territory!" and "We oppose the forcible enlistment of soldiers to invade Kampuchea!"

Kampuchea is holding its own in the face of the massive Vietnamese invasion. Many of the Vietnamese claims about the fighting have turned out to be false or exaggerated, such as the recent announcement that an "insurgent" radio station called the "Voice of the Cambodian People" has been set up inside "liberated areas" of Kampuchea. In fact, the station was broadcasting from inside Vietnamese territory.

Newsweek magazine also commented on the Kampuchean successes and the demoralization of the Vietnamese army leading to a 20% desertion rate. Newsweek quoted a military analyst as saying that the Vietnamese are "fighting in another country, in a war they don't understand, against an enemy who has shown himself to be goddam tough."

Despite the wild ambitions of Vietnam and the Soviet Union, the Kampuchean people are rallying to resist the invasion and safeguard their freedom and national independence.