

INDOCHINA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

BOX 'C', OLD CHELSEA STA., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011 (212) 982-7162



**The Victories of the Indochinese People
Are Victories For Us All!**

NEWSLETTER

table of contents

APRIL 28, 1975
VOL II, NO 9

CAMBODIA HAS WON! pg. 3-10

SOUTH VIETNAM - THE FINAL HOUR, pg. 11-18



THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE GREET THEIR LIBERATION FORCES WITH SMILES AND SHOUTS OF "PEACE".

MAJOR SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Affairs Asia
Agence France-Presse
Asia Magazine
Christian Science Monitor
Congressional Record
Far Eastern Economic Review
Foreign Policy (NY National Paper)
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
Hill Story (Liberation) News Agency
Herald (N.Y.)
Hsinhua News Agency (China)
International Bulletin (Indonesia)
Kampuchea Information Agency (KIA)
Khaomsa Pathet Lao (Lao News Agency)
Lao News -Lao Publication
Liberation News Service (LNS)
New Day-DBV
New York Times (NYT)
New York Post (NYP)
Radio Pathet Lao
South Vietnam in Struggle (Lao)
Thei Noi De (Vietnam Resistance Center)
Vietnam Information Bulletin (VIB)
Vietnam News Agency (VNA)
Vietnam Report -Union of Vietnamese
Voice of 1975 (Voice Radio)
Washington Post (WP)

ABBREVIATIONS

AFP Agence France-Presse
AII Kampuchea Information Agency
ARVN Army of the Republic of Vietnam (Saigon)
CPMLAP Cambodian People's Liberation Armed Forces
DRV Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North)
FEEL Foreign Broadcast Information Service
FER Far Eastern Economic Review
FRON National United Front of Kampuchea
GOUV Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia
IPC Indochina Peace Campaign
IOC Indochina Resources Center
LNS Liberation News Service
LRA Liberation News Agency (LNS)
LTF Lao Patriotic Front
LX Liberation Radio (LNS)

Cambodia has won

"In his statement of May 20, 1970, Chairman Mao Tsetung pointed out, 'a weak nation can defeat a strong, a small nation can defeat a big. The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country.' The struggle of the Cambodian people has given full proof

of this law of history. It is a spectacular event for such a country as Cambodia with a population of only several millions to dare to look down upon the monster, US imperialism, rise in resistance, persist in their fight and grow from small to big, from weak to strong and advance from victory to victory. Uniting closely and fighting side-by-side with the people of other Indochinese countries, the Cambodian people have in the past five years dealt telling blows at the US aggressors and their lackeys. With their great struggle the Cambodian people have given enormous encouragement and powerful support to the world people in their just struggle against imperialism and hegemonism and set a splendid example for all oppressed people and oppressed nations in their struggle against outside aggression and for independence and liberation." (Hsinhua, 3/21/75)



(from the right) Penn Nouth, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, leaders of the GRUNC and FUNK presenting to Norodom Sihanouk a US M.79 gun, captured on the battlefield, as evidence of the indefeatable unity of the Cambodian people under the victorious banner of the FUNK against US imperialism and the Phnom Penh traitors.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chief of state of Cambodia, speaking at a celebration of the fifth anniversary of the FUNK in Peking, March 22 said: "I ask your permission to present to you certain aspects of what the Americans call the 'Cambodian problem.' To speak the truth there is no Cambodian problem. There is in Cambodia only a problem created, with an intolerable injustice, by the USA without whose incessant interventions and interferences the so-called 'Khmer Republic' (Lon Nol) would never have seen daylight and, still less, caused so much misery and catastrophe to our nation, our people and our country...The war in Cambodia is not a civil war, it is a war between the US imperialist aggressor and the Cambodian people subjected to aggression.

The war in Cambodia is over. Phnom Penh surrendered to the CPNLF Wednesday evening, April 17, 1975 - 105 days after the opening of the last military offensive in the five year war against US imperialist aggression. Symbolically, the end of the war came not when Lon Nol fled to a US military hospital in Hawaii April 1 but six days after the US ambassador, John Gunther Dean and his CIA/State department staff wrapped themselves in "Old Glory" and split. On April 18 tens of thousands of people lined the streets of Phnom Penh, hung out of windows and stood on rooftops to cheer and greet their liberation army. Today the United Front of Cambodia (FUNK) through the Royal Government of National Union (GRUNC) governs liberated Cambodia, all 100%.

Throughout the past months Sihanouk has likened the Lon Nol regime and its US masters in Cambodia to a "turtle in a jar," absolutely helpless in the face of the inexorable

march of People's War and national liberation. We speak of laws of history; we say imperialism breeds war, all war; we say people's resistance will defeat war, all war. War in Indochina came because the United States, attempting to expand and secure its hegemony over the resources and markets throughout the world following World War 2, was challenged most directly not by another imperialist power but by the rising tide of national liberation struggles and the advance of socialism. In Indochina, the Vietnamese revolution, by defeating French colonialism, was nearing victory. It was led by Communists and was both neighbor and comrade of the Chinese revolution. These threats to profit, to the "American Century," present throughout the world, were most clear and most immediate in Indochina. The logic, the law of imperialism - expand or die - meant war against the Vietnamese revolution. War in Cambodia did not drop from the sky with the coup d'etat in March 1970. Persistent US attempts to subvert the non-alignment and peace of the Cambodian nation had preceeded the coup by 20 years. By 1970 the US was on the road to defeat in Vietnam, desperately looking for the magic handle to defeat the resistance of the people - a bigger war, another invasion, a larger field of operation. As Mao said, a second set of laws of history have been clarified with the victory of the people of Cambodia - oppression breeds resistance; unjust, imperialist war breeds just war, People's War, revolutionary war.

VICTORY TO PEOPLE'S WAR

The last offensive of the liberation forces began January 1. It had been preceeded last fall by the first rainy season throughout which the CPNLF pressed the attack on all fronts. By December 1974 Lon Nol's army had no trained reserves, had been fighting without the usual rainy season lull for twelve months, and had lost significant ground so that every road link and the Mekong River north of Phnom Penh were cut. Thirteen enclaves sat besieged, linked only by air and supplied by the Mekong River convoys from Saigon.

