

Department Deputy Secretaries Lawrence Eagleburger and Robert Kimmit in Washington, and told the press July 12, "It was generally agreed to make efforts to deepen mutual understanding and to resume and develop good relations between China and the U.S.A." Zhu announced that he would invite some of his new acquaintances from Congress to Shanghai, to discuss human rights.

### Red carpet treatment

Not to be outdone, Maude called for the restoration of "warm and cooperative" British relations with China. He told the BBC in an interview that the European ban on soft loans to China "exists by consensus. A number of us think that the time has come to start relaxing those measures, but we won't until we have a consensus." Resumption of military aid, however, is still "a long way down the road," he conceded.

The Chinese responded in kind. Maude was honored with a meeting with Prime Minister Li Peng on July 25, a meeting that still had not been confirmed in the last days before his trip. There are reports that Maude was preparing the way for a visit to Beijing by Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd before the end of the year. This would be most significant. Hurd has played a critical role for decades in shaping Britain's policy in support of the Chinese Communists. Hurd, who speaks Mandarin fluently, is a product of that nest of British communists, Trinity College, Cambridge University.

China's Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei toasted Maude at a banquet July 24, where he said that despite "twists and turns" in Sino-British relations over the past year, he hoped the visit would "mark the start of a good working relationship between us." The two sides, Tian said, "share much common ground."

### Show trials in Hong Kong

Part of their "common ground" is making sure that the growing democracy movement in Hong Kong is kept firmly repressed. The colonial government has called for "guilty" verdicts against five protesters who were staging peaceful sit-ins last February, demanding elections in the colony before 1997. Under the British administration, there are no elections in Hong Kong. The protestors are members of the new United Democrats Party, which includes Hong Kong Alliance leader Lee Wing Tat. The charges are based on ordinances from 1900 and 1933, which have never been applied in this way before. After the Alliance brought up to 1 million Hong Kong citizens onto the streets last year, Beijing became very nervous and demanded that Britain crack down on "subversives" in the colony. Britain has assured the Beijing leaders that it will comply.

Even the leading British dailies are disgusted with the show. The *Times* denounced the "Appeasement in Peking" in its editorial July 24, and the *Independent* the next day denounced the British government's "disgraceful inclination to cringe before the geriatric murderers who now rule China."

## ASEAN hits U.S. turnabout on Cambodia

by Linda de Hoyos

The foreign ministers of the non-communist nations of Southeast Asia which gathered July 20 at the conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have registered their protests to Secretary of State James Baker that the United States has abruptly altered its policy on the Cambodian conflict.

In a move designed to distance itself from a military victory of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, the Bush administration announced July 15 that it would no longer recognize the tripartite coalition that includes the Khmer Rouge as the legitimate representative of Cambodia at the United Nations. Baker, who announced the shift from Paris where he was meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said the United States would also initiate dialogue with Vietnam—which backs the Hun Sen government of Phnom Penh in Cambodia—to seek a political settlement to the 11-year Cambodian conflict. "We want to do all we can to prevent the return of the Khmer Rouge to power," Baker said.

But ASEAN foreign ministers are pointing out that the U.S. about-face will not bring about a settlement, and without a settlement—forged quickly—the Khmer Rouge will take power in Phnom Penh. In the past month, the Khmer Rouge, led by the genocidalist Pol Pot and equipped and funded by the People's Republic of China, has made steady gains on the battlefield (see map).

As *EIR* reported in its July 6 issue, ("Khmer Rouge on the March"), the Bush administration handed the Khmer Rouge the opportunity to press ahead militarily when it blew up the talks in Tokyo among the Cambodian factions in early July. At that time, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon demanded that the Khmer Rouge be kept out of the peace process—after the Khmer Rouge had already signed a ceasefire agreement put together by then Thai Defense Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyuth. The U.S. "hard line" on the Khmer Rouge gave its representative Khieu Samphan the perfect excuse to rip up the agreement, with the U.S.-backed KPNLF following suit.

ASEAN leaders are making clear that they believe the latest U.S. maneuvers amount to the same provocative actions which get no result in the reality of conflict resolution. "My preliminary conclusion is that it is not helpful to the ASEAN process searching for a peaceful solution to Cambodia," stated Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng. "I

can't figure out how, by asking the Cambodia coalition to vacate their seat in the U.N., it will help to stop the Khmer Rouge from returning to power."

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ala Alatas, whose country has taken the lead in attempting to bring about negotiations among the four Cambodian factions, indicated how the U.S. about-face has specifically gummed up the works: "Indonesia was on the verge of organizing another informal regional meeting in Jakarta to aim at reconvening the Paris conference, but suddenly the U.S. switched policy."

### U.S. 'realpolitik'

ASEAN, and the world, have a right to wonder if the U.S. rejection of the coalition's diplomatic credentials is a sincere step toward peace.

First, the fact of the matter is that under current military conditions on the ground, a "peace process" that excludes the Khmer Rouge is doomed to failure, as it gives the Khmer Rouge free rein to press ahead on the battlefield. It is hard to imagine that the State Department planners are not aware of this reality.

Second, although news reports state that the decision to withdraw diplomatic support from the coalition was being forced upon the Bush administration by growing opposition to the Cambodia policy coming from the Congress, the decision appears to be part of U.S. geopolitiking with the superpowers—the same game that kept Cambodia at war for the

last 20 years.

Baker's announcement came after consultation with the Soviet Union, France, and Britain, according to Paris sources cited in the British press. But Baker and company never bothered to discuss the possible implications of the U.S. move with those regional powers attempting to find a solution to the problem—especially Japan and the ASEAN countries. "Collectively the ASEAN countries were astonished," said Philippines Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus in Jakarta.

Third, U.S. aid to the "non-communist" forces of the coalition inevitably finds its way to the Khmer Rouge, since, the CIA admitted for the first time this week, the coalition armies share the same supply line. Although Baker says the U.S. has now withdrawn its recognition of the coalition, he said the U.S. will continue to supply the "non-communist" forces for the war against Phnom Penh. In short, the U.S. will continue to supply the Khmer Rouge!

At the very least, the U.S. turn is acting to prolong the war—a policy that will likely bring eventual victory to the Khmer Rouge, as the Phnom Penh government is exhausted and financially depleted, with U.S.S.R. aid dwindling fast.

Another possibility is that among the superpowers, which have used the Cambodian nation as their cannon fodder for the last 20 years, Cambodia has been ceded to the Khmer Rouge—that is, Beijing—in return for the United States' allowing an end to the international trade embargo of Vietnam.

**Cambodian battle zones, July 1990**

- KEY
- ▨ Battle areas
  - ▬ New battle areas June-July 1990
  - Cities taken by the Khmer Rouge
  - Cities under siege by Khmer Rouge
  - ☀ Refugees fleeing fighting

