

## Italian delegation's visit to Democratic Kampuchea

8 to 15 July 1978

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Pictured, part of a delegation of five visiting Democratic Kampuchea in the summer of 1978 party Secretary General, Osvaldo Pesce Italian Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) at a meeting with Pol Pot.

**ITALIAN UNIFIED CP PAPER ON DELEGATION'S VISIT TO CAMBODIA**

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 17 Aug 78 BK

[Text] On 5 August the newspaper PROLETARIAN LINE, organ of the Unified Communist Party of Italy, carried reportage on the visit to Democratic Kampuchea by the delegation of the Central Committee of the Unified Communist Party of Italy under the leadership of party Secretary General Comrade Osvaldo Pesce from 8 to 15 July 1978. The reportage was presented under the title: "A Historic Visit for the Revolutionary Cause of the Kampuchean and Italian Peoples, Says Comrade Pol Pot, Secretary of the KCP Central Committee and Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea." The reportage is as follows:

At 0630 on 8 July the delegation of our party Central Committee led by Comrade Secretary General Osvaldo Pesce arrived in Phnom Penh for a friendly visit to Democratic Kampuchea at the invitation of the KCP Central Committee. At Pochentong Airport our delegation was warmly welcomed by the comrade director of the KCP's Committee for Relations With Foreign Countries, the comrade chief of protocol of the KCP Central Committee and other comrades from relevant departments.

Radio Phnom Penh reported the arrival of our delegation. Our delegation had been accompanied to the Peking airport by the comrade ambassador of Democratic Kampuchea to the PRC.

On the evening of 8 July Comrade Ieng Sary, member of the Standing Committee of the KCP Central Committee and deputy prime minister for foreign affairs of Democratic Kampuchea, hosted a welcoming banquet in honor of our delegation at the Phnom Penh guest house. The comrade director of the KCP's Committee for Relations With Foreign Countries and many comrades from departments concerned attended this banquet. On this occasion Comrade Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary and Comrade Osvaldo Pesce made speeches dealing with the development of the profound revolutionary friendship and militant solidarity between our two parties and peoples. The contents of these speeches have already been published in this newspaper.

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On the morning of 11 July Comrade **Pol Pot**, secretary of the KCP Central Committee and prime minister of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, received and had talks with Comrade Osvaldo **Pesce** and the delegation of our party Central Committee in a most cordial and warm atmosphere.

Comrade **Pol Pot** had a long talk with our delegation dealing with political issues relating to the world situation and the situation in Democratic Kampuchea.

That same evening Comrade **Pol Pot** arranged a banquet in honor of our delegation at the state guest palace. During this banquet Comrade Secretary **Pol Pot** and Comrade Osvaldo **Pesce** called for strengthening and expanding the bonds of profound revolutionary solidarity between our two parties. We have also published the full text of the two speeches in this newspaper.

In his fraternal conversation with Comrade **Pesce** and our delegation, Comrade **Pol Pot** expressed profound congratulations and encouragement for our struggle and activities carried out under the leadership of our party for the continuous development of relations between our two parties and peoples.

On 10 July, accompanied by the comrade director of the Committee for Relations With Foreign Countries and other responsible comrades, our delegation paid a visit to Takeo Province and the Ang Knol peasants cooperative located only 10 kilometers from the battlefield on the border with Vietnam. There we were warmly welcomed by cadres and a large crowd of people. The responsible officials of this Ang Knol cooperative, with a most becoming pride, showed us a hill on which the guerrilla unit of the Ang Knol cooperative crushed the Vietnamese aggressors and destroyed three of their armored personnel carriers last month. We witnessed with our own eyes evidence of the savage acts of destruction of rice plants and cattle by the Vietnamese aggressors. We visited the workshops where farm tools were made from U.S. military materials seized from the enemy during the liberation war.

The responsible persons of the Ang Knol cooperative gave us as presents a number of farm tools such as sickles and knives, symbols of the reconstruction of the liberated country following the victory over the enemy aggressors.

From 12 to 14 July we went from Phnom Penh to Angkor Wat, traveling through the vast countryside. En route we visited dams, reservoirs and ricefields and saw with our own eyes the vigorous efforts to build the country and the mass movement to solve the problem of water conservancy and soil improvement, as well as the constantly heightened vigilance of the revolutionary army and people against the Vietnamese aggressors.

