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KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF KAMPUCHEA

CAMBODIA 1972

by

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In an interview published in the *Courrier du Vietnam* on 31 January 1972, Mr. Ieng Sary, special envoy of the interior FUNK and the GRUNK National Parties, spoke about the military, political, economic, social, cultural, and diplomatic aspects of the revolutionary war for national and people's liberation by the people of Cambodia under the glorious banner of the United National Front of Kampuchea (FUNK), led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Head of State.

It is an inspiring account about the fight of a people who, in the face of the most barbaric aggression in history, are living up to their recognised, long-standing reputation of resisting foreign domination and oppression. As this is an interview by an eminent leader of the Cambodian resistance, it ought to be considered as a historical record and should not be lost on those around the world who are following every step of the Cambodian people's victorious march towards the liberation of their beloved country and that of their people.

The full interview is as follows.

Question 1: What is the current situation in Cambodia with regard to military and political issues?

Answer: Despite suffering heavy losses, the American imperialists and their lackeys persist in intensifying and prolonging their war of aggression in Cambodia by applying the Nixon doctrine i.e. the "khmerisation" of war.

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A RGUNC communiqué, on August the 20, 1971, informed on Mr Ieng Sary, Special Envoy of the NUFK and RGUNC inland branch arrival to Peking.

Here, Mr Ieng Sary, presenting Cambodian people warmful salutations to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and NUFK chairman, and to Samdech Penn Nouth, chairman of the NUFK political bureau and RGUNC Premier.

this effect, they have granted to their lackeys, the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique of traitors, over 350 million dollars of financial, economic and military aid to mount "pacification" operations during which they burn all and destroy all, pen up the inhabitants in "strategic hamlets" and enlist them forcibly in the puppet army. They have also been trying to harass and cut-off the communication lines linking the east to the west, the north to the south, of our liberated area.

But all these criminal schemes have met with dramatic failure. In the flush of their past victories, our people and armed forces, in the last rainy season, inflicted stinging reverses on the enemy in operation "Chenla 2". The Rum Luong battle has gone down in our history as one of our biggest military feats. Then our People's Liberation Armed Forces unremittingly hammered at the enemy positions everywhere, chiefly in the periphery of Phnom Penh (some dozen kilometres from the capital). Phnom Penh, now in insecurity, is cut off from the outside world. The quislings are frenziedly squirming in the city like a fish caught in a net. In attempt to rescue them, on November 22, 1971; 50 000 Saigon troops, on orders from the US imperialists, made a new inroad into Cambodia from the east and the southeast, National Road n°13 to Snuol, through National Road n°22 to Krek and through National Road n°1 and the Mekong river. However, that new military adventure was again foiled. The debacle of the Phnom Penh troops on National Road n°6 brought about the disintegration of, and confusion in, the ranks of the ruling clique. Such a military situation has had a great political impact. The junta in the saddle in Phnom Penh and their American bosses have been driven into a tight corner. The divergences between various factions have been so sharp that the traitors have been obliged to dissolve the two puppet "houses" which were for them a "democratic" shop window and to proclaim a fascist dictatorship. However, on Washington orders, the Phnom Penh rulers continue their attempts to hoodwink public opinion with a "constitution" and "election" farce.

The people of all walks of life including the youth and Buddhist clergy in Phnom Penh (whose population has risen from 600 000 to nearly 1 500 000) have, despite all

fascist measures, openly shown their discontent and anger in face of the greater and greater difficulties met in the daily life, the total lack of freedom and shortage of necessities (salt, rice, sugar. . .). Market prices have increased tenfold. The riel is but a scrap of paper and the budget deficit is estimated at 9 billion riels at least or 50 per cent of the budget. The survival of the regime depends entirely ~~on the financial, economic and military aid granted by the Nixon administration.~~ In the countryside the "community development" project has utterly come to grief. Everywhere in the enemy-temporarily held areas, the inhabitants have been fighting against the clique of traitors in every possible way.

Question 2: The resistance of the Cambodian people has amazed the world by its swift progress but the reports coming from the liberated areas are very scarce. Please supply our readers with information about the advance, first about the Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces (CNLPAF), their organisation, armament, and combat technique.