ALONG THE MEKONG

The 105 day offensive was simultaneous on three fronts, Phnom Penh, along the Mekong, and at the provincial cities under siege; however it had only one objective - to cut the Mekong and strangle the supply lines to Phnom Penh so that that city and all the US/Lon Nol positions would fall like ripe fruit and not have to be taken by direct military assault. This is exactly what happened. The Mekong was closed and mined February 5. During this battle and the US attempts to reopen or run armed convoys up the river from Saigon, 338 ships were sunk or damaged, and by mid-March only the twin cities of Neak Luong and Banam were in the hands of Lon Nol. Three times multi-battalion counter-offensives were attempted to recapture government positions along the Mekong or relieve Neak Luong. Every one was utterly defeated. In the last attempt, March 6-7, 600 troops landed nine miles south of Neak Luong. In two days of fighting 350 were killed or wounded and the runaways drowned in the river. (AKI, 3/13)

DOWN TO 13 ENCLAVES



With insurgents advancing, Phnom Penh Government had only a number of enclaves left (indicated by panels).



The securing of the Mekong by the CPNLF sealed the lid on the turtle's jar. The only alternative to reopening the river was the reintervention of the US and institution of a massive "Berlin-style" airlift to provide every item of life to an army at war. The importance of the Mekong led to the only full-scale military assault of a city in this campaign. Neak Luong was pounded by rockets and artillery and captured foot by foot, falling to the liberation

forces April 1. 5000 government troops were killed or captured in this assault and the 6000 CPNLAF troops moved north to put pressure on the largely inactive southern edge of the Phnom Penh defense perimeter, carrying with them 3800 105mm shells captured in Neak Luong.

THE PROVINCIAL ENCLAVES

In the provinces steady pressure reduced the defenses of most of the cities in Lon Nol's hands to a few positions. At Takeo the airport was captured in mid-March. By March 15 Lon Nol was reduced to a 500 meter square outpost at Kampot and a half-mile radius perimeter at Prey Veng. By March 6 only three government positions were left in Longvek. Kompong Seila was abandoned April 3 and the 1500 puppet troops returned by helicopter to Phnom Penh. April 7 the CPNLAF entered Lompong Speu. The most important fighting took place in Battambang province. In northwest Cambodia bordering on Thailand, this area was the only agricultural land left to Lon Nol and its access by rail to Thailand meant that small but regular amounts of civilian supplies could then be shipped by air into Phnom Penh. Aided by mass uprisings and demonstrations by the people (for instance on March 4, thousands of people stormed the rice-storage houses and attacked the administrative offices in Battambang City) by April 17 the CPNLAF had encircled Battambang and fighting had reached the outskirts of town. The provincial victories were important because they prevented men and material from being transferred to the defense of Phnom Penh and the Mekong, thus shortening the war. Throughout January, Lon Nol troops, originally sent to the Mekong were rushed back to the provincial enclaves to prevent their imminent collapse. These soldiers were left weary, demoralized and without reserves to replace heavy losses. In addition the victories in Battambang cut off Phnom Penh from any access to that rich rice-producing region and prevented the possibility of the establishment of a rump puppet regime in Cambodia's second largest city, protected by Thai troops and US bases in Thailand.

PHNOM PENH

The battle for Phnom Penh itself began with the dramatic sweep of the east bank of the Mekong, directly opposite the city, by liberation forces in early January. This provided a focus of attention until the more important campaign for the Mekong River could be decided. Fighting then switched in early February to the northwest, focused on Pochentung airport, Lon Nol's final link to the outside world. With the fall of the Mekong a CIA/USAF airlift of ammunition and rice was stepped up to include 12 C-130 cargo planes under contract to Bird Air, 8-10 DC-8's on rental from US airlines and a number of smaller, older planes already in service in Cambodia. The airlift was



INSURGENT FIRE HITTING AMMUNITION DUMP AS PLANE LANDS AT PHNOM-PENH

started from U-Tapao, the US base in eastern Thailand, but as the Thai government became increasingly uneasy over the collapse of the Lon Nol and Thieu regimes and began restricting use of that base, Tan Son Nhut International Airport in Saigon became the airlift's home.

The CPNLF systematically dismantled the defense perimeter in the northwest so that Pochentung was under inaccurate rocket fire from early February, sporadic but more precise 105mm artillery fire from early March and pinpoint mortar fire by the first week in April. All-in-all the airlift was halted eight times prior to March 28 and abandoned as a means for resupply to the city in early April. US government propaganda has attempted to paint the airlift as a civilian contract job, essentially low key and discontinued because the danger of planes being hit was too great. Actually, the airlift was a full scale military operation, at its height landing planes every eight minutes on a single strip airfield with planes standing with engines running for 4-10 minutes while supplies were unloaded. It was halted because the cost was too high. Between March 1-23 alone, 16 planes were destroyed: 5 DC-8, 3 C-130, 4 C-123 and 4 DC-3 (AKI, 4/2/75).

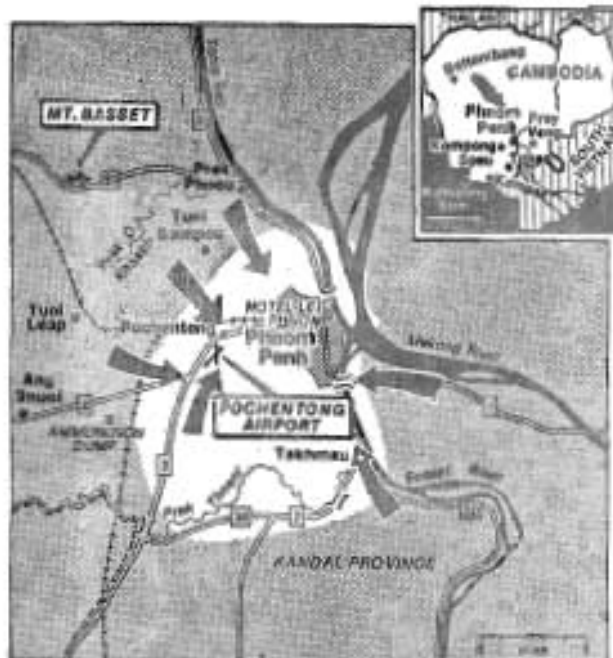
The general character of the siege of Phnom Penh was that of a box constrictor wrapped around its prey. Everytime Lon Nol breathed out, the pressure was tightened until even a last gasp for breath was impossible. There were three aspects to this pressure. First the crippling reduction of incoming supplies placed heavy burdens on the non-military population of Phnom Penh, raised the resistance of the people to a fever pitch and demoralized an already badly beaten puppet army. Much of the fighting along the Mekong north of the city was directed at endangering the city's water supply to add another notch to that pressure.

