

the basis of respect for each other's independence and freedom, equality and mutual benefit. The treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between Vietnam and the Soviet Union is a necessary and fine development in the relations of mutual assistance among the socialist countries. This treaty has created favorable conditions for the Vietnamese people to step up their national construction and defense. This is not a military alliance and not intended to oppose any third country. It meets the basic interests of the people of Vietnam and the Soviet Union and also contributes to the cause of world peace and cooperation among nations.

Vietnam pursues a consistent and principled policy toward the Southeast Asian region. During his recent visit to other Southeast Asian countries, Prime Minister Pham Van Dong has, together with the ASEAN leaders, affirmed the principles governing the relations between Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries, which are reflected in the historic bilateral joint statements.

The Peking authorities' stand and distortions aimed at dividing Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries and covering up their speeded-up expansionist policy pursued in Southeast Asia will certainly be exposed and rejected by realities.

New Wave: Of late, there has been intensified propaganda concerning the so-called refugees. What are your comments?

Mr. Trinh: The cause of socialist revolution has brought about a great change in the South Vietnamese people's political life. A number of people who used to live a luxurious life in the past and lived on the outside forces, cannot overcome the initial difficulties in the postwar period, caused by the long, fiercely destructive war of the imperialists and colonialists. These are the consequences of neocolonialism. We do not hinder anybody who wants to go abroad provided he goes through necessary procedures under the regulations and laws of the State. But those who fled abroad in an illegal manner, have caused difficulties to us. They have taken away with them many boats and other state property.

It is necessary to point out that in their lies, the criminal hands of the imperialists and international reactionaries, have designed not only to cause instability in Vietnam which needs internal stability and peace in international relations so as to heal the war wounds, to rehabilitate and develop the economy and culture, and gradually improve the living conditions of her people, but also nurtured a long-term scheme to undermine the socialist Vietnam.

Inside Pol Pot's Cambodia

The Vietnamese delegation to the UN this week called Pol Pot's Cambodia a "living hell." Although the U.S., Britain, and other nations have criticized Vietnam for supporting the overthrow of the Pol Pot government, no nation has refuted that characterization. In the testimony by Pol Pot's victims, the citizens of Cambodia, what emerges is a pattern of systematic mass killings — often indiscriminate, but sometimes singling out Cambodia's literate citizens — of the elimination of medical care, and the disbanding of public education down through the elementary levels — an attempt to turn a society backward in time to an early stone age culture.

Reproduced below are accounts by Cambodians of the barbarity of the Pol Pot regime, presented by the Vietnamese media late last year.

Mass Murder

Testimony of a captured Cambodian soldier, Mao Chan, broadcast over Radio Hanoi, Nov. 19:

I was captured by the Vietnamese forces on October 16, 1978 while leading my unit into Vietnamese territory in Dong Thap Province to prepare the way for the division's invasion of Vietnam... While I was in the Pol Pot army, at the orders of the commanders, I took part in massacring many Kampuchean people. At the beginning of June 1978, our commander summoned all the company cadres to a meeting in which we were told that the higher authorities had assigned us to kill some

rebels. He asked whether we dared carry out this order. He warned us, however, that any of us who refused to kill would be in great danger.

At the end of the meeting, four other men and I led about 50 people to the execution ground. Among these people were 20 children and 5 elderly men. The rest were women. They were inhabitants of Prey Veng Province. We were each given a bamboo stick as long as a pickax handle. We were followed by a group of well armed security personnel.

When we reached a spot in the village we were ordered to use the bamboo sticks to club the prisoners to death by smashing their heads or necks. Some of us hesitated. The security personnel standing behind us warned us that anyone resisting the order would be killed on the spot himself. I personally killed 20 people with a pickax handle. The bodies of the dead were thrown into a huge grave and covered with dirt.

Besides my group there were many other groups assigned to execute people in the same manner. I know that many people have been killed in this way.

The destruction of religion

(Radio Hanoi, broadcast Nov. 17):

In an interview with foreign correspondents on August 5, 1978, Pol Pot revealed that in recent years the number of Buddhists in Kampuchea had dropped steadily. He said that now only pseudo-Buddhists remain. This comment from the head of the

Phnom Penh administration makes people worry about religion in Kampuchea.

Buddhism is Kampuchea's national religion. One Kampuchean refugee... said: Buddhism is highly respected in Kampuchea. There are many pagodas and the number of Buddhists is high. Children learn how to pray at the same time they learn how to read and write.