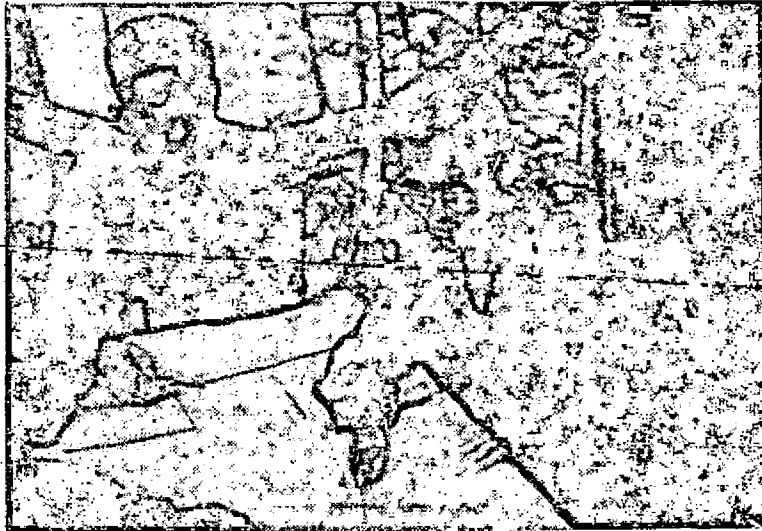
Answer: For many years, we had anticipated the March 18, 1970 coup, for we were aware of the intention of US imperialism. Politically, our fighters and people were prepared for riposte. It has been a sound basis for us to carry out our fighting.

Our Cambodian National Liberation People's Armed Forces have been built and developed very rapidly in every respect: in number, in strength, quality, spirit, combat efficiency and technique. The three categories of arms-guerrillas, regional troops and regular army- are placed under the supreme command of a National Military Com-



Mr Ieng Sary standing. On the left, sitting, Mr Nuon Chea, vice-president of the CNLPAF Military High Command, and Chief of the political direction of the Army. On the right, sitting, Mr Saloth Sor, vice-president of the CNLPAF Military High Command and Chief of the military direction of the Army. On the left, standing, Mr Koy Thuon, Economy and Finance Vice-Minister of the RGUNC.

mittee assisted by a staff. The regional troops are now organised in battalion-size and the regular army in regimental size. They are equipped with arms of all kinds and have mainly a very high political awareness and a firm resolve to drive all the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen out of Cambodia and wipe out all the Phnom Penh clique of quislings headed by Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh. All the armymen live in the midst of the people, in close touch with them, like them and serve them heart and soul.



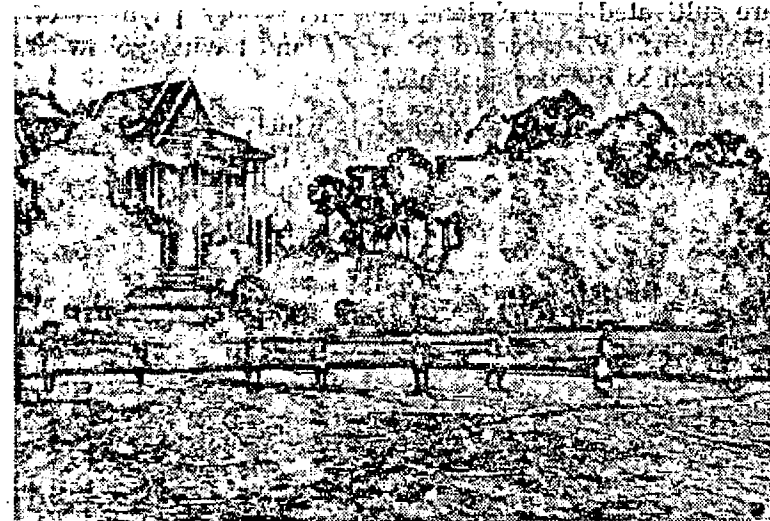
Mr. Son Sen, Chief of the General Staff of the CNLPAF with his collaborators. High - H CO

Their tactical methods are based on incessant guerilla operations mounted by skilful, light mobile and discreet guerilla units to scatter the enemy forces and harass them, leaving them no time to replenish their force and to make use of their physical and moral resiliency. Lightning and devastating raids have been sprung by CNLPAF special commandos eager to win on enemy manpower and war materials. The Pochentong air-base destruction is a vivid example of this spirit. In all these coups de main, the decisive factor of success, as our experience has shown, is man; the decisive weapon is his high political consciousness which makes it possible for him to get a clear picture of the real nature of the enemy and his fortes and foibles.