Second, except to secure positions around the airport, the battle for Phnom Penh was not for territory, not primarily to reduce the defense perimeter. The CPNLF was scrupulous in keeping the fighting out of the populated suburbs and concentrated on systematically destroying unit after unit of the puppet army. Numerous government positions were taken by liberation forces, abandoned and then taken again - for instance, Tuol Leap, a strong set of positions three miles north of Pochentung was first captured February 27, abandoned and then surrounded and retaken with all 3000 Lon Nol troops killed or captured the second time. The PUNK set out to punish and eliminate the puppet army. It succeeded completely. 60,000 Lon Nol troops, 3/4 of the combat forces, were killed, wounded, captured or defected in the 105 day campaign. More importantly, Phnom Penh and the civilian population was spared - suffering hunger, regular but minimal rocket attack (less than ten rounds a day) and three days of close fighting at the end - but spared the legacy of napalmed refugee camps and house-to-house destruction that has characterized the US response to losing cities in the Indochina war.

The third aspect to the battle of Phnom Penh, coupled with total blockade and systematic destruction of the puppet army, was the mass, militant struggle of all sectors of the population inside the capital against the fascist Lon Nol regime and continued US aggression. This aspect was key because it meant that the US could turn absolutely no where in its attempt to continue the war. Demonstrations and protest action occurred daily throughout the siege, escalating to the mass outpouring of the city April 17-18 and the open fraternization of Lon Nol troops with the CPNLF units entering the city. Some of the struggle can be seen in this listing: February



22,500 students from 30 Phnom Penh schools met to denounce the regime and its forcible conscription tactics and urge a heightening of the struggle inside the city. This meeting provided some leadership and coordination of the events of the next seven weeks. March 3, 3000 disabled ex-servicemen and 500 pedi-cab drivers; March 4, 2000 youth and students; and March 5, 1000 disabled soldiers and 800 soldiers' wives demonstrated for an end to US involvement and peace. March 11, hundreds of students at the Faculty of Agriculture arrested and beat up the director and set fire to the buildings of the university. March 17-20, thousands of youths and students demonstrated every day and fought police lines. (statistics from AKI) This mass struggle was called for, organized and led by the FUNK as the most clear statement that reliance on the peoples' mass participation in revolution is what makes the armed struggle possible. In effect, the mass uprising of the people of Phnom Penh, including even the majority of Lon Nol's soldiers by the end, met the columns of the CPNLF and between the hammer and the anvil, the designs of the US imperialists and their Cambodian puppets were snuffed.



The New York Times/April 16, 1975

Final Assault on Phnom Penh April 14-17

THE FUTURE

The National United Front of Cambodia (FUNK) is in power today. This is the united front coalition called together by Sihanouk immediately following the coup in March 1970. The FUNK is not a party but a very broad-based grouping of all patriots and democrats. It includes elements from all classes of Khmer society and was the political form for mobilizing the entire Cambodian people to defeat US imperialist aggression and rebuild liberated Cambodia. The Pracheachon Party (Cambodian Communist Party, KCP) is one key element of the FUNK and provides the core of discipline and leadership for the entire united front. The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (GRUNC) administers the political line of the Front and is comprised of representatives of those elements in leadership in the FUNK. The current composition of the

the future of Cambodia.

GRUNC is as follows:

- Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, *Chief of State.*
- Samdech Penn Nouth, *Prime Minister.*
- Mr. Khieu Samphan, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense and Commander-in-chief of the CPNLF.*
- Mr. Hou Yuon, *Minister of Interior, Security and Communal Reforms.*
- Mr. Hu Nim, *Minister of Information and Propaganda.*
- Mr. Sarin Chhak, *Minister of Foreign Affairs.*
- Prince Norodom Phurissara, *Minister of Justice and Judicial Reforms.*
- Mr. Thounn Thioeunn, *Minister of Public Health.*
- Mr. Toch Phoeun, *Minister of*



Public Works, Telecommunications and Reconstruction.
 Mr. Chou Chet, Minister of Religious and Social Affairs.
 Mrs. Ieng Thirith, Minister of Popular Education and Youth.
 Mr. Koy Thoun, Minister of National Economy and Finances.
 Mr. Men San, Minister of Military Equipment and Armament.
 Mr. Sok Thouk, Vice-Minister of Security.
 Mr. Kong Sophal, Vice-Minister of National Defense.
 Mr. Ros Chethor, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.
 Mr. Van Piny, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.



(from the left) Hou Yuon, Tiv Ol, Norodom Hemmanoreak, Toch Phoeun, Norodom Phurissara, Hu Nim and Chey Chum, among those in leadership in the GRUNC and the FUNK.

In the past weeks the Western press have played the game of "Who is the GRUNC and the FUNK?" Who are these mystery men most likely to seize power. Most often this speculation has been to identify factions - "true Cambodian nationalists (Sihanoukists), the Hanoi 6000, pro-Soviet anti-Sihanoukists" - within the FUNK and the KCP itself. Without a doubt the US will be busy for a long time to come trying to promote what it perceives to be differences within the FUNK and the GRUNC, as well as the very real difficulties that reconstruction and revolution pose to Cambodia, in order to subvert that revolution. Already CIA radio transmitters along the Thai border have claimed to be the voice of Liberation Radio and reported mass executions by the CPNLF in an attempt to foment panic and make reconciliation more difficult. As stated in an interview with FUNK politburo member Chau Seng in Paris March 10, "The United States dreams of creating a split in the ranks of the FUNK, starting with the most fragile and pliable elements... There are currents, it is true, but there is a common will which is our strength and has enabled us to overcome difficulties and avoid obstacles. The United States cannot hope to smash the front on the eve of final victory. It is absurd." (Paris L'Humanite, FBIS March 14)

STATE TO STATE RELATIONS WITH WHOM?

