

China and the State Department are still fighting the Vietnam War

In January of this year, Chinese strongman Deng Xiaoping made his much publicized visit to the United States. Immediately after his return, in February, the Chinese sent hundreds of thousands of troops into an invasion of Vietnam which resulted in a Chinese defeat. Late last month, Vice-President Walter Mondale went to Peking for talks with Deng and others, leaving amid reports that Deng told him of China's readiness to "teach a second lesson" to Vietnam.

Now the Chinese are preparing to invade Vietnam again. The only difference between February and today is that the collusion between the Carter Administration and the Peking regime is completely out in the open.

The prospect of a Chinese invasion which could rapidly bring the world to the brink of nuclear confrontation is highly visible in the coordinated propaganda campaign of the U.S. State Department and the Peking regime around the situation in Kampuchea (Cambodia). With one voice, Washington and Peking have charged the Vietnamese with conducting a "new offensive" inside Kampuchea against what they describe as "20,000-30,000 troops" of the deposed Pol Pot regime. China, meanwhile, is painted as the heroic defender of Kampuchea's national sovereignty.

Vietnamese officials emphasize that the border with China is growing increasingly tense. The head of Hanoi's delegation to the United Nations, Deputy Foreign Minister Phan Hien, last week told reporters at the United Nations that the Chinese-U.S. charges of a "new offensive" are intended "only to mask aggression that is being prepared from the north (China) against Vietnam." He claimed the Chinese are massing troops on their northern frontier—some 12 divisions and 5 army corps—plus deployments of naval units off the Chinese island of Hainan, and including massing of troops on the border of Laos, Vietnam's neighbor to the west.

Phan Hien's charges were backed up by the Helsinki-based World Peace Council, which charged last week that the Chinese had massed up to 500,000 troops on the border.

Informed sources have reported that the Chinese military mobilization against Vietnam was timed to coincide with the decision by the United Nations General Assembly two weeks ago to seat the genocidal Pol

Pot regime as the "legitimate representative" of Kampuchea. During Vice President Mondale's trip to Peking, the two governments are thought to have concluded that a UN decision favoring Pol Pot would likely ensure a docile world reaction to any new Chinese invasion. This planning, based on secret agreement between Washington and Peking dating from the Kissinger-Chou En-lai era, is designed to weaken independent Vietnam, and to strengthen China's influence in Asia as a "strategic counterweight" to the Soviet Union.

State of propaganda

Word of a Vietnamese "offensive" began to surface last week, when Secretary of State Cyrus Vance spoke at the UN, and his Assistant for Asia, Richard Holbrooke, testified on Capitol Hill.

Holbrooke, speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Asia, stated that as many as 180,000 Vietnamese troops were involved in an "offensive" against 20,000-30,000 armed Pol Pot forces—an "offensive" he claimed was creating "the most dangerous" threat to stability in Asia in years. Not only will the "offensive" create military tension, he said, but it will also cause an additional 200,000 Kampuchean refugees into volatile Thailand.

Just one day before, Vance attacked the Vietnam "offensive" before the General Assembly, saying it was greatly "complicating" efforts to bring about a compromise between Pol Pot—who systematically murdered at least 3 million people during his Chinese-sponsored reign of terror—and the Vietnam-allied government now in Phnom Penh led by Heng Samrin.

Numerous independent observers, including recent visitors to Kampuchea, have scoffed at the State Department claim that 20,000-30,000 troops are fighting under Pol Pot. At most, several thousand youth are thought to remain in his control, mostly in the mountains in southwest Kampuchea or in sanctuaries in Thailand.

Today, the Washington Post provided some insight into how these few thousand "troops" remain under Pol Pot's control. Noting that the monsoon season, food shortages, and Vietnamese police actions have all but defeated Pol Pot, the Post reported that those "fighting"

under Pol Pot are receiving twice the meager rice rations civilians receive. Pol Pot has ordered the clubbing to death of any soldier or civilian who tries to flee. As when he was in power, bullets are not used in executions so as to reserve ammunition.

Joining the myth of a Vietnamese "offensive" has been a second circulated myth: Vietnam is blocking food aid to Kampuchea.