Questions 3 and 4: -Insofar as the peasantry is concerned, have you carried out democratic reforms, chiefly regarding land?

-How is agricultural production organised?

Answer: The agrarian problem is of paramount importance. We have taken many democratic measures to mobilise the poor peasants, the main force of our resistance war, to free them from old social structures and raise production.



In agricultural production, mutual aid movement has been largely expanded. In Damber, a famous place of the cambodian resistance, women sowing paddy.

The land owned by the traitors, totalling several thousand hectares, has been confiscated and become the

common of the people's power or distributed to lack-land peasants according to local conditions.

The land whose owners are absent for reason other than treason has been temporarily entrusted to the people's power to be either farmed by the State, or if need distributed to lack-land peasants for a given period, or rented to them. Part of the proceeds from the State-tilled land is laid ~~aside for its owners, in consideration of their political attitude toward the resistance war waged by the NUFK.~~

Fallow land of proprietors taking part in the resistance are cultivated by lack-land peasants against payment of a small rent. With regard to virgin land having no owners, it is farmed by poor peasants.

On the whole, the land rents which exceeded even 50 per cent of the production cost, have been sharply cut. The interest rates which surpassed even 50-60 per cent per year are forbidden.

To bring to fruition that agrarian policy in conformity with the NUFK Political Programme, we are carrying out:

— intensive agitation work among the peasants, rich and poor, in order to drive home to them that policy for its strict implementation. Those who eagerly apply it are staunch fighters in our war for national salvation;

— the organisation of all the peasants who approve the agrarian reform into a patriotic peasants' association.

We have encouraged the establishment of producers' co-operatives and consumers' co-operatives to eliminate middlemen. In agricultural production, the mutual aid movement has been largely expanded among the peasants. In each NUFK committee at all administrative levels, a re-

sponsible cadre is appointed to see to the development of production whose main objective is to cater for our resistance war. Parallel to political education and the mutual aid movement, the peasants have been endeavouring to improve two rice crops per year. In anticipation of a prolonged war, we attach great importance to subsidiary crops and the rearing of pigs and poultry.

Question5: The economy in the areas under the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique is in the doldrums. How is it doing in the liberated zone?

Answer: Well aware of the design of the US imperialists, we have been bending our efforts to raise production for a protracted resistance. To this end, it is essential to maintain an independent political position.

Coupled with the democratic reforms already enforced to stimulate the peasants to expand production, we have launched farming drive in all public services and army units so as to meet the people's needs to the best of our ability.

Besides good crops, we develop those of the handicrafts serving the people and the resistance war: wearing, earthenware, farm implements, paper and soap, oil, etc. . . . The quality of the products has been improved.

At the outset, the repeated air bombings and chemical sprays caused a great impediment to the inhabitants. But they soon learnt to protect themselves and their fields and farm implements. Despite the difficulties created by the air raids, our people have been able to continue farm work normally.

Thanks to their high political consciousness and their high determination to win, our people manage to satisfy their own needs and to support the resistance war. As production grows we lay them under contribution to supply the war for national liberation. These contributions have been fixed to the mutual benefit of all the social sections and resistance organisations which have an eye to the people's interests, according to the financial situation of everyone of the inhabitants and also according to the degree of his political consciousness. They come from trade, agriculture and industry. On the whole, all of them have been reduced; some of them abolished.

The prices of goods are set according to the principle that business transactions should benefit the population, the resistance and the traders who must not seek exorbitant profits at the expenses of the others. To facilitate price control, we have been extending the network of supply and marketing co-operatives. All these measures have made it possible to stabilize the prices of commodities. Thus a kilogram of pork fetch costs only 20 riels as against over 200 riels in Phnom Penh.

