

[ERN 00386886-00386889]

**INTERVIEW OF MR KHIEU SAMPHAN**

Interview of Mr Khieu Samphan, Vice-Premier and Commander-in-Chief of the FAPLNK, by the representative of the Kampuchea News Agency, on 12 August 1975. Below is the full record of the interview:

QUESTION:

*We fully liberated our country on 17 April 1975. Since then, what is the situation in the country from a political and economic standpoint, and in regard to the people's living conditions?*

ANSWER:

I am very glad to see that the Kampuchea News Agency representative is raising the burning political issue.

As you already know, our people and our army fought with remarkable courage, and they liberated our beloved homeland completely and definitively. However, in the immediate wake of the liberation, we are faced with a whole host of problems. Those problems are the legacy of the American imperialists and their lackeys. For over five years, the American imperialists and their lackeys, both within and outside the country, waged an all-out war of attrition against our nation and against the people of Kampuchea. Our economy was, for the most part, destroyed; factories, rice fields, plantations, transport facilities, schools, hospitals, homes, pagodas were for the most part, laid to waste, both in towns and in the countryside.

By the millions, our compatriots were forcibly enlisted and locked up in concentration camps in Phnom Penh and other towns which were under provisional enemy control. Those victims went without food; they were decimated by cholera, and families were separated and scattered all over the country.

In the immediate wake of the revolution, the GRUNK and the FUNK, the people as a whole and the entire people's army resolutely embarked on the task of resolving all the problems which resulted from the particularly barbaric war of attrition brought upon us by the American imperialists and their lackeys.

How were those problems resolved?

On the one hand, the people in the countryside made all sacrifices in order to win the war of attrition brought upon us by the American imperialists and their lackeys, and suffered for years on end. On the other hand, millions of city dwellers, who had only been liberated, suffered from hunger owing to the enemy, and were in an appalling state. The problem is of unprecedented gravity and must we must resolve it without further ado, as this is vital for both our nation and our people.

We have managed to mobilise all the forces, including our people and our army in order to fight and deal with the new, extremely serious situation while at the same time manifesting deep patriotism and a

spirit of independence and sovereignty, maintaining control over the situation and our decisions, having confidence in our own forces, and maintaining firm control over our destiny and that of our country.

After more than three months of dogged struggle, we were able to resolve the core of the problem. We were able to provide the entire country with basic necessities. We may not be living in abundance, but we have managed to resolve this vital issue. Our people now have the means to lead a normal life and to work towards getting the country back on its feet.

We have managed to win a spectacular victory within such a short time. We have also mobilised forces with a view to enhancing production all around the country so as to deal with current and future problems. This is why our army, all the way from senior officers and men and women combatants, are keenly participating in production along with people from all walks of life. We are producing quick growing rice and heavy rice (wet season rice). We also grow other crops, including bananas, potatoes, cassava, with a view to providing the people with sustenance now and in the year to come.

Overall, our people and our army are in high spirits. They are all fully aware of the line to follow in helping the economy back on its feet, as well as building and defending the country. They have a clear view of the highly dignified way forward; they understand the scale and significance of the production, and, moreover, they are full of optimism and feel confident about a better future, far beyond their imagination and dreams.

According to the results obtained, I can assure you that within a year of two, we will be largely self-sufficient economically, and especially, in regard to foodstuffs, rice and grain. We will certainly be 100% self-reliant in terms of agricultural products, and will even be in position to export some. So we are already slowly but surely providing the people with better living conditions.

We have also started repairing the roads. Up until mid-July, we were completing repairs on the major roads, including National Roads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. As for secondary roads, they are, by and large, open to traffic. We have resolved the problem with regard to salt, fabric and farming implements in order to serve the people, although we still have some work ahead.

As for railways, we are already largely in control, and our army is completing the repair on the last segments. All river transport channels are also open to navigation. We have re-opened a number of factories and facilities, despite the substantive damage caused by the enemy. We attach a great deal of importance to factories and workshops, because their products serve the people's needs.

Many a hospital and school is re-opening with every passing day.

In sum, the people and the people's army have fought and overcome a whole host of difficulties by being independent and manifesting a heightened sense of responsibility.