The GRUNC has adopted an international policy of neutrality and non-alignment, of firmly adhering to the five principles of coexistence establishing relations with any country - equality, mutual respect and reciprocal interests, non-aggression and non-interference in others' internal affairs. (press communique of the Second National Congress of Kampuchea, Feb 24-25, 1975, AKI March 5) These principles are not determined by pledges of good intention, however. As Sihanouk has said: "Our policy towards other countries will be based above all on their policy toward us, particularly between 1970 and 1975, during the most difficult years of our national existence." (interview by Afrique-Asie in Peking March 24, People's Translation Service April 12) Specifically: official relations, aid and trade with the US will be possible if and only if the US scrupulously observes the independence and territorial integrity of Cambodia. "Concerning the so-called 'governments' of Taipei, Seoul and Saigon, we consider them still to be nothing more than creatures of American imperialism, and we will consequently have no relations at all with them." (ibid) Relations with Thailand depend on the dismantling of all foreign bases and a pledge of respect for their common borders. The GRUNC recognizes and supports the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and will have no relations with Zionist Israel. It goes without

saying that the militant solidarity between the Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese people will continue to grow deeper and stronger with the end of war in Indochina. As for the Soviet Union, there is no group in the FUNK which is pro-Soviet. Russia has consistently refused its support for the liberation struggle in Cambodia and maintained a Lon Nol embassy in Moscow until the first week in April. In his interview with *Afrique-Asie*, Sihanouk placed the same stipulations on the Soviet Union and the US for future relations: "As for the superpowers, their aid will only be accepted if it is absolutely unconditional and respects our dignity, as is the aid given by the People's Republic of China. We will demand that they actually apply the rule of complete equality between big, middle and small states, and between rich and poor countries in their relations with us." (*ibid*) The base of Cambodia's international relations will be with those 60 plus nations which have functioned as friends of Cambodia throughout the war. These are predominantly Asian, African and Arab and led by the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

LIBERATED CAMBODIA

Internally Cambodia is strong, self-sufficient, a democratic, thriving and healthy state. "Today the FUNK can be compared to a mighty tree that is well formed, firmly rooted, well protected, and under which more and more of the people are seeking shelter." (*Chau Theary, FUNK representative in Paris, Kommunistische Volkszeitung April 3, PTS April 12*) Because most of Cambodia has been liberated and secure



building irrigation systems.

territory throughout the war (70% since 1971), the countryside has developed agricultural and industrial production to satisfy its own needs, feed and equip the CPNLF and provide a surplus which can now meet most of the needs of the 1,000,000 people in the cities who join liberated Cambodia. Cattle raising and agricultural production have risen 100 to 220% in the last year and in 1974 50,000 tons of rice were exported from the liberated zones. (*op sit Chau Seng*) Textile manufacturing, paper, sugar and tobacco refineries and rubber plantations are well established. Unconditional, international aid is needed and requested by the GRUNC, particularly for reconstruction of roads, bridges, industry in the cities, irrigation systems, electricity, postal and telephone services and education and public health facilities. In no way should the tasks ahead be minimized - one-third of Cambodia's seven million people were made homeless refugees by the war. However, the united political will of the Cambodian people, embodied in the FUNK, and the stability and power of the liberated zones - the ability to feed the people and direct reconstruction - will defeat all attempts to hold back the tide of revolution.

FOR THE WORLD

Peace in Cambodia means more than just victory for the Cambodian people. Increasingly the people of America and Cambodia see themselves as allies. We regard as our own the victories

of the Cambodian people in the past five years. The unity and friendship between us has been consolidated and strengthened and we will, as in the past, resolutely support the Cambodian people's just struggle for freedom and independence.

Moreover, this peace and victory is a concrete step forward for all oppressed and working people throughout the world. The following is part of a statement broadcast by Sihanouk to East Asia from Peking February 25:

"I should like to draw the attention of all Third World governments to the following meaningful avowals of Philip Habib (US Assistant Secretary of State for Far East Affairs) 'Americans may question the continued military aid to Cambodia at a time when the United States itself is faced with economic difficulties, but the problem of Cambodia affects the whole of Southeast Asia and the entire world...the eyes of the world are fixed on the way the United States meets the needs of countries ravaged by war

It is necessary to decipher this coded language of Philip Habib because the US government does not dare - for a very good reason - call a tank a cat.

'The problem of Cambodia affects the whole of Southeast Asia and the whole world.' This means that the struggle of the Cambodian people against US neocolonialism is shaking the foundations of Western imperialism in Southeast Asia and throughout the world. If, by dint of patriotism, willpower and perseverance, the small and poor Cambodian people succeed in expelling from their country the most powerful imperialism ever known in the world, their example will be followed, in a chain reaction, by other small peoples and small countries in the Third World. The final victory won by the Vietnamese people over French colonialism in 1954 encouraged the Algerian people to take up arms and vanquish the same colonial masters. After leaving Indochina, French colonialism had to leave North Africa and restore independence to the remainder of the French empire.

After its inevitable and forthcoming defeat in Cambodia, US imperialism will, willy nilly, have to get out of South Vietnam and Laos. Then it will no doubt lose Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines.

This Domino Theory will also prove true in other areas (the Middle East, Latin America, etc...)

That is why, in the name of his government, Philip Habib did not hesitate to affirm that 'the eyes of the world are fixed on the way the United States meets the needs of countries ravaged by war.'

'The eyes of the world'...The eyes of the world, to be sure, are fixed on the struggle pitting the tiny Cambodian people against gigantic Uncle Sam. The stake, the United States itself admits, is of global significance - about which the Cambodian people feel highly honored." (FBIS March 5)



SOUTH VIETNAM: IN THE FINAL HOUR

Like a fire spreading through a sage brush, massive people's uprisings are sweeping through the cities and countryside of South Vietnam, turning the puppet army and administration into ashes, reaching the gates of Saigon itself, and forcing the resignation of the U.S. puppet dictator, Nguyen Van Thieu.

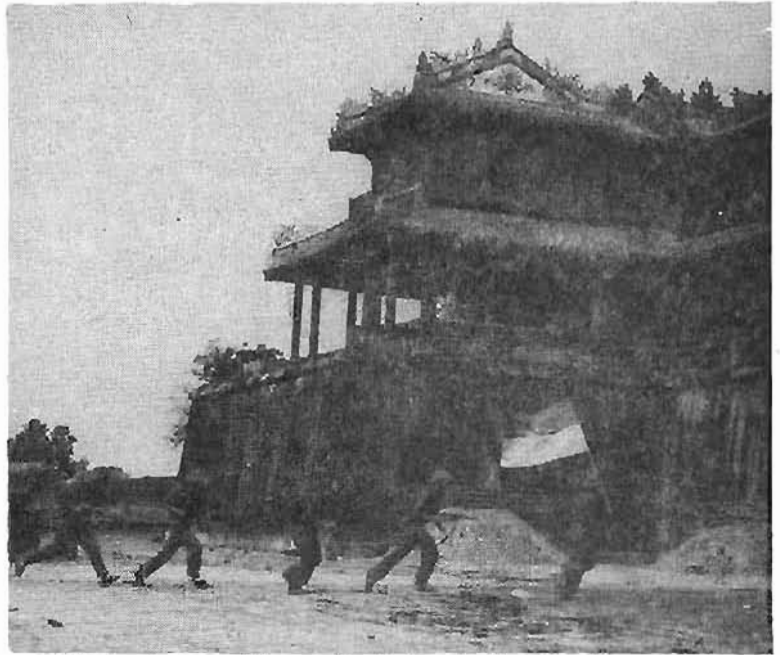
Saigon's disintegration was as devastating as it was swift. In the past 7 weeks, 22 of South Vietnam's 44 provinces covering 3/4's of its territory and 4 out of its 5 largest cities have been liberated. More than 10 million of South Vietnam's 18 million people now live in areas governed by the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG).