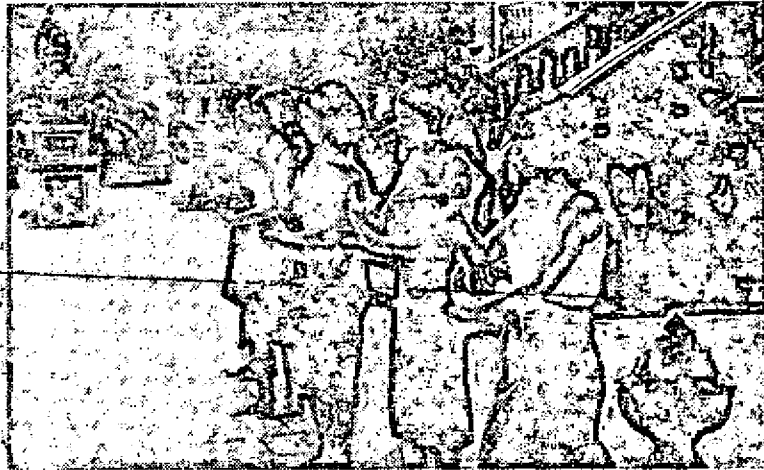
We also inculcate the sense of thrift into public services, resistance bodies and population: saving of money, of necessities, of clothes, foodstuffs, medicines, etc . . . , under the "self-reliance" guideline.

Question 6: Have you accomplished achievements in the cultural fields? - Have you been greatly hampered by US air raids in this respect? Where does the "Khmerisation" of education stand now?



Despite of the US and puppet air raids and bombardments, we have been able to readjust education to the war condition. Instruction is given to all the children.

Answer: Throughout the liberated zone, education is entirely free of charge. Everywhere literacy classes have been functioning. Of course, the enemy raids impede the education of children a great deal. The US imperialist aggressors, their Saigon quislings and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique of traitors are most barbarous. They erase everything with bombs: schools, colleges, hospitals, pagodas. . . . Despite all this, we have been able to readjust education to the war conditions, an education based on political economy, medical and military sciences. We also see to the cultural and artistic instruction. It is given entirely in Khmer. Freed from all harmful outside influences, it closely links theory to practice in the particular conditions of the country. It is squared with the specific national requirements at the present time.



We also see to the cultural and artistic instruction.

Question 7: Can your medical organisation meet the needs of the war and the population?

Answer: Generally speaking, our medical organisation satisfies the requirements of the war and the population. The medicines used are made from simple ingredients and have proved efficacious in traditional therapeutics. We train male nurses and midwives, most of them are poor country people and even illiterate. The training lasts three years — 3 months of theory and 9 months of practice in a year. The medical staff counts many women. In addition to the medical set-up of the CNLPAF, there are two male nurses in each phum (hamlet), a medical committee in each khum (village), a physician in each srok (district) and one or several hospitals in each khet (province).



Stung Treng provincial hospital trains on the spot nurses and male-nurses. Here, practising bandaging with splints.

Question 8: Does co-existence between Buddhist monks and progressive and Marxist militants within the NUFK give rise to serious problems?

Answer: The history of Cambodia in the last hundred years is full of heroic feats against colonial rule creditable to the "achars", who are former Buddhist monks. Since long, these men have been the only literates and have a great influence on the masses and so help a great deal preserve the cultural heritage and national traditions from noxious foreign influence. At present, in our revolutionary war of national and popular liberation, they take an active part in the mobilisation of the patriotic forces. They are eye witnesses and victims of heinous crimes of the US aggressors and lackeys who destroy pagodas, kill their dear



In liberated Kratie province, Buddhists monks and people celebrate the departure of fighters to the front.

ones, and force them into activities banned by the religion. They make a clear distinction between friend and foe, between patriots and traitors. The NUFK sound and lucid political line based on the broadest unity of all the patriotic forces regardless of political tendency, sex and belief, has generated no conflict between Buddhist monks and other revolutionary forces fighting for national salvation. With their fighting tradition, the Buddhist clergy in Cambodia shares the same feeling as the other NUFK members in the resistance to US imperialist aggression and its lackeys. Everywhere in Cambodia, in the liberated as well as in enemy temporarily held areas, the Buddhists monks fight stubbornly out of ardent patriotism. The NUFK policy respects the rights and liberties of those of the monks who are sincere and loyal to the NUFK and the people.

