

# Power-sharing deal struck in Cambodia

by Linda de Hoyos

Amid much international fanfare, the four factions of Cambodia's 10-year conflict announced from Jakarta, Indonesia that they had agreed on a power-sharing formula for the creation of a Supreme National Council that would rule Cambodia until national elections are held to determine a new unified Cambodia government. The Supreme National Council, it has been agreed, will be composed of 12 members—six from the Hun Sen government of Phnom Penh and six from the Cambodian resistance coalition, with two representatives from the Khmer Rouge, Son Sann, and Sihanouk factions of the coalition. Prince Sihanouk is to chair the council as a 13th member. Decisions are to be reached by "consensus," not by majority rule.

The Council formula represented a victory for the Hun Sen government, which had rejected earlier arrangements by which each faction would have equal representation. This would have given Phnom Penh only 25% of the power-sharing. It would appear that the agreement was forced with the backing of the People's Republic of China.

The agreement—which featured the leaders of four factions standing hand in hand at Jakarta for the world's press photographers—is based on a proposal agreed to by the five members of the United Nations Security Council Aug. 28.

According to this agreement:

- A ceasefire is arranged between the Phnom Penh government and the resistance coalition that includes the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge;

- A "Supreme National Council" composed of the three resistance factions and the Vietnamese-backed Hun Sen government takes nominal control of the government;

- Actual government control is placed in the hands of U.N. officials who would supervise five key ministries during a "transition period" of unspecified length;

- The U.N. officials would verify the ceasefire, supervise elections, and ensure that all Vietnamese forces have left Cambodia. The Vietnamese pulled their forces out of Cambodia last September.

## Khmer Rouge on the march

The problem with these arrangements and with the results of the Jakarta meeting, is that there is as yet no date set for the ceasefire to take place. In the meantime, the Khmer Rouge is using its time to steadily make its way to Phnom Penh. To give an idea of the domination of the Khmer Rouge within the resistance coalition on the ground, the CIA reported in August that the Khmer Rouge receives approximately \$100

million in aid from China per year, in contrast to the \$20 million from the United States and \$10 million from Singapore received by the non-communist coalition members, as AFP reported.

The Khmer Rouge is now on the verge of taking the small but strategic town on Highway 12, Stong, which connects the major western parts of the country (still being held by the Phnom Penh government) with the rest of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge strategy is to take the northern provincial capital of Kompong Thom and Kompong Speu to the south. Heated battles have been taking place throughout September in Stong, 50 kilometers north of Kompong Thom, which Phnom Penh claims it still holds. In the southeast, in August, the Khmer Rouge reported it had seized the port of Kampot, 40 kilometers from the Vietnam border, thereby opening up a new supply line in the eastern section of the country.

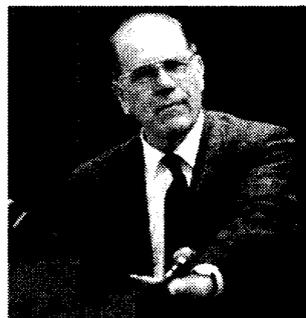
The Khmer Rouge is now concentrating its forces for attacks on rural towns and district capitals, leaving terror in its wake. Attack parties are now up to 600-800-strong, according to a report in the Aug. 16 *New York Times*. When the government musters a counterattack, the Khmer Rouge then retreats into the mountains. In areas north of Phnom Penh, press reports indicate, the Khmer Rouge is seeding rice fields with mines, burning villages, and seizing cattle and rice. Thousands of Cambodians are being forced to flee their homes.

*'From the prison in which the politician's career expires, the influence of the statesman is raised toward the summits of his life's providential course. Since Solon, the Socratic method has become the mark of the great Western statesman. Without the reemergence of that leadership, our imperiled civilization will not survive this century's waning years.'*

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

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by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



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