It is to be emphasized that a dire food and medical crisis exists in that country. Nearly all of the estimated 3.5-4 million survivors in Kampuchea are known to face possible death through starvation and related diseases. Fully 80 percent of the children are suffering from advanced stages of starvation. There can be no doubt where the blame lies for this situation: Pol Pot and his Peking allies.

Days before he fled the capital city of Phnom Penh, Pol Pot ordered the destruction of hundreds of thousands of tons of rice and other food stocks being stored throughout Kampuchea. Eyewitness accounts state that so much food was in storage that it burned, in some cases, for weeks. Few Kampuchians would be starving today had this action not been taken.

Vietnam has been sharing its own meager food supplies with Kampuchea, with each province in Vietnam contributing supplies to a corresponding province in Kampuchea. But Vietnam's humanitarian efforts are not sufficient to prevent millions of more deaths. Only an effective international aid program can do this—the relief effort that the State Department and Kennedy forces in Congress are working with Peking to block.

Whose preconditions?

For weeks now, China and the State Department have claimed that Vietnam is blocking food delivery to Kampuchea by placing "political preconditions" and insisting that the aid be delivered through the Heng Samrin government. By making this demand, which the State Department claims would "legitimize" the Vietnamese ongoing presence in Kampuchea, Vietnam is said to be holding that nation "hostage" to its political goals.

It is the State Department that has placed "political preconditions" on the delivery of aid to Kampuchea. State is insisting that all aid to that country be "split" and "shared" by the various "factions," including mass murderer Pol Pot. Vietnam says this demand is a "cover" behind which the United States and Peking will work to rearm the nearly extinct Pol Pot forces and starve out the popular Heng Samrin government, forcing Vietnam and Kampuchea to come under the dictates of China.

UNICEF-Red Cross perfidy

This strategy is being implemented principally through two major international relief agencies—the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Interna-

tional Red Cross. Australian journalist John Pilger, writing in the Sept. 21 issue of the *New Statesman*, detailed this blackmail process.

A recent visitor to Phnom Penh, Pilger writes that no American aid has reached Kampuchea for two reasons: "None has been offered, and the Red Cross and UNICEF have made no move to mount a substantial relief program." He notes that the Heng Samrin government appealed for relief at the beginning of July and a written request for 100,000 tons of rice, 15,000 tons of sugar and 8,000 tons of butter oil, as well as medical supplies, was handed to the Red Cross officials. "Two months have since passed, countless thousands have died needlessly."

Pilger then quotes a senior relief agency official to explain the stalling by UNICEF and the Red Cross. "The Pol Pot regime is still recognized by the United Nations and UNICEF has become ensnared in the anti-Vietnam campaign. The Red Cross may protest its neutrality, but it has become susceptible to pressure, mostly from Washington, not to rush into Cambodia as this may well lead to de facto recognition of the Heng Samrin government and blow away the notion of Vietnam as "aggressor" and the main obstacle to getting relief in. The Red Cross also wants a foothold in China, and China is Pol Pot's most powerful ally. It is a nasty, messy business."

Since the writing of the Pilger article, UNICEF and the Red Cross have announced a \$100 million, six-month program to aid Kampuchea, but this is still being held up by the State Department's political preconditions. Last week, a meeting was held in Thailand under the direction of one of that country's Chinese-corrupted Air Marshals. The meeting, involving "donor countries" and officials from UNICEF and Red Cross, decided to spend some \$30 million of the program's \$100 million for relief efforts primarily in the vicinity of the Thai-Kampuchean border.

In his UN press conference, Phan Hien emphasized Hanoi's view that any attempt to "split" aid to Kampuchea is a cover for creating "two Kampuchesas," linked to efforts to bring about a "political neutralization" of Kampuchea, involving another Chinese puppet, former head of state Prince Sihanouk.

He said that China and the United States still hope to regain Chinese influence in Kampuchea, so that country can be used as a western base of military operations against Vietnam, while China-proper threatens from the north.

The State Department is being assisted in this fraudulent relief operation by Sen. Edward Kennedy, who is sponsoring legislation to expand the American participation in the Thailand-based program. Rep. Stephen Solarz, a Kennedy ally, is introducing similar legislation in the House.

—Peter Ennis