There has thus existed in the past resistance and in the present revolutionary war for national and popular liberation a close identity of views and action between Buddhist monks and progressives and revolutionaries. We are convinced that the unity will be not only preserved but strengthened and developed in future in the course of the evolution of our common effort for national salvation.

Question 9: The world is well aware of the personality of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, but is less acquainted with the RGNUC inland branch leaders. Kindly tell us particularly about M. Khieu Samphan, Vice-Premier and Defense Minister.

Answer: All the leaders of the NUFK and RGNUC inland branch are militants and revolutionaries of long standing. Thanks to their high vigilance they were able to dodge the savage repression of the US imperialists and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique. They have been steeled in the war against French colonialism (1951-1954), in the political action against US imperialism (1955-1970) and in the armed and political struggle against US aggression from March 18, 1970 onwards.

In close touch with the masses, they make up now a collective leadership in accordance with the political line charted by the NUFK which has Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State, as Chairman, and Samdech Penn Nouth as Chairman of its Political Bureau.

M. Khieu Samphan, doctor of economics of the Paris University, very early engaged in patriotic activities. Since 1946 he had been actively associated with the movement of collegians and students in Cambodia for national independ-



A Cabinet Council meeting in Cambodia liberated area. Seen from in front, Mr Khieu Samphân, Vice-Premier, on the right hand, Mr Hu Nim, Minister of the Information and Propaganda. On the left hand Mr Pôc Doeus Komar, Foreign Vice-Minister. Seen from behind, on the left, Mr Tiv Ol, Vice-Minister of the Information and Propaganda, and on the right, Mr Hou Yuon, Minister of the Interior, Communal Reforms and Co-opératives.

ence, against French colonialism. After his coming to France in 1953, he resolutely joined in the French people's fight against the colonialists' war in Indochina. After the signing of the Geneva Agreements in 1954, he led in France the Cambodian students' and residents' fighting movement against the US imperialists and their henchmen in Cambodia. Back home in 1958, he continued his patriotic activities under various forms: in his paper L'Observateur as its publisher, on the rostrum of the National Congress and the National Assembly as a deputy for two terms (1962-1966 and 1966-1970), in the government as Minister of Commerce (1962-1963), etc. . . . Because of his militancy and his sympathies among the broad masses, he was dogged by the police and exposed to provocations, intimidations, persecution . . . on the part of the fascist traitors who flung him into prison for many months in 1960, made many

attempts on his life and in 1967 summoned him before the Military Tribunal together with Messrs Hou Yuon and Hu Nim, though all of them were representants legally elected by people, and deputies to the National Assembly. In order to avoid similar CIA-instigated plots of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique of traitors, M. Khieu Samphân and many other patriots, including Mrs. Hou Yuon and Hu Nim, were compelled to take to the maquis in 1967 to carry on the fight at the side of the people. Since then, M. Khieu Samphân has lived a most hectic revolutionary time and get over many difficulties and hardships.