At this time, we have resolved most of the problems, and our country is undergoing profound change. The trend is one of continued improvement. I can assure you that we shall not ever again experience any economic crises, unemployment, inflation or price hikes.

QUESTION:

*Mr Vice-Premier, what can you tell us about security in the country?*

ANSWER:

As I have just explained, both the people and the revolutionary army have resolved most of the everyday problems. They are determined and armed with a heightened sense of solidarity and broad unity. Moreover, both our people and our revolutionary army have launched a spirited battle to help the economy back on its feet and building and to defend the country, while at the same time remaining independent, sovereign, relying on their own resources and in firm control of their destiny, for national honour and dignity and for a better future. So since the political situation is favourable and very stable, the country is enjoying complete peace and security.

QUESTION:

*Mr Vice-Premier, could you tell us more regarding the GRUNK's foreign policy?*

ANSWER:

Our foreign policy is quite clear and straightforward. It is rooted in independence, neutrality and non-alignment. This is our policy, and was in the past and will be in the future. We will continue to adhere to this policy. With regard to the neighbouring countries, our policy is peace and friendship, based on the 5 principles of peaceful co-existence. With regard our mutual relations, we believe in non-interference in others countries' internal affairs, non-aggression, equality and promoting mutual interests. We are proactive with regard to those principles, and we warmly welcome any activities around the world that are aimed at furthering those principles.

QUESTION:

*Of late, the American imperialists and their lackeys have launched a propaganda campaign against Kampuchea, and are acting in an unjust and cowardly manner. Mr Vice-Premier, what are your views on that?*

ANSWER:

The American imperialists and a handful of their lackeys have set their propaganda machine in motion in a bid to hurt us and to deliberately tarnish Kampuchea's image in furtherance of a pre-established plan. This comes as no surprise. That is really how they are; the American imperialists and their lackeys will never change. They were the enemy of the nation and the people of Kampuchea, which is why we fought them and refused to be their slaves.

This is why people the world over, who have also fought the American imperialists and their lackeys, are also maligned by them. In the past, they called us rebels; nowadays, they employ more disgusting language against us in a bid to mislead world opinion.

The truth of the matter is that the struggle of the Kampuchean nation and people is a justified one, and it clearly shows that the Kampuchea nation and people are committed to justice and dignity, whereas the American imperialists and the traitors have no regard for justice and dignity.

This is why nations and peoples all over world support our struggle. This is why we were able to defeat the American imperialists. We have fought the American imperialists for many years, and that offers concrete proof that they are the aggressors. They have suffered devastatingly humiliating defeat in Kampuchea, but they refuse to admit it. They are in denial and continue to hold on to the belief that they can hurt our people. They insult us and treat us like wild animals. They regard themselves as the defenders of humanity and morality, but in actual fact, it was they who staged the coup d'état against independent, neutral Kampuchea, and launched the war of aggression against our nation and people in highly vicious and brutal fashion. With their weapons of mass destruction, they are the ones who are killing our people.

Over the course of the five years, the people of Kampuchea and the entire world saw who the American imperialists really are. They have not abandoned their plan to cause us harm and to attack us in a variety of ways. They are also attacking independence, peace and justice-loving nations and peoples around the world. This is why we have heightened our revolutionary awareness and joined hands with nations and people around the world in order to – should the need arise – thwart their sinister schemes, as well as their mindlessly destructive acts.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our heroic people and revolutionary army.

I bow to the revolutionary heroism and noble spirit of sacrifice of our cadres, as well as men and women combatants who are now raising the banner of combat in order to overcome the obstacles with a heightened sense of responsibility, while relying on their own resources, in a spirit of independence and sovereignty.

Let me also take this opportunity to express my most sincere thanks to the people the world of over, including the American people, and all the countries around the world which have provided assistance and support to the nation and people of Kampuchea. ./.

[ERN 00386898-00386900]

ADDRESS OF MR IENG SARY, VICE-PREMIER OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF  
KAMPUCHEA AND HEAD OF THE KAMPUCHEA DELEGATION AT THE SEVENTH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SPECIAL SESSION

New York, 30 August 1975

For the first time in five years, our delegation is back in New York to re-occupy Kampuchea's UN seat in order to participate in the Seventh UN General Assembly Special Session.