Six of Saigon's 13 divisions, including its elite marine, airborne and 1st and 2nd Infantry divisions have been completely wiped out. In Da Nang alone, South Vietnam's second largest city, 1½ million people were freed and more than 100,000 troops captured.

The puppet army was crumbling so fast that large cities along the coast such as Quy Nhon, Nha Trang and Cam Ranh fell with hardly a shot being fired. While most sources have admitted that at least \$1 billion in military hardware has been lost to the PRG, U.S. Congressman, Frank Church (Dem.-Idaho) spilled the beans recently and said he had proof that actually \$5-6 billion worth had been lost. Among the losses are at least 10,000 military vehicles, 250 tanks, 300 aircraft and thousands of artillery pieces.

The following is a chronology of major military events over the past 7 weeks in South Vietnam:

- (MARCH 5) The People's Liberation Armed Forces (PLAF) cut Highway's 14, 19 and 21, surrounding and completely isolating Saigon's 23rd division at Ban Me Thuot.
- (MARCH 10) Local Montagnard tribesmen and PLAF guerrillas began the assault on Ban Me Thuot, seizing most of the city within a matter of hours. In retaliation Saigon carried out savage bombing raids, but failed to halt the attack.
- (MARCH 11) District capital of Duc Lap in Quang Duc province and 6 District capitals in Quang Tri and Thau Thien provinces were seized. Despite massive reinforcements, Thieu failed to break the siege at Ban Me Thuot.
- (MARCH 12) Ban Me Thuot was completely liberated. PRG sets up Revolutionary administration. Buon Ho, the last district town in Darlac province in Saigon's hands fell to the Liberation Forces.
- (MARCH 14) Thieu flies to Nha Trang to meet with U.S. advisors and Commander of Military Region II. The decision is made to transfer the military Region's Headquarters from Pleiku to Nha Trang and abandon the Central Highlands. Thieu calls for a national mobilization, ordering all males between 17 and 43 to report for duty.
- (MARCH 15) Two district capitals came under heavy siege in Tay Ninh Province, as fighting moved to within 30-40 miles of Saigon.



PLAF storms the citadel at Hue after its liberation on March 26.

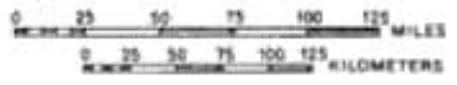


South Vietnam

Current Situation



- ☆ ☆ Heavy fighting or guerilla attacks
- ◻ ◻ PLAF attacks
- ◻ LIBERATED AREAS
- ◻ SAIGON AREAS



- (MARCH 17) Darlac, Kontum and Pleiku provinces were abandoned. The district capital of Dinh Quan, 20 miles north of Xuan Loc (Long Khanh P.) was liberated, cutting off Dalat and the main source of vegetables from Saigon.
- (MARCH 18) Thieu withdraws part of his elite paratroop division from Hue to beef up Saigon's defenses.
- (MARCH 19) Quang Tri city and province and Phu Bon province were liberated. In the 2 week period ending March 19, 21 district capitals were liberated.
- (MARCH 20) Saigon troops withdraw from An Loc. The entire province of Binh Long was liberated. Hoai Duc, a district capital in Tuy Hoa province was overrun.
- (MARCH 22) Gia Nghia city and all of Quang Duc province were freed.
- (MARCH 23) Hue is completely isolated as PLAF cut Highway I between Hue and Da Nang.
- (MARCH 24) Tam Ky, capital of Quang Tin province and Quang Ngai, capital of Quang Ngai province were liberated. Khiem Hanh, a district capital only 35 miles from Saigon was overrun by the PLAF.
- (MARCH 26) The ancient imperial capital of Hue was Liberated. More than 10,000 Saigon troops captured. Ford ordered U.S. Army Chief of Staff, General Weyland, to Saigon to assess the situation. Thieu ordered his troops to hold DaNang at all costs.
- (MARCH 27) Former vice-president, Nguyen Cao Ky, and Fr. Thanh, head of the Right-wing anti-corruption movement, set up a Committee for National Salvation and called on Thieu to step down, as rumors of a coup began circulating around the capital.
- (MARCH 28) Lam Dong province was liberated. PLAF shelled Da Nang's air and naval bases, as widespread looting by ARVN troops was reported.
- (MARCH 29) Da Nang, South Vietnam's second largest city, was liberated. The U.S. dispatched naval landing craft to SVN's coastal waters.
- (MARCH 30) U.S. begins massive airlift of arms and ammunition to Saigon. The same planes that carried in the ammunition, begin carrying out thousands of Vietnamese children to the U.S., Australia and other Western countries.
- (APRIL 1) Phu Yen province and its capital, Tuy Hoa city were liberated. The U.S. announced that 700 marines had been sent to the South Vietnamese coast near Da Nang, " to assist in evacuating refugees."
- (APRIL 2) Quy Nhon city and the entire province of Binh Dinh was liberated with more than 900,000 people.
- (APRIL 3) The provinces of Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Tuyen Duc and their provincial capitals were liberated, including the coastal city of Nha Trang, Command headquarters for Military Region II.
- (APRIL 4) The Presidential Palace in Saigon was bombed by an ARVN air force officer, who escaped to the Liberated Zone, where he was promoted to captain in the People's Liberation Armed Forces. A U.S. Cargo plane carrying kidnapped Vietnamese children to the U.S. crashed, killing more than 150 children.
- (APRIL 7) Cam Ranh bay, South Vietnam's biggest naval port, was liberated. Ten district capitals and the provincial capitals of Can Tho and Tan An in the Mekong Delta come under heavy siege.
- (APRIL 10) PLAF stepped up the siege of Tay Ninh and Xuan Loc provincial capitals. Ford, in a nationally televised speech, asked Congress for more than \$1 billion in military and "humanitarian" aid for Saigon.
- (APRIL 11) As the siege of Xuan Loc acted as a magnet drawing more and more of Saigon's troops into the battle, PLAF troops bypassed the city and began the massive shelling of Bien Hoa Air Base.
- (APRIL 15) PLAF enters Xuan Loc. Bien Hoa shelled for fourth consecutive day.
- (APRIL 20) Ham Tan city and all of Binh Tuy province is liberated.
- (APRIL 21) Xuan Loc falls. President Thieu resigns.
- (APRIL 25) U.S. military analysts say there are 14 PLAF divisions around the city, and that "the communists could take the city easily in a few hours if they wanted."