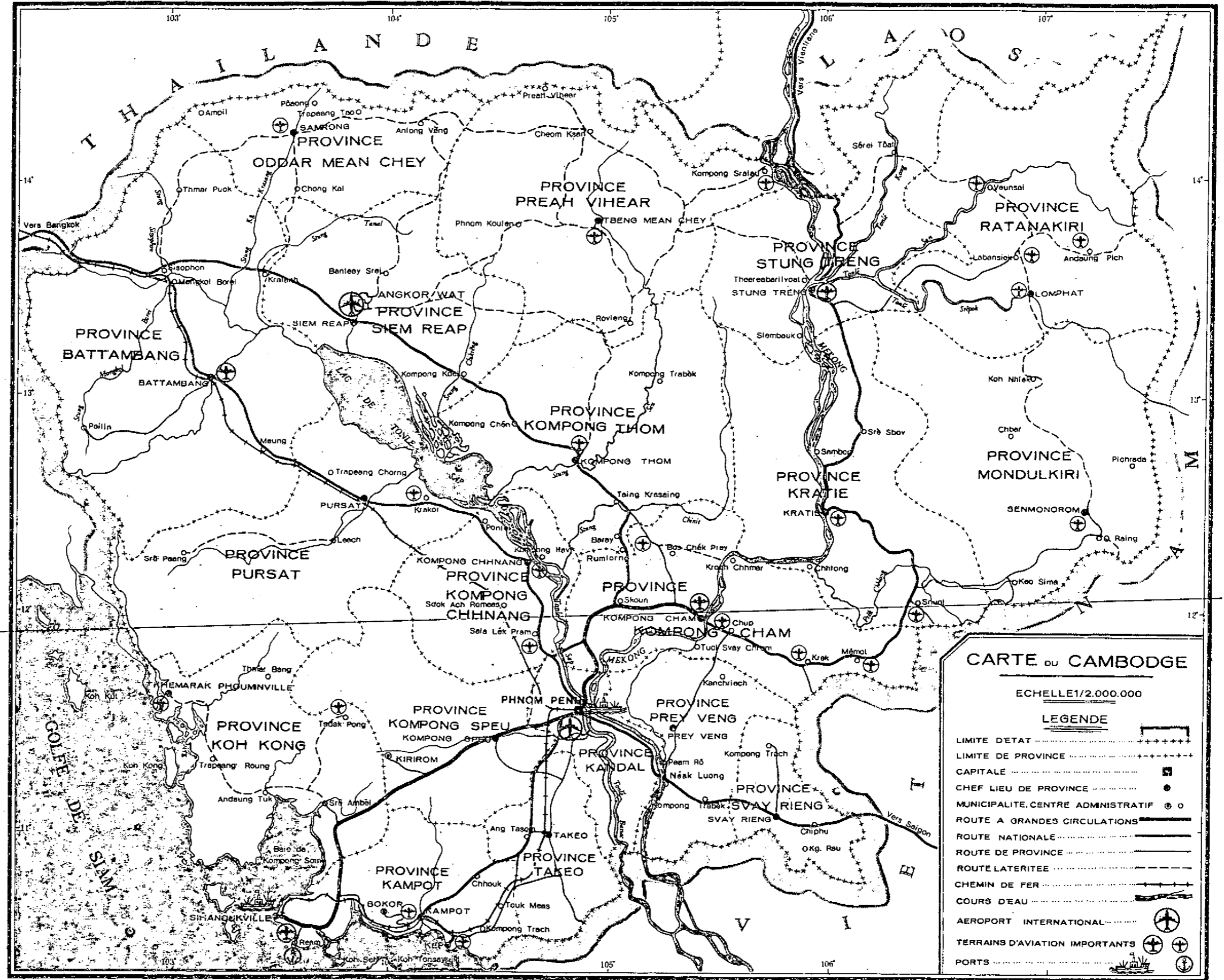
Thanks to his wide learning and chiefly to his record in Cambodia and abroad, with the rural masses as well as with the townsfolk (workers, labourers pupils, students, intellectuals, bonzes, public servants, armymen, national bourgeois), in the National Assembly and in the government, in his legal as well as underground work, political and military activities for over two decades against French colonialism and US imperialism and its lackeys, M. Khieu Samphân has become a prominent patriot with a wealth of revolutionary experience and is well qualified to lead our revolutionary war for liberation till total victory. His dedication to the movement for national independence, freedom and democracy, has set for our people and armymen, a vivid example as a genuine and upright patriot.

Question 10: What are the prospects, immediate and remote, of the resistance war in Cambodia?

Answer: Beginning 1972, our people and their armed forces have launched many highly successful offensives. US "Khmerisation" has failed utterly. However, bigger battles are to be expected this year. Nixon is not at all inclined to

កម្ពុជា CAMBODIA

SITUATION ON MAY 1972 OF THE LIBERATION OF CAMBODIA BY THE CAMBODIA NATIONAL LIBERATION PEOPLE'S ARMED FORCES



Completely liberated areas

Partly liberated and guerilla areas