All the people thoroughly understand the task of building socialism and defending the nation. The whole country is one vast worksite, with new ricefields, new irrigation networks and new homes. Thanks to the correct leadership of the KCP, the Kampuchean people have seized state power and, through this, have grasped national honor and become completely self-sufficient in food.

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The revolutionary administration of Democratic Kampuchea is firm and strong. It is supported by the people and can smash attempts at internal subversion and acts of aggression carried out by the expansionist Vietnamese enemy under the command of Soviet social imperialism.

Along the road to Angkor Wat our delegation could see the results of the founding of agricultural cooperatives and people's vigorous leap forward.

Vestiges of the heartrending and cruel devastation caused by the air war of the U.S. aggressors, including the leveling of entire townships and villages by napalm bombs, still remain visible. Through this our delegation could see with its own eyes the scope of the most persistent and arduous struggle being waged at present.

On our return from Angkor Wat we met a truck carrying a seriously wounded combatant from the battlefield, a victim of the Vietnamese aggression. We admired with great emotion the revolutionary feeling and spirit of sacrifice displayed by this heroic combatant.

Finally, the visit to famous Angkor Wat enabled us to further understand the power of the centuries-old national tradition and culture and the Kampuchean people's glorious tradition of struggle for national liberation, as well as the identity of the national culture and age-old great sense of creativity of the Kampuchean people.

The imposing and extremely beautiful Angkor Wat temple and its wonderful legacy have been preserved by the Liberation Army, which fought with weapons in hands against the imperialists and their puppets, who did not hesitate to try to destroy this temple in order to undermine the rights and freedoms of the Kampuchean nation, which has a glorious history.

During the war against the imperialist aggressors, Angkor Wat was liberated immediately; that is, it was liberated in June 1970—the first year of the liberation war.

Our delegation visited Angkor Wat accompanied by Kampuchean comrades, one of whom, under a hail of enemy bullets, had raised the national Kampuchean banner atop Angkor Wat.

After coming into direct contact with the Kampuchean people and learning about their national character, we see everything clearly. Vietnam's plan to form one people, one country and one nation in Indochina is certainly a Vietnamese expansionist ambition and a plot to give Vietnam control over Kampuchea in order to destroy Kampuchea's national identity.

Our PROLETARIAN LINE newspaper will publish other articles on other aspects of our visit.

Before our departure a comrade of the KCP presented our delegation with the national flag of Democratic Kampuchea, a sculpture produced by the local carving studio symbolizing the Angkor Wat temple, a stone sculpture, a silver cigarette case and two films, one showing national reconstruction efforts and the other showing Vietnam's war of aggression, as well as some fruit.

The atmosphere before our departure was even more cordial than when we arrived. The Kampuchean comrades expressed the hope that our party comrades would pay another visit to Kampuchea to further strengthen the bonds of revolutionary solidarity.

On 15 July the comrade director of the KCP Committee for Relations With Foreign Countries and other comrades accompanied us to the airport. The comrade director conveyed to us the farewell of Comrade Secretary Pol Pot and of the KCP Central Committee. We and the Kampuchean comrades bid farewell to each other with the sentiments of the true friends and longtime comrades.

The visit of our delegation was the first by West Europeans to Kampuchea since this country was liberated on 17 April 1975. Our delegation directly witnessed the enthusiasm and revolutionary stamina of the KCP and the Kampuchean people, as well as the certain victory of the glorious Kampuchean revolutionary army. Our party believes even more firmly that Democratic Kampuchea is a strong bulwark for the struggle against hegemonism and modern revisionism and is a heroic socialist state making an important contribution to world revolution.

Our party is confident that, despite a protracted and complex war full of sacrifices, expansionist Vietnam and its masters--the social imperialists--will be defeated and Kampuchea will win final victory.

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A ricochet of those distant events emerged in an unrelated complaint about a separate press reporting error in an Italian daily newspaper Il Mattino (The Morning) that attributed a delegate's membership to a different organisation, PMLI Italian Marxist-Leninist Party (PMLI).

"In reference to his defamatory article against Pol Pot published in "Il Mattino" of 31 May entitled "Quella cena con Pol Pot worse than Hitler ", we inform you that Antonio Cardellicchio has never been a member of the Commission for relations of the Italian Marxist-Leninist Party (PMLI). For us he is an illustrious stranger. His abusive would be enough attribution of an office never received, to invalidate his fanciful anti-communist narration of the dinner with Pol Pot, for the PMLI esteemed leader of the Cambodian people's war of national liberation. Therefore, we kindly invite you to correct the aforementioned incorrect information on your site regarding the alleged relationship of Cardellicchio with the PMLI.

