

Vietnamese invaders unable to crush Kampuchean resistance

The Vietnamese forces occupying Kampuchea (Cambodia) are continuing to encounter stiff resistance from the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army and the Kampuchean people. Viet Nam has been unable to establish firm control in a number of areas, even though it has sent more than 100,000 troops into the country. In addition to suffering some serious losses in the battlefield, the Soviet-backed invaders are facing growing international condemnation.

Fierce battles have been waged almost continuously in Takeo Province, in the eastern part of the country. The provincial capital was retaken by the Kampuchean forces on January 21. Heavy fighting continues for control of the city, while the western part of the province has been completely liberated from the invaders. Vietnamese forces in the eastern part of the province have been pushed steadily away from the capital, past Chrei So and Cham Bap Mountains.

The Vietnamese invaders in the important port city of Kompung Som are surrounded by Kampuchean units and have had to rely on airborne food drops. Kampuchean naval forces operating in the coastal areas have made it difficult for the aggressors to receive supplies by sea. Kampuchean gunboats have also attacked Vietnamese forces on several islands near Koh Kong Island.

In other parts of the country, including Pursat and Siem Reap, Vietnamese forces are having difficulty keeping supply lines open and have had to be supplied by air. Even in the heavily for-

tified capital of Phnom Penh, Vietnamese forces have been dependent on airlifts of food because they are unable to count on receiving supplies by land.

In Battambang Province in western Kampuchea, the cities of Thma Kor, Mongkol Borei, and Sisophon are surrounded by Kampuchean forces, and several Vietnamese units in these areas are on the verge of being wiped out. On January 24, the Kampuchean forces regained control of Highway No. 4, killing 200 Vietnamese soldiers and capturing four tanks.

Two central command headquarters have been set up inside Kampuchea to coordinate the resistance, and have been able to establish radio contact with Kampuchean Army units in different parts of the country.

Because of the continuing fighting, Viet Nam has sent thousands of additional troops into Kampuchea and the occupying force grows larger day by day. Vietnamese planes continue to fly scores of bombing raids on a daily basis to try to subdue the country.

Puppet government wins little support

The puppet "National Front" government installed in Phnom Penh by Hanoi with Moscow's blessing has had little success in gaining significant international support. The only countries which have recognized the new regime are the Soviet Union and 13 countries which are themselves under Soviet domination and military occupation: the Eastern European bloc (except Romania), Cuba, Viet Nam, Laos, Angola, Afghanistan,

Mongolia, South Yemen and Ethiopia.

At the same time, more and more countries have issued statements in defense of the independence and sovereignty of Democratic Kampuchea. The United Nations continues to recognize the Pol Pot government as the sole legitimate government of Kampuchea, and has rejected the Soviet Union's demand that the "National Front" regime be seated in the UN.

The non-aligned countries have also given their support to Democratic Kampuchea. At a meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries in Mozambique on January 26, Viet Nam and Cuba tried to block the participation of the delegation from Democratic Kampuchea. But by an overwhelming majority, the non-aligned countries rejected this demand and allowed Democratic Kampuchea's delegation, headed by Samdech Penn Nouth, to attend.

Viet Nam, backed by the U.S.S.R. had hoped for an easy victory in Kampuchea as part of its drive to take control of all of Indochina. Moscow was also hopeful of a quick victory because of its own ambitions to spread its influence in Asia and worldwide. (See commentary on Soviet strategy in Asia, p. 10.)

But Hanoi and Moscow have found themselves diplomatically isolated as a result of the invasion, and are now caught up in a protracted people's war with no clear victory in sight. Viet Nam and the Soviet Union are having to pay dearly for their aggression against Kampuchea.