

# Chinese journalists report on Kampuchea

A delegation of Chinese journalists has recently returned to China from Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) after an extensive visit through the recently liberated country.

Their reports, which have been printed in many bulletins from the Hsinhua News Agency, provide a vivid first-hand account of the sweeping changes that have taken place in Kampuchea since the defeat of the U.S. imperialists and the Lon Nol puppets in April 1975. This article is taken from some of those reports.

Despite the fact that at least one-third of the population in Cambodia went hungry under Lon Nol, the country has now achieved full self-sufficiency in food grain supplies and has met the basic nutritional requirements of the whole people.

Over 200 factories destroyed or idled during the war against U.S. aggression have now been put into operation. The rubber industry, which had been almost completely destroyed by U.S. bombs, has been rebuilt due to tireless efforts of the rubber workers. Although much work remains to be done to overcome the devastation of war, more than 40 tons of rubber are now being produced daily.

The leading force in mobilizing the masses of people to carry out these seemingly incredible tasks is the Kampuchean Revolutionary Organization. Practicing a modest style of life and maintaining deep concern for the well-being of the people, cadres of the organization have gone out to every part of the country. They lead the work of wiping out the remnants of capitalism, imperialism and feudalism and in building a strong, healthy and independent Democratic Kampuchea.

The situation in agriculture is a good example of the changes since liberation. The Chinese journalists commented in one report, "Standing atop a city building, we saw a delightful landscape: agricultural co-op members working in rows in the fields, lush green paddy fields and a network of irrigation canals with newly-built houses neatly lining the roadsides. The people of Democratic Kampuchea are building the homeland with their own hands

on the war ruins."

Under the leadership of the Revolutionary Organization, many co-ops have been formed, and a big movement has developed among the peasants to pool their resources. Mechanized farm techniques are being introduced, and scientific farming has replaced much of the old feudal ways and superstitions. All this work has been accomplished by practicing the revolutionary policy of taking agriculture as the basis of a country's economy and pursuing the road of independence and self-reliance.

The people of Kampuchea are full of revolutionary enthusiasm and the spirit of self-sacrifice and hard work. Many women and youth are in the front ranks of the construction work in all fields. The people have firmly grasped the government's slogans of "Transform the Mountains and the Rivers of Kampuchea!" and "Be the Masters of the Water!" As a result, advanced engineering and irrigation feats have been accomplished in a short space of time.

The visit of the Chinese delegation also helped affirm the great friendship between the two peoples and the militant solidarity of the two countries. Kampuchean leaders Khieu Samphan, Nuon Chea and Ieng Sary all met with the Chinese delegation. They expressed their firmest support for China, its Communist Party and Chairman Hua Kuo-feng. The Kampuchean leaders spoke out against the crimes of the "gang of four" in China and said that the defeat of the "gang" was a victory for the Kampuchean people as well as the Chinese people.

Summing up their visit and all they had seen in Kampuchea, the Chinese journalists concluded, "The historic victory of national liberation was won by the great Kampuchean people through arduous and heroic struggle. In a little over one year after a five-year war, they have achieved outstanding successes in restoring and developing production. Our visit has firmly convinced us that in a relatively short period a well-fed, well-clothed, prospering and thriving Kampuchea will stand firmly before the world."