For the past five years, Kampuchea's seat was usurped by the treacherous regime. We were thus unable to participate in the meetings of this Assembly or to make our contribution.

As our delegation sets foot on this land, the land of Franklin, who put up a fierce fight in defending the ideals of independence and freedom, we would like to warmly commend the American people for their spirit of freedom and justice. We bring greetings of friendship from the people of Kampuchea and would like to thank them for the key role they played in helping our people in their struggle to liberate their beloved homeland. The youth of America, in particular the students of Kent University and Jackson University, participated in demonstrations against the invasion of Cambodia by US troops, and many of them paid with their lives while defending the principles of freedom and justice for the benefit of the Cambodian people. Many a prominent American political figures exerted their invaluable influence on the administration demanding that it cease the bombardments of Cambodia and US intervention in our country. To those prominent political figures and the American youth, our people are deeply grateful and express their good wishes and friendship.

After enduring the terrible war of aggression launched by the American imperialists, a war that brought untold destruction both in terms of human lives and property, our people have now channelled their energy into rebuilding our country.

After liberation, our country embarked on two urgent tasks, namely resolving the problem of feeding the people, as well as safeguarding peace and national security. With regard to the first task, we had to secure food supplies for a population of nearly 3 million in Phnom Penh, and for a number of provincial capitals which were receiving 30,000 to 40,000 tons of food supplies in the period leading up to the liberation. After the liberation, had we allowed those people to remain in the cities, we would have exposed them to hunger and suffering, because we lacked the means to transport to the cities the food supplies stored in the countryside. We had no choice but to order those people to go to the countryside where facilities and food distribution arrangements had been made for them. We resolved this serious problem in an entirely satisfactory manner. The people of Cambodia as a whole were thus able to provide for their food and clothing needs. Even though the country is not enjoying prosperity, it is not experiencing food shortage. Everyone is able to find what they need to live on. Our government was able to resolve this problem without external aid. It thus safeguarded its freedom and national dignity. Those reports of famine in Cambodia are out-right lies.

With regard to the second problem, we have seized documents which indicate that the enemy had devised a politico-military plan to return to power within six months. In order to accomplish that, it was hoping to take advantage of the food shortage, the unrest that it could trigger, and anarchy. The enemy had everything in place to carry out its plan. In order to prevent unrest and ensure peace and security, we dismantled the enemy's command structure, as well as its organisations.

So within only four months, our people were able to resolve all the pressing problems. At this time, they are channelling all their energy into rebuilding the country, day and night. The cities have been cleaned up. A large number of plants have re-opened. Sihanoukville Port is now open. Phnom Penh's Pochentong International Airport is now open to traffic.

Schools and hospitals are gradually re-opening. We attach a great deal of importance to production. The people as a whole are involved in just that. Cambodia as a whole is hard at work. Our people have built a vast irrigation scheme to enable them to produce two harvests each year. With the seeds we have in stock, we believe that by the next harvest later this year, we will be in a position to meet all our food needs.

With regard to foreign policy, we are still pursuing our policy of national independence, peace and non-alignment. It is pursuant to this policy that our delegation participated in the recent Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Lima. We strive to be on good terms with the countries around the world regardless of the political or social regimes, in particular our neighbours, as well as the other countries in the region. Our country is prepared to forget the painful tragedy it endured for five years, a tragedy which has recently ended, in order to set its sights on the future.

Our country attached a great deal of importance to the Seventh UN General Assembly Special Session. Our presence at this Conference is aimed at ensuring that every effort is made to further the cause of peace and progress. It is our sincere hope that this meeting will devise just and suitable solutions to the problems facing the Third World as to economic development, a key factor in world affairs, and will establish a new economic international order, based on equality and fairness, so as to meet the aspirations of the developing countries. At the Lima Conference, the non-aligned countries unanimously agreed to work hand in hand with a view to ensuring the success of the new international economic order, in line with the aspirations and hopes of mankind.

Developing countries should be aware of the current changes in our world and of the need to join forces in establishing new relations without domination or exploitation, as well as harmonious international cooperation in the interest of world peace and social advancement.