Yours sincerely. The Press Office of the PMLI

The paper replied,

In reality there was a confusion of acronyms, due to the jagged archipelago of organizations that, in the 1960s and 1970s last century, gave birth to the extra-parliamentary communist galaxy. In fact, Antonio Cardellicchio, one of the five Italians who are part of the mission that was received by Pol Pot in the summer of 1978, was actually a member of the Central Committee and the International Relations Commission of the "Unified Communist Party of Italy (Marxist-Leninist)". Osvaldo Pesce was secretary, the main exponent of the political platform explicitly inspired by Chinese positions. That the party of which Cardellicchio was a member was held in high esteem by the leaders in Beijing is demonstrated by the fact that Osvaldo Pesce (at the time of the events secretary and head of the Italian delegation hosted by Pol Pot and the government of Kampuchea) in 1968 had been officially received by Mao Tse-tung. However, we apologize for the inaccuracy to readers and those directly involved. Nico Pirozzi"

In their complaint the PMLI were not dissociating themselves from the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK), who, even after the invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam, they retained a supportive relationship to the extent of a PMLI leader reportedly visiting a CPK-controlled zone of Cambodia in 1987. The reportage in their publication "Il Bolshevico" on the occasion of the death of Pol Pot and the verdicts in Case No.2 of the "Khmer Rouge Tribunal" reflects the organisation's continuing fidelity to its political judgement.

## TWO PMLI ARTICLES

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Honour to Pol Pot

We will always remember him as a shining example of a revolutionary leader loyal to his people and an indomitable champion of the struggle for independence and national liberation

Il Bolshevico no.17/1998

With deep sorrow we learned that on April 15, 1998, at 11.15 pm (local time), in Cambodia, Pol Pot died, according to the official version, of a heart attack. For years he had been seriously ill with malaria and nevertheless he had continued to be among his people, in the jungle, to fight for the freedom

and independence of his country and had never let himself be touched by the idea of taking refuge to abandon his land and its people and going to be treated elsewhere. His death leaves a great void in the hearts of all the authentic revolutionaries and anti-imperialists of the whole world, as well as of the Marxist-Leninists.

We will remember him forever as a shining example of a revolutionary leader loyal to his people and an indomitable champion of the struggle for independence and national liberation. He has always been at the head of his people against colonialism, imperialism and social-imperialism which with arms wanted to subdue and annihilate Cambodia; one of the best sons of the Cambodian people for whose interests he sacrificed his life, all of himself.

We are deeply grateful to him because he has shown how a small and unarmed people can make imperialism eat the dust as long as it is animated and guided by a just revolutionary, anti-colonial and anti-imperialist line; we are grateful to him for liberating his country from American imperialism and the Lon Nol clique earlier and for preventing the Vietnamese revisionists from engulfing Cambodia in one gulp and for always refusing to sell off the guerrillas and surrender to the Phnom Penh regime even at the cost of being subjected to the humiliation of a sham public trial, the arrest and betrayal of a false Khmer Rouge.

We remember him as Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, as Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea from April 17, 1975, day of liberation, to January 7, 1979, the day on which the Vietnamese revisionist army, managed by the imperialist USSR, invaded the country.

We also want to recall the message that Pol Pot sent as Secretary of the CC of the CPK, on January 24, 1978, to "Comrade Giovanni Scuderi, Secretary General of the PMLI" in which among other things he said "We are very happy to formulate aside our best wishes for health and victories to you and to the PMLI. May the relations of revolutionary friendship between our two parties develop and consolidate continuously ". Relations that could not later develop because of the revisionists who got in the way.

The figure and history of Pol Pot can instead be defined as that of a faithful and generous son of the Kampuchean people. Faithful because he dedicated his whole life to the cause of the independence of his country and to the liberation of his people. Liberation from the occupying armies and liberation from colonialist and capitalist exploitation. Generous because he did not spare energies in the service of the cause of Kampuchea, of the Kampuchean revolution, in the construction of socialism.

The son of a peasant family, he was born in Kompong Thom in the central area of the country. As was the custom, he lived for six years at the pagoda to learn to read and write. For two years he is also a monk. He then attends primary and secondary school where he follows a technical course. After passing the exam, he gets a scholarship to continue his studies abroad, in France. Here he militates in the movement of progressive students to which he dedicates a lot of time, neglecting his studies. The authorities revoke his scholarship and he return to his homeland where he enters the underground movement in Phnom Penh; later he joins the partisans to participate in the fight against French colonialism.