THE PEOPLE RISE UP

Because the corporate media failed to cover the development of the situation in South Vietnam over the past few years, the recent upsurge in fighting seems to have come out of thin air. 'Once again the U.S. Imperialists are raving about a "Massive North Vietnamese invasion", trying to convince us that the Vietnamese people are invading their own country. Nothing could be further from the truth. According to PRG representatives in Paris, "Thieu has been beaten...because he has stood obstinately in the way of the population's desire for peace, independence, democracy and national concord. The striking feature of the rapid liberation of the vast new areas of South Vietnam in recent weeks has been the uprisings of the population in cooperation with the Liberation Forces. Many in Thieu's administration and army have broken with him to join this movement."

A typical example of these uprisings by the local population was the Liberation of Ban Me Thuot. According to Tom Haskins of American Friends' Service Committee who was in the area at the time, "First, the Montagnard minority people who had lived all their lives in and around the town

moved in and dismantled most of the armaments and police outposts. They were followed by PRG cadres who suppressed what resistance was left. By the time the tanks came into town, the streets were quiet." When AFP reporter, Paul Leandri, revealed on March 12 that the majority of forces that attacked and seized Ban Me Thuot were local Montagnards, the Saigon authorities refused to renew his visa. Two days later, he was shot and killed at a Saigon police station. The Thieu regime certainly knew it was the local population that was behind the uprisings; that's why it decided to abandon the entire area.



People remove barbed wire from around the recently liberated city of Da Nang

WHY SO MANY REFUGEES ?

To cover up his humiliating defeats in the Central Highlands and northern provinces, Thieu threw up the smokescreen of "refugees fleeing from the Communists", and began the forcible evacuation of the civilian population:

"Before the city is evacuated, the Saigon propaganda apparatus goes into effect over the radio and with loudspeakers in the streets, saying that they are pulling out and that the city will be destroyed from the air and that anyone who remains will be wiped out." (W. Burchett, Focal Point, 4/25/75)

The fear of air attacks was certainly justified. When Ban Me Thuot was taken, Saigon retaliated with massive bombing raids destroying 1/3 of the town and killing more than 200 people.

Once on the road, puppet soldiers used the refugees as shields to prevent the PLAF from attacking them, while screaming that the refugees were being "viciously attacked by the North Vietnamese aggressors." But no matter how hard tried to turn things upside down, the facts kept leaking through. A Frenchman, Henri Louyrette, manager of a tea plantation who left with the refugees from Pleiku reported that "Many died in the course of that exodus, not from communist bullets which we practically never saw, but crushed under their own vehicles overturned by the brutal impact of the army's bulldozers. Even the wounded were abandoned, their cries of pain ignored." (Le Monde, 3/26/75) As for the PRG's policy, "As they [the refugees] moved out, North Vietnamese military units approached, but did not open fire, using the strong headlights of their tanks to light the way for the Government troops." (NY Times, 3/20/75)

On the other hand, it would be incorrect and one-sided to say there weren't people who were afraid of the Liberation Forces. Twenty years of the rabid anti-communist propagandea the U.S. and Saigon have been putting out could not help but rub off on some sectors of the population. Also, military officers, village chiefs, secret police, pacification agents, businessmen and the compradore bourgeoisie (the ruling elite that has sold themselves completely to foreigners) had plenty to fear from the people they had been oppressing and exploiting for so many years.

In their age-old policy of forcible relocation of the population in order to deny the Liberated Zones of material and manpower, the Imperialists and their Saigon puppets dug their own grave. The fleeing refugees and puppet troops had a snow-balling effect, causing untold pandemonium and fear; greatly accelerating the disintegration of the Saigon army in coastal cities.

U S ESCALATES - HASTENS THEIR DEFEAT

The PRG has issued numerous statements over the past few weeks warning the U.S. that if they did not withdraw their advisors and stop all interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam, Saigon would be taken by military force. Not only has U.S. Imperialism continued their intervention, but they are wildly escalating the war and cranking up their propaganda machine.



Five aircraft carriers (including two Marine helicopter carriers), a dozen destroyers and scores of cargo and landing craft carrying over 5,000 marines have been moved to the coastal waters of South Vietnam. In an attempt to "legalize" this aggression, ruling class mouthpiece, Gerald Ford, has asked the Congress for more than \$1 billion in military and "humanitarian" aid to hold Saigon over to the end of the fiscal year (the end of June). On April 27, Ford got the go ahead from Congress to land marines in South Vietnam for the supposed "evacuation and protection" of U.S. personnel. If the U.S. REALLY wanted to get their advisors and personnel out, they could have done it at any time, without any hassle. In fact, the PRG has offered on numerous occasions to give protection and help in the withdrawal of U.S. personnel, just as they did in March, 1973 with the withdrawal of U.S. ground troops. But,

of course, the U.S. has different plans. One only has to remember Lebanon in 1958, the Dominican Republic in 1965, Cambodia in 1970 and dozens of other occasions to know what U.S. Imperialism means by sending troops in to "evacuate and protect" U.S. personnel.

As for increased aid, one can't help but wonder if Ford and the ruling class are really serious. More than 600,000 foreign aggressor troops, 7 million tons of bombs and \$200 billion couldn't save the Saigon regime, and now Ford thinks he can do it by sending another billion!

The U.S. Congress, in their typical style, are attempting to both cover their ass and at the same time keep the Saigon puppets afloat by denying the military aid and granting the "humanitarian" aid. It is common knowledge that so-called "humanitarian aid" (as in the case of 'Food for Peace' and other examples) either ends up being spent on military supplies or in the Swiss bank accounts of Saigon puppets. Congress should certainly know this; it has been read into the Congressional Records about a dozen times!!!