[ERN 00386901-00386904]

ADDRESS OF MR IENG SARY, VICE-PREMIER OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF  
KAMPUCHEA AND HEAD OF THE KAMPUCHEA DELEGATION AT THE SEVENTH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SPECIAL SESSION

Mr President,

Following the illustrious, complete and definitive, historic victory of the people of Kampuchea over the American imperialism, the aggressor and its lackeys, the Kampuchean delegation is particularly pleased and honoured to once again participate in the United Nations meetings on the occasion of the Seventh Special Session on development and international cooperation. Our delegation presents its warm greetings to the President and to all the delegations in attendance.

Mr President,

Over the past five years, Kampuchea's delegation was excluded from UN meetings. Its absence was due to the fact that Kampuchea's seat, which was supposed to be occupied by the Royal Government of National Union of Kampuchea, the only lawful and legitimate representative of Kampuchea, was usurped by the treacherous regime, an instrument of the neo-colonial dominance of the American imperialists. However, even though Kampuchea's delegation has not been directly represented, we believe that we have always had a presence at the UN, because delegates from friendly, peace- and justice-loving countries, especially from non-aligned countries, spared no effort in manifesting their firm, continued support to the sacred struggle of the Kampuchean nation and people. This noble disposition, marked by a high ideal of justice, goes straight to our hearts. At a critical juncture in their history, during the war of aggression that they endured, the Kampuchean nation and people were comforted and touched to see that eminent representatives from many friendly countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe raised their voices to defend their sacred cause. They will always remember this. On behalf of the United National Front of Kampuchea, with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, as its leader, and on behalf of the Royal Government of National Union of Kampuchea, our delegation wishes to thank all those countries sincerely.

Mr President,

Since the historic day of 17 April 1975, an independent, non-aligned, peaceful, democratic Kampuchea, which is part of the Third World, became a full-fledged part of South-East Asia. The people of Kampuchea won the illustrious, historic victory by the by making tremendous sacrifices, after enduring all manner of difficulties and overcoming the countless obstacles put in their way by the American imperialists, both on the military front, and on the political and diplomatic fronts. This Special General Assembly session on economic development and cooperation will certainly be a forum for taking stock of the untold destruction and ruin, as well as the suffering and adversity caused by the war of aggression brought upon us by the American imperialists.

In the face of the brutal force of the war of aggression, the Kampuchea, despite being a small, poor nation, and its people, and even though they are mild-mannered and peace-loving, will not, even for a single moment, let themselves to be subjugated or accept to bow to anyone. As a matter of fact, they have risen up bravely and put up a good fight, and have succeeded in thwarting each and every plan and scheme of the American imperialist.

The 17 April 1975 victory by the Kampuchean nation and people stands out in the more than 2000 years of history of the Kampuchean nation and people, and also in the history of the struggle of the people the world over. It is the culmination of a just, clear-sighted policy, rooted in independence and sovereignty, in reliance mainly on our own resources. It also the result of the invaluable, enduring, multifarious assistance and support to the Kampuchean people and nation from the peace- and justice-minded people around the world, in particular the people of non-aligned countries. The American students at Kent University and Jackson University were generous enough to shed their blood and to sacrifice their young, precious lives in order to safeguard our just cause. Peace- and justice-loving people and political figures in America put up a dogged fight against the US aggression in our country. On behalf of the Kampuchean people, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to them.

Mr President,

After its liberation, our country was able to embark on resolving the post-war problems, whose gravity was to be gauged in terms of the destruction caused by the particularly brutal war to our social and economic infrastructure. In resolving those problems, we applied the principle of reliance on our own resources, the line that we adopted since day one of our struggle for national liberation, thanks to which we were able to safeguard our independence and national dignity.

Following our total victory, we have extended to the rest of Kampuchea the economic policies which were already in place in the liberated zone. This consisted in using agriculture as the basis and industry as the dominant factor. Agriculture provides raw materials to industry, and, in turn, industry helps develop agriculture. Our goal is to turn our country into a modern agricultural and industrial country.