After the Geneva Accords of 1954, which established the withdrawal of French colonial troops from the country, the end of the colonial regime and the independence of Cambodia, he returns to the capital and continues to conduct clandestine activities against the government in office. He soon became the regional leader of the opposition movement in Phnom Penh and responsible for links to the campaign. In public life he appears as a teacher of history, geography and civics and teaches in a private school.

The founding congress of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) was held in the capital on September 30, 1960, at the end of preparatory work that begun in 1957. Pol Pot is elected a member of the Central Committee and the Standing Committee of the Central Committee. In 1977, during a public demonstration on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the party's foundation, Pol Pot officially announcing its existence and stated: "This congress marked a historic turning point for our nation, for our people, for our revolution and for the working class of Kampuchea. It marks the day when the

Communist Party of Kampuchea, a genuine Marxist-Leninist party, was really born".

The CPK from the analysis of the situation of the country, characterized by a dependence on American imperialism, so much so that it was in conditions of a semi-colony, set as a task that of uniting all the forces of the people to oust American imperialism. It set the tasks for the democratic revolution which aims to free all the people composed of 85% of peasants. A courageous and daring project, but by uniting the workers and peasants with the petty bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie, with progressive and patriotic personalities, it will allow victory in the war against the fascist regime of Lon Nol and American imperialism. The whole party is working assiduously on the project and begins to progressively transfer the members of the Central Committee from Phnom Penh to the countryside to directly mobilize the peasant masses and escape the increasingly assiduous control of the government police.

Pol Pot leaves the capital in 1963 and settles in the distant regions of the country and travels far and wide sharing the life of the peasant masses. Its support base is located in a region inhabited by national minorities in the north-east.

In 1961 Pol Pot was elected assistant secretary of the Standing Committee and in 1963, at the second party congress, secretary of the Central Committee.

The liberation struggle begins to develop; armed only with knives, axes and sticks, the people begin to attack the peripheral garrisons of the government army. In 1967 a spontaneous armed uprising broke out in Samlaut. The CPK judges that the conditions are ripe for launching the armed struggle in a big way throughout the country. In January 1968 the first insurrection broke out in the northwest; it is the beginning of the people's war which, combining regular warfare and guerrilla warfare, will lead the revolutionary army of Kampuchea to drive out the fascist clique of Lon Nol and the American soldiers who had invaded the country and on April 17, 1975 to liberate Phnom Penh. Kampuchea is the first country in Indochina to claim victory over American imperialism.

Having successfully completed the phase of the national democratic revolution, the CPK begins that of the defense of Kampuchea, the continuation of the socialist revolution and the building of socialism in the country.

One of the problems was the excessive concentration of the population in the capital, made up in part by war refugees in part attracted by the Lon Nol regime and gravitating around the war economy and the dollars spent by the American occupiers. It would not have been possible for the new government headed by Pol Pot to guarantee a dignified life to the great mass of inhabitants of Phnom Penh by a country starved and plagued by US bombings. That's why the government supported and favoured the transfer of a slice of inhabitants to work in the countryside.

The policy of the new Democratic Kampuchea government is illustrated in 1977 by Pol Pot:

"we take agriculture as a fundamental factor and use the capital accumulated through agriculture to progressively build industry and quickly transform Kampuchea into a modern agricultural country, then into an industrial country, firmly adhering to the line of independence, sovereignty and fundamentally relying on our strengths. (...) Our goal is to field, consolidate and progressively develop industrial and artisan complexes, large, medium and small, in Phnom Penh, in other areas, regions, districts and cooperatives. (...) In the immediate future, our main objective (in education, ed) is the elimination of illiteracy. In the old society there were schools and high schools and a certain number of faculties but in the countryside 75% of the population, in particular the poor and middle poor peasants, could neither read nor write, and even in the city 60% of the workers were illiterate. Currently, just two years after the liberation, only 10% of the population is illiterate (today it is 50% again, ed). (...) We have developed and will develop health networks by creating hospital centers and drug manufacturing centers in all cooperatives and in the capital. (...) The health of our people has seen a considerable improvement. We have definitively eliminated social diseases and drug addiction ".in particular, the poor and middle poor peasants could neither read nor write, and even in the city 60% of the workers were illiterate. Currently, just two years after the liberation, only 10% of the population is