THE ORPHANS- KIDNAPPING & GENOCIDE

At the same time the U.S. was escalating the war they attempted to hide the real nature of their defeat from the American people by kidnapping Vietnamese. Thousands of Vietnamese children have been stolen from their homeland and taken to the U.S., Australia and a number of other Western countries. While the U.S. claimed that these children were orphans (as if that somehow justifies it), "many Vietnamese-speaking volunteers who talked to the children when they arrived here say many speak of living parents and other relatives left in Saigon. Many were crying, pleading to be returned to their mothers and fathers." (Pacific News Service, 4/14/75)

The real reason for this cultural genocide (stealing Vietnamese children from their families) was revealed by a note sent from U.S. Ambassador, Graham Martin, to Thieu intercepted by a Saigon opposition official which read, "this evacuation [sic] will help create a shift in American public opinion in favor of the Republic of Vietnam [Saigon], especially when these children land in the United States." (Washington Post, 4/9/75)

But just like the "refugees fleeing from the Communists" propaganda gimmick, the "help the orphans" gimmick has fallen flat on its face. Not only did it fail to fool the people, but provoked widespread protest from every sector of American and world opinion. Even the Pope was forced to take a stand against this wholesale kidnapping.



Ford with kidnapped Vietnamese infant- latest in the long list of US war crimes.

RESSURECTION OF THE "BLOODBATH" THEORY

Another weapon the U.S. is using in their psychological warfare campaign is the two-decades old "bloodbath theory." According to the State Dept, and other government agencies, anywhere from 200,000 to one million Vietnamese who served the American anti-communist cause in South Vietnam must be evacuated immediately because they have been put on the "communist death list". Already this scare tactic has caused Vietnamese at the rate of 5,000- 6,000 a day to leave the country, with many more on stand-by attempting by any means necessary to get out.

The inflated figure of one million persons usually refers to the catholic refugees who fled the north in 1954 when CIA propaganda told them that the "Blessed Virgin had gone south" and that the area would be wiped out by nuclear weapons. The statement implies that all these people have collaborated with pro-U.S. regimes.

First of all, a whole generation has elapsed over the past 20 years. The children of the catholics who went to the south as refugees have a different outlook than their elders. In fact, the overwhelming majority of these people "now cooperate with the various popular movements demanding peace and implementation of the Peace Agreement." (Dai Dan Toc- Saigon daily/ Thoi Bao Ga, 2/4/75)

Secondly, the small group of people such as Thieu, Khiem, Ky, etc, who have in fact collaborated with the Americans and profited from the war have no intention of hanging around. In fact, many (Thieu is currently in Taiwan) of them have already fled to foreign countries, where they have big houses and fat bank accounts built up from years of U.S. "aid."

Also, this nonsense is thoroughly discredited by reports coming in from recently liberated cities in the northern part of South Vietnam: "Western observers were

reasonably satisfied that the Communist conquest of almost three-quarters of South Vietnam was proceeding so far without bloodbaths or reprisals." (Time Mag., 4/28) While the U.S. embassy in Saigon churns out one story after another about reprisals, beheadings, mass executions, etc, when they were pushed by a Western reporter to produce even one piece of evidence to back up their assertions, they could not do it. They even admitted, "Well, honestly, we are making a lot of this issue because it can effect ongoing deliberations of the aid program here. We know many Congressmen who are already wavering to our side." (New York Post, 4/21/75)

The strategy is the same as it always has been: to use the excuse of a mythical bloodbath by the PRG in the distant future to cover up and rationalize the bloodbath that is being carried out now, and has been carried out for the past 20 years by U.S. Imperialism and its faithful puppets in Saigon, and also to justify renewed U.S. escalation.

THIEU'S DEPARTURE - WITHDRAWAL OR ESCALATION ?

With the military situation continuing to deteriorate and the Liberation Forces closing in on Saigon, the U.S. ordered Thieu to resign, in order to give the impression that they were being conciliatory, while at the same time frantically attempting to escalate the war.

The PRG has stated all along that what they want is a change in policy, and not just a change in personality. Commenting on Thieu's resignation in Paris, the PRG said, "the United States must abandon the Nguyen Van Thieu clique, and not just the person of Nguyen Van Thieu." (NY Times, 4/23/75) The PRG is not into playing games or musical chairs with the U.S. After more than 20 years of war and 15 consecutive puppet dictators, the Liberation fighters and people of South Vietnam are not about to be fooled by a new mask on the same old face.

SOUTH VIETNAM - WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

While President Ford and his fellow representatives of U.S. Imperialism try to paint a picture of South Vietnam being lost to "Communist hordes" whose only rule is tyranny, oppression and misery, they are obviously referring to the society that the South Vietnamese people have just left behind, and not the one they have just entered.

In Hue and Da Nang, taken over by the PRG at the end of March, the livelihood of the population has been quickly restored, as the people easily adjust to the new Revolutionary administration.

Local Revolutionary Committees have helped thousands of people forced to move into the city by the Thieu regime to return to their hometowns and villages in the countryside. Tens of thousands of political prisoners have been released from jail, as the PRG moves to implement the Peace Agreement.

Third Force groups such as the Women's Committee for the Right to Live and the Buddhist-led National Reconciliation



Liberation soldiers and PRG cadre explain to people everywhere their policies and program to be implemented in the cities.

Force are working with the PRG IN Provisional Revolutionary Concord Committees, and the flag of National Reconciliation and Concord flies along side the PRG and Saigon flag throughout the cities. These Committees, which in effect are coalition governments, demonstrate clearly that the policy of the PRG is to Implement the Peace Agreement, and not "tear it to pieces", as the U.S. and Saigon claim.



PLAF troops entering the Liberated city of Hue.

Saigon government grain storages have been opened and food is being distributed freely to the people. Hospitals have been reopened and medical units comb the cities to care for the many victims of the war and the recent fighting. Schools have started up again. Industries, handicraft shops, restaurants and other businesses are functioning normally. Most public facilities including electricity, running water and communications have been restored. Revolutionary films are being shown in the open air, as the city people more and more come to understand the policies of the new Revolutionary administration.