The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique considers Buddhists to be third-class citizens. They claim Buddhists are only dull and stupid parasites. They say Buddhists know how to eat but do not know how to do farm work. So it's necessary to eliminate them because they do no good for the new Kampuchea.

For more than three years the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique has killed Buddhists, Moslems and people of other religions. Almost all pagodas and statues were destroyed... Another Kampuchean refugee ... said more than 300 of his villagers who complained about the harsh life under the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime were herded into a pagoda which was then set on fire... Worshippers were forced to sit in the scorching sun for 24 hours and (were) then buried alive.

Genocide

(Radio Hanoi, broadcast Nov. 29):

Following is a statement by Mrs. Nim: I am 25 years old. I have 12 years of education—equivalent to Vietnam's second grade. I formerly worked at a hospital in Kampuchea's eastern region. My parents were farmers. My family was lucky to be considered by "the organization" as being in the first category. My husband and two of my brothers served in the army of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique.

One morning in late May ... I was arrested by Kampuchean soldiers. At the time I did not realize why I was under arrest. All those soldiers wore Chinese clothes and caps and carried Chinese made weapons. They interrogated me. I boasted that my husband and young brothers were also fighting Vietnam. A commander who looked much younger than my brothers growled: "You belong to the first category and your hospital is to be destroyed. It is advisable that you be killed. However, since your husband and brothers are training their guns against Vietnam, we will set you free as a favor."

I was overjoyed and frightened at the same time. Why would they destroy my hospital? I rushed home, taking a shortcut toward the hospital to inform the hospital workers and patients about the imminent danger. Doctors, nurses and patients totaling nearly 400 fled into the jungle. In the tumult of evacuation the soldiers arrived and started arresting anybody they could lay hands on, including the children. They killed people in different manners. They used axes to smash the heads of the adults and forced the children to lie down on the dirt trails and ran armored cars over them.

One day, I witnessed with my own eyes how two Kampuchean soldiers searched my house and spreadeagled my father on his bed, then slashed his throat like one would a pig. I was scared almost to death and fled into the jungle...

Crimes against youth

(Radio Hanoi, Nov. 17):

Kampuchean children are not going to school and all textbooks have been burned. The slogans frequently cited by the government are that democratic Kampuchea does not need intellectuals and that the more education one receives, the more reactionary one becomes. Moreover, they also say that democratic Kampuchea needs only rice because once they have rice they can change everything. University professors and school teachers eat rice but they do not know how to grow it, therefore, they are nothing, garbage which must be destroyed... According to hundreds of thousands of Kampuchean refugees in Vietnam and Thailand, Kampuchean children are assigned work according to their age. From 10 to 12, they collect manure for agriculture. From 13 to 16, they work in paddy fields from 10 to 12 hours a day. After they reach 16, their working hours vary from place to place. Sometimes, they are forced to work by day or night. Many have died of hunger in paddy fields.

... According to Nu Fut, a Kampuchean who sought refuge in Vietnam, over 100 children were detained at a prison near his home town in the southwestern military area. According to the ruling regime, they were guilty of refusing to fulfill their revolutionary duties. In other words, they let the buffalo assigned to their care go hungry or they failed to collect garbage or manure in the prescribed amounts. In spite of their guilt they wanted to eat, to return to their parents and even to cry when they were punished...

The real criminals

(From the Vietnamese paper *Quan Doi Nhan Dan*, Nov. 10):

According to several foreign sources, tens of thousands of Chinese troops are currently stationed in Kampuchea. Chinese soldiers disguised as workers are controlling and operating all of Kampuchea's airfields, railway stations and ports. They also handle all tanks and armored vehicles, artillery pieces, aircraft and radar stations. Chinese planes and ships are delivering arms and war equipment to Kampuchea at a quickening pace. A runway for fighter and cargo planes was recently built by China at Kompong Chang, 50 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

Chinese support

(Tape of a Cambodian military man who joined the resistance against Pol Pot, broadcast on Vietnamese domestic radio, Nov. 16):

I know that many Chinese specialists and advisers are present in almost all factories in Kampuchea. They are actually military cadres in the guise of specialists. They have been sent to Kampuchea to control the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. I believe that this clique on its own would not have the courage to commit murderous crimes against the Kampuchean people. It has been incited to do this by its Chinese masters.