illiterate (today it is 50% again, ed). (...) We have developed and will develop health networks by creating hospital centers and drug manufacturing centers in all cooperatives and in the capital. (...) The health of our people has seen a considerable improvement. We have definitively eliminated social diseases and drug addiction ".in particular, the poor and middle poor peasants could neither read nor write, and even in the city 60% of the workers were illiterate. Currently, just two years after the liberation, only 10% of the population is illiterate (today it is 50% again, ed). (...) We have developed and will develop health networks by creating hospital centers and drug manufacturing centers in all cooperatives and in the capital. (...) The health of our people has seen a considerable improvement. We have definitively eliminated social diseases and drug addiction ".) We have developed and will develop health networks by creating hospital centers and drug manufacturing centers in all cooperatives and in the capital. (...) The health of our people has seen a considerable improvement. We have definitively eliminated social diseases and drug addiction ".)

The people of Kampuchea committed to improving their living conditions want to live in peace and friendly relations with all peoples and countries. Pol Pot's government pursues a correct policy of non-interference and respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, a policy of peace and non-alignment. But the work of building and construction of socialism is brutally nipped in the bud, after a series of provocations that started in 1977, saw attacks by the Vietnamese who, driven by the then Soviet social imperialists, invaded Kampuchea in January 1979.

In stark state of inferiority of forces the government of Kampuchea leaves the capital and takes refuge in the countryside from where it will direct a long-lasting resistance war.

The harsh Vietnamese occupation will cause more mourning and massacres to the Kampuchean people; the Hanoi regime, backed by social-imperialism and imperialism, will denounce the alleged massacres of the legitimate Kampuchean government in order to cover up its own and try to justify the

aggression. The reality is that if the Kampuchean people had really been the victim of Pol Pot's government they would certainly not be making a decisive contribution to the long war of resistance against the aggressors. A war that Kampuchea practically wages alone, with its own forces.

To allow the formation of a broad resistance front, in 1980, Pol Pot left the office of prime minister and promoted the formation of a national coalition government and assumed supreme commander of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea. He directs the anti-Vietnamese resistance, which will prevent the Hanoi regime from controlling the country and annexing it, until 1985 when he will retire on the proposal of the coalition government which entrusts him with the position of director of the high institute for national defense, his last officially known office. Giving a great example of generosity and dedication to the cause of Kampuchea and its people for whose good he has placed himself in the background.

The Paris Accords of 1991 will lead to the withdrawal of the Vietnamese occupation army and "free" elections under UN tutelage in 1993; elections denounced as farce by the Khmer resistance who boycotted them and did not hand over their weapons. The coalition government headed by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the former puppet of Vietnamese aggressors Hun Sen is soon characterized by corruption, arms and drug trafficking, child prostitution that brought the country back into the darkness of the past under imperialist domination from which Pol Pot had managed to make it emerge.

The false Khmer Rouge betray Pol Pot, sell off the guerrillas to save their lives and for a place in the government through the agreement with Ranariddh. Hun Sen responds with the coup of 5 July 1997 which assures him full power in Phnom Penh.

Later the fake Khmer Rouge subjected Pol Pot to a sham trial and a life sentence to certify their treason to the world. In a subsequent and final interview with an American journalist, Pol Pot reaffirms his reasons and loyalty to the cause for which he has fought all his life: "I acted for the good of the population, not to exterminate it, and I a clear conscience ... I want you to know that everything I did, I did for my country".

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May Pol Pot live forever and his name become a symbol of the anti-imperialist struggle.

II.

The sentence of the extraordinary puppet court, endorsed by the Trotskyist "Manifesto", does not change the reality of history.

Pol Pot's "genocide" in Cambodia is a fake of imperialism.

Two former rulers of Democratic Kampuchea condemned for the "extermination" of Muslim and Vietnamese minorities. Traitor Prime Minister Hun Sen sold and untouched.

December 5, 2018

The UN puppet court installed in Phnom Penh has sentenced to life imprisonment for "genocide of Muslim and Vietnamese minorities" two former rulers of Democratic Kampuchea, ninety-two-year-old Noun Chea and 87-year-old former head of state, Khieu Samphan, already sentenced to the life imprisonment for "crimes against humanity".