Most of the tens of thousands of Saigon soldiers captured with the Liberation of the cities have been freed to return to their families and their native villages. According to Junior officer, Ninh Dinh Hoa, former member of the 1st Marine Infantry division of the Saigon army, *"The Liberation Army has treated us well. I thought I was going to be shot right off. At first I waited for the American ships and even swam across the river to meet them, but they never came. Soldiers of the liberation army explained to me that I could return to my family later, and that I would be treated like everyone else."* (People's Translation Service, 4/23/75)

While the U.S. newspapers gave us the impression that most of the urban population were either fleeing or frightened to death of the Communists, people were in fact lining the streets by the tens of thousands to greet and cheer the Liberation Forces as they entered the newly liberated cities. In Da Nang on April 1, 40,000 workers held a demonstration and celebration to pledge their total support for the new administration. Similar demonstrations have been held in Hue, Quy Nhon and many other cities.



Throughout the south a new society is being born in the shell of the old, which is cracked and crumbling apart. Everywhere the people are beginning to live a life where they are indeed their own masters.

As the PRG moves to fully implement the Paris Peace Agreement and complete the national democratic stage of the ir revolution, peace, independence and freedom become more than mere slogans, they become living reality for the masses of people.

=====

When the PLAF shelled Saigon on April 27 and moved to within 15 miles of the capital, the Saigon Senate hastily dismantled part of the Thieu regime and installed neutralist leader, Gen. Duong Van (Big) Minh as President, and asked for an immediate cease fire and negotiations.

If and when the PRG sits down to negotiate, the terms for an end to the fighting will be the same as they have been for last two years: the freeing of all political prisoners, restoration of all democratic freedoms, including freedom of movement for the refugees to return to their native villages, and the setting up of the national Council of National Reconciliation & Concord (including Saigon, PRG and Neutralists), the withdrawal of all U.S. advisors and personnel, and an end to all U.S. interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam. If the newly formed Saigon administration shows any signs that it is not serious and is just continuing the old policies under a new cover, the city of Saigon will certainly be attacked and probably taken within a matter of hours.

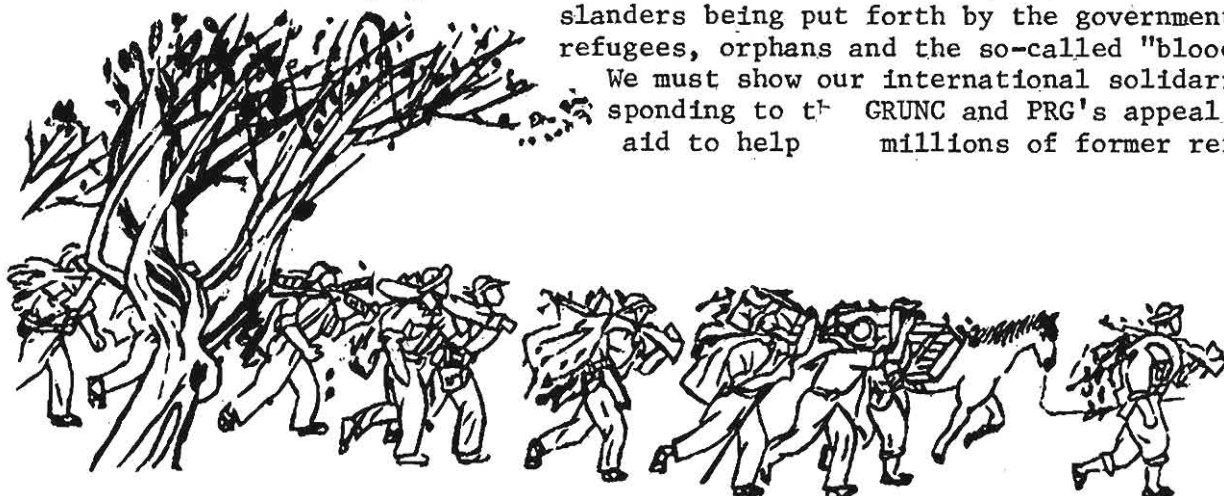


Celebrate the Victories - Remain Vigilant!

The victories achieved by the South Vietnamese people and their Liberation Armed Forces over the past two months represent the complete bankruptcy of "Vietnamization" and U.S. neo-colonialism in South Vietnam. They are the culmination of 30 years of protracted struggle against foreign aggression, and will accelerate the decline of U.S. Imperialism, which is rapidly disintegrating on a world scale.

The victories of the Vietnamese people are also tremendous victories for the American people and all the people of the world who are fighting oppression, exploitation and their root cause- Imperialism. The Vietnamese people showed us that in the end, all those bombs, bullets, dollars, machines and technology were no match for the power of the people, who are the decisive force in making history. It is definitely a time to celebrate, to take the lessons of the war out to the people, especially working people who are locked in a life and death struggle with this same war-mongering class of profiteers and parasites.

On the other hand, we must remain extremely vigilant. Like a mad dog backed into a corner, the U.S. Imperialists are lashing out wildly in an attempt to delay the inevitable. We must demand that all U.S. aid, whether military or "humanitarian", be cut to the Saigon regime. We must demand that all U.S. warships, aircraft carriers, marines and advisors get the hell out of South Vietnam and its coastal waters, and let the South Vietnamese people determine their own affairs. We must counter the lies and slanders being put forth by the government concerning refugees, orphans and the so-called "bloodbath". We must show our international solidarity by responding to the GRUNC and PRG's appeal for material aid to help millions of former refugees they



are now governing, But we must also make it clear that it is the U.S. Government's responsibility to help rebuild the countries of Indochina, and we must demand that it live up to Article 21 of the Peace Agreement and give war reparations.

While *Time*, *Newseek* and the rest of the corporate media bombard us with pictures of mangled babies, fleeing refugees, levelled villages and other Imperialist atrocities, they can not hide the truth from the American people: that the Vietnamese people have fought back and WON!!!

**END ALL AID TO THE SAIGON REGIME!
IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT!
VICTORY TO THE LIBERATION FORCES!**

American People Respond

As the Liberation Forces in South Vietnam and Cambodia neared final victory and the U.S. madly escalates, thousands of people in the U.S. have taken to the streets to back up their demands that the U.S. should live up to the Peace Agreement that it signed and get the hell out of Indochina.

In New York, on March 1, 150 people marched through the streets of lower Manhattan and distributed 7,500 leaflets, explaining the current situation and why we must end all aid. Hundreds of people on the sidewalks clapped and cheered and joined the march to show their support for the demands being raised.

On March 29, Vietnam Veteran's day, more than 700 people marched in the rain to demand an end to all aid to Saigon & Phnom Penh, Jobs or Income for all, and U.S. hands off the Middle East- We won't fight your Imperialist Wars!



Demonstration in New York, March 29