With regard developing agriculture as part of the self-reliance policy, all the necessary measures have been taken. Men, women, youth, seniors, as well as men and women combatants and cadres have been mobilised for farm work. After overcoming a myriad of obstacles, our people have embarked on the task of helping our economy back on its feet, rebuilding our country and obtaining a good outcome. More than four months after the war ended, the whole of Kampuchea is hard at work, and is covered with paddy and plantations, with promises of a good harvest. The ports and roads have re-opened to traffic. The hospitals and schools are gradually re-opening. In regard to rebuilding the country, we are firmly committed to relying on our own resources. However, at the same time, we are prepared to accept unconditional aid from friendly countries, based on an equal, mutually beneficial partnership and in a spirit of mutual respect.



Mr President,

The economic problems are a cause for grave concern around the world. The number and frequency of meetings and conferences on economic issues over the last two years are proof that this is a vital issue and that the international community is committed to addressing it. The countries hardest hit by current the economic crisis are third world countries. They are deeply dissatisfied and frustrated. For them, political liberation has not been followed by economic liberation. Their world is one where they have to endure decisions, most of which they do not understand. In his opening address, the President of our Assembly has done a remarkable job of describing the situation in developing countries, saying that they are victims of exploitation and plundering, while developed countries live in abundance, and are wasteful. Draining resources from the former to the latter has enabled the latter to acquire ever increasing wealth while the former sink deeper into poverty.

Developing countries are now aware of this problem, and have pooled their resources towards a new international economic order based on equality and fairness. Since the Non-Aligned Conference in Algiers in September 1973, we have made giant strides towards the new order. The adoption of the declaration and action programme for establishing the new economic order at the Sixth UN General Assembly Special Session, the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights and Duties of States at the UN General Assembly sixth Special Session, the resolutions taken at the Dakar Conference, and recently in Lima, are key factors in the struggle of developing countries for economic liberation. However, this must not obscure the fact that the process will be lengthy, difficult and complex. In order to attain our goal, we must continue to work together in pursuing our struggle. We share the opinion of the President of our Assembly, that "While making the principle of self-reliance the foundation of its development strategy, the third world is consistently working towards achieving genuine cooperation, in a spirit of dialogue and on the basis of equality and mutual benefit."

The imperialists, colonialists and neo-colonialists will seize every opportunity to hinder our efforts towards promoting development and international cooperation. The experience paid in blood by the Kampuchean people and nation has taught us that in order to successfully consolidate and develop the economy, and ensure fruitful cooperation with the friendly countries, we must launch a spirited fight against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism; moreover, each country must restore its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and must firmly adhere to the principles of independence and sovereignty, consisting mainly in relying on its own resources. Based on these principles, it is important to work towards bringing together all the peace- and justice-loving countries, in particular the non-aligned countries, in a spirit of equality and mutual respect, and non-interference in the others' internal affairs, as well as fruitful cooperation and peaceful co-existence.

The situation around the world is evolving in favour of the struggle of the people the world over, and of the nations that are seeking peace, justice and progress. Kampuchea has already achieved complete, definitive liberation. South Vietnam has also been completely liberated. Laos has won some outstanding victories towards consolidating its independence and unity. The other peoples in South-East Asia have made a huge dent in their struggle against the American imperialists' system of neo-colonialist dominance in the region. The people of Asia, Africa and Latin America have enhanced their solidarity

and have recorded victories with regard to safeguarding and defending national sovereignty and natural resources, consolidating political and economic independence and reinforcing and developing their economies. A case in point is the outcome of recent the Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Lima. Imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are up against a whole host of obstacles, including crises, inflation and recession with no end in sight. Imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are steadily losing ground to the rising force and the heightened solidarity among third world countries, as well as independent-minded and justice-loving countries.

As it recovers its UN seat, independent, sovereign, neutral, peace-loving, democratic and non-aligned Kampuchea, which is part of the third world, is committed to uniting with all countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and with all independent-minded, peace- and justice-loving countries in the struggle to further the sacred cause of Humanity, the liberation of nations and peoples, in the spirit of the UN Charter.

In concluding, the Kampuchean delegation wishes this General Assembly full success in its undertakings. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish Mr President our best wishes for success in accomplishing his exalted mission.

Thank you for your kind attention./.