The sentence had great international emphasis on the word "genocide", used for the first time by the Extraordinary Court of Cambodia created to judge the so-called "crimes" attributed to the Khmer Rouge, including the extermination of a figure ranging between 1.5 and 3 million people. The Trotskyist "manifesto" also joined the chorus of acclaimers of the "historical sentence", dedicating the entire last page of the November 17 edition to it, complete with photos of the now strange pile of skulls and the large-print title "Cambodian Genocide".

Instead it is an illegitimate sentence, like all those previously issued by this puppet court, installed and run by imperialism with UN cover, to judge exclusively on the period between April 17, 1975, the day of the liberation of Cambodia from the puppet government of Lon Nol installed and armed by the American imperialists, and on January 6, 1979, the eve of the entry of the Vietnamese invasion troops, in the pay of Soviet social-imperialism, in Phnom Penh. It is no coincidence that neither the period preceding the liberation, which should have concerned the crimes committed by the Americans, with their carpet bombings which caused at least 600,000 victims, nor the one following this period, the years of people's war against the Vietnamese invaders, who remained in the country until 1991, cost an estimated one million deaths, fall within the purview of this court farce.

The narrative invented by the invaders

The brief and courageous revolutionary experience of Democratic Kampuchea led by the Communist Party of that country led by Pol Pot, who in a few years - precisely those in the sights of the UN Court - had rebuilt the country from the ruins of the war, fed to all repopulating the countryside and establishing peasant cooperatives everywhere, building schools and hospitals, defeating malaria, illiteracy, prostitution and drug addiction, rampant plagues under the corrupt dictatorship of Lon Nol, was instead truncated on January 1, 1979 by the Vietnamese aggressor, pushed and armed by Soviet social-imperialism, then in full expansion.

The Vietnamese installed a puppet government in Phnom Penh and kept it up until the 1991 Paris Peace Accords, although the Resistance continued until 1998. Following the attackers was Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge traitor who will soon take the lead of the regime, which he still maintains today, and which in a short time will be characterized by corruption, arms and drug trafficking, child prostitution, the over-exploitation of local labour for the profits of foreign multinationals, which brought the country back into the darkness of the past under colonial and imperialist domination. Of course, this traitor and sold to imperialism has not been touched in the least by this sham trial.

It was precisely in order to justify their criminal invasion of Kampuchea, which instead responded to an old hegemonic design over the entire Indochinese region, that the Vietnamese invaders, aided in this by the social-imperialists and revisionist and Trotskyist parties enslaved to them, invented the narrative the bloody regime of the Khmer Rouge, the death camps, the forced

deportation of the population of the cities in the countryside, etc. A narrative that only later, after the collapse of the social-imperialist empire, was it adopted in full by the American imperialists and by all the Western media. So much so that the US and the UN made around 50 million dollars available to Phnom Penh to set up the trial farce.

Once the Kampuchean Resistance was internationally isolated, it was not difficult for imperialism to bribe its leaders one by one, who in several have betrayed and in order to save their skin have agreed to surrender themselves to the international court and "confess" the crimes of the revolutionary regime of Pol Pot, all pointing the finger at him and justifying himself for having only followed his orders. Pol Pot, already seriously ill with malaria, a few months before his death on April 15, 1998, officially from a heart attack, was finally put under arrest and subjected to a sham trial by false Khmer Rouge traitors to ingratiate himself with the international court and the puppet government of Hun Sen.

The answer to the Vietnamese false accusations

Pol Pot himself, to refute the falsehoods that the Vietnamese government had put around to justify its repeated provocations on the Kampuchea borders and prepare world public opinion for the subsequent invasion, had released several statements and interviews to clarify the allegations made to him and the Communist Party of Kampuchea (PCK). In 1977 he publicly exposed the Vietnamese accusations that he wanted war with the much stronger and more armed neighbour: "Our people have no hostility towards anyone, nor do we have any intention of committing aggression or expanding our territory at the expense of "another. We don't want even an inch of land that belongs to someone else. Ours is a small country with a small population." The political system of Democratic Kampuchea absolutely does not allow us to attack another country. A small and weak country, as a rule, does not go to swallow a large country. World history shows that only the reactionary ruling classes of large countries, like Hitler's, invent pretexts to provoke and accuse small countries of transgression, and then use these pretexts to justify their own aggression and expansionism.

"As for Vietnam - he denounced in an interview on September 21, 1978 to representatives of the Hong Kong press - his party is not an authentic Marxist-Leninist party. It is a completely revisionist party that has betrayed the revolution. Its regime does not it is an authentic socialist regime: it is a bogus socialist regime that oppresses the people ".

## On the evacuation of Phnom Penh

Regarding the accusation of having massively deported the population of Phnom Penh to the countryside to die of hunger and hardship, he declared on March 18, 1978 to a delegation of Yugoslav journalists visiting Kampuchea:

"There are so many reasons that we led to evacuate the population from Phnom Penh and other cities. The first reason was the economic one, that is, to ensure food for the many millions of inhabitants in the cities. After having considered the problem at length, we came to the conclusion that we could not solve this problem as long as such a large population remained in the cities. But if we had evacuated this population in the countryside, in the cooperatives, the latter could have nourished it, since they have rice fields, production tools, and everything they need. [...] The population would have had no faith in the revolution if it had been left to starve in the cities. This was the economic reason.

Connected to this economic problem was that of the defense and security of the country. Before the liberation, we already knew the emergency plan of the US imperialists and their lackeys. According to this plan, after our victory and our entry into Phnom Penh, they would have created difficulties for us in the political, military, economic and so on to destroy our revolution. So, after reflecting on the situation, we evacuated the population of the cities in the countryside, in the cooperatives, to solve both the food problem and, at the same time, to crush the plot of the American imperialists in advance, so that they could not attack us when we were entered Phnom Penh ".

## Pol Pot's interview on his alleged crimes

On October 30, 1997, a few months before his death, in an interview with the American journalist and war correspondent, Nate Thayer, who was insistently questioned about the alleged massacres during the 4 years of his government, Pol Pot replied: "I was come [to power] to carry out the struggle, not to kill people. Even now, he can see it. Am I a savage person? My conscience is clear. " And then he explained: "Our [Khmer Rouge] movement made mistakes, [but] we had no other choice. Of course we had to defend ourselves. The Vietnamese wanted to assassinate me because they knew that without me they could easily swallow Cambodia."

As for the millions of deaths attributed to him, which according to sources would reach as many as 3 million out of a population of 7 million (practically one person every two!), Pol Pot had flatly denied: "To say that millions of people died [due to mine] is too much. Most of the Cambodians whose death is attributed to me were actually killed by the Vietnamese ", he replied, putting the interviewer in front of the evidence of the contradiction that it was the attacked and not the attacker who was being accused.

He had equally flatly denied having given orders to kill the family members and grandchildren of his relative and former defense minister, Son Sen, accused of treason, even though he had honestly admitted that the execution was his mistake: "I had not given the order to kill those people, the children, the young people. For Son Sen and his family, yes, I am saddened. It was a mistake to carry out that plan. " It is of that mistake that the renegade and traitor, Ta Mok, also accused but managed to escape, will then take advantage, in agreement with the puppet government, to have Pol Pot arrested by the Khmer Rouge and tried by a "people's court" in Anlong Veng for the murder of Son Sen.

False accusations to cover up real crimes

It is evident that even Pol Pot, even the CPK, made mistakes, and he himself recognized it, but it is equally evident that this has nothing to do with the slanderous accusations that the imperialists and their lackeys invented to discredit and criminalize the revolutionary experience of Democratic Kampuchea and erase it from history as a parenthesis of horrors. A convenient way to make people forget and absolve the real crimes of imperialism, before and after that experience.

After all, hasn't we done this too, with the Resistance and the sinkholes? What better way to absolve fascism of its immense crimes, to rehabilitate the Republican assassins and to rewrite history from the right than to take a few episodes - which have always been as there have always been in civil wars - of personal vendettas, summary executions of spies and fascist torturers and other excesses, to then magnify them, multiply them by a thousand, write books on them, institute "days of memory" etc., and in the end reduce the glorious Resistance to a carnage and the heroic partisans to bloodthirsty bandits?

This is the operation that was also carried out against Pol Pot and Democratic Kampuchea. As has been done in history against all revolutionary leaders, starting with the bourgeois revolutionaries themselves when they went too far, such as Robespierre. And as has been done against the Grand Masters of the international proletariat and Communism, accused by the bourgeois ruling class of being the source of all evil and all crimes, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of millions of people.

It is no coincidence that the imperialists and their lackeys put Pol Pot together with other "bloodthirsty dictators" like Stalin and Mao. But with this, for us Marxist-Leninists, they do honour him in spite of themselves.

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