

international agencies, controlled by the industrialized countries, have provided financing. Then come imposed conditions in the area of administration, and later the compulsory payment of debt.

Latin America and the Caribbean, or better, South America, must sit down to consider whether it is capable of generating, through the countries which have resources, some objective, real possibility of creating an autonomous capital market which is our own, to effectively develop it, and offer the small countries the possibility of not submitting to the domination of the agencies and countries which control the sources of financing; or will it continue as now, subjugated to models and the investment of industrialized countries which limit and distort their possibilities of development.

Obviously we need foreign capital, but we must demand a clear definition of international guidelines in terms of ethical and political conduct. Yes, we must give such capital security, and a fair return on investment. But we must eliminate its speculative character. I believe we have to confront this aspect immediately, just as we immediately must confront the problem of unity among ourselves.

My government believes that we can start to take the first steps. Which? Let us start by separating out from bilateral relations, four, five, six areas, and reserve them for multilateral treatment. Let us declare that in these areas Latin America will only negotiate multilaterally; possibly with its various voices, but with one single orientation, in search of the same goals, and guided by the continental interest. Thus we will begin to show some concrete unity.

I have heard U.S. pundits say that the Malvinas issue was not serious, that the current declarations are emotional questions, that they will pass quickly because economic exigencies will force Latin America to prostrate itself before the United States. I have rejected such assertions with indignation, as offensive and contrary to the dignity of our nations, and likewise I reject the assertion that Venezuela [in its defense of Argentina] is moved by its interest in its own border claim [on the Esequibo region of Guyana].

We have supported the Argentine Republic in its just claim, in the first place out of gratitude: because in 1902, when our coasts were threatened by European gunboats, our sister republic, despite its tradition of close links with England, found the force to oppose England and go with Venezuela in the reserves of its nationality. Thus the Drago Doctrine was established as a symbol of solidarity and dignity, enriching American international law. [It is] a debt which, in the passage of time, my country has wished to pay, and link with our unbreakable position of fighting without quarter against colonialism and oppression.

Indochina

Vietnam to withdraw Cambodian troops

by Daniel Sneider, Asia Editor

The three Indochinese states—Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos—concluded a foreign minister-level meeting in Ho Chi Minh City July 7 with the announcement that Vietnam will unilaterally withdraw some of the troops it has deployed in Cambodia since it intervened to overthrow the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot in January 1979. The partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops is part of “an act of good will” aimed at overcoming the tensions in Southeast Asia created by China and its Khmer Rouge puppets—which it continues to deploy against Cambodian territory from camps on the border of Thailand and Cambodia.

The Indochinese states also proposed the establishment of a “safety zone” along the border patrolled solely by Cambodian and Thai troops. In response to the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from the Cambodian side of the “safety zone” the Pol Pot troops would have to be expelled from the Thai side. The Indochinese proposed “international supervision” of this zone.

The Indochinese states concluded their communiqué by affirming their proposal for an International Conference on Southeast Asia with the participation of the three Indochinese states, the five members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN—Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia), the United States, the Soviet Union, France, China, Great Britain, and India.

The new Khmer Rouge front

The proposals by the Indochinese states occurred two weeks after the formation of a “coalition government” of the three anti-Vietnamese Cambodian groups, ceremoniously announced immediately following a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN. The Malaysian Foreign Minister did the honors, introducing the leaders of the three groups—Khieu Samphan, representing the deposed Pol Pot regime which was responsible for murdering between two and three million Cambodians during its bloody four year reign of terror; Prince Sihanouk, who sat in Phnom Penh during all those years and has continued to play his role as a front



Victims of the Khmer Rouge.

man for the Chinese; and Son Sann, a former Prime Minister of Cambodia who portrays himself as a “nationalist.”

The coalition is widely recognized as an effort to put a more acceptable face—that of Prince Sihanouk—on the butchers of Pol Pot. The Cambodian news agency SPK termed it “only cosmetic surgery to make up the face of the Peking Dracula.” A senior State Department official privately told *EIR* that “we know that the Khmer Rouge [Pol Pot] will eat up the other two groups” and that “the Chinese want to put Pol Pot back into power.” Nonetheless, State Department Assistant Secretary Walter Stoessel, who attended the ASEAN meeting, was quick to hail the coalition agreement as “excellent news” and indicated that the United States was ready to give “economic and humanitarian aid” to the group.

Sihanouk himself admitted that the coalition is a diplomatic front for Pol Pot. The Prince, members of whose own family were slaughtered by his Pol Pot allies, told the Malaysian news agency Bernama that since the coalition declaration there has been a “change of heart and spirit” among Cambodians, claiming that the Khmer Rouge was gaining support: “More and more people realize that they have to accept the Khmer Rouge,” he lied. He added that he would have no role in running the “government,” which would be left to the Khmer Rouge, but “I will take on my role as the spokesman and diplomat.”

Efforts to form this coalition have been going on for a year, with backing from ASEAN, the Chinese and the U.S. State Department, but the tiny Sihanouk and Son Sann groupings had resisted an arrangement which would subordinate them to the bloodstained Pol Potists. The new agreement reflected important concessions by Son Sann in particular, under pressure from ASEAN circles and the United States.

The U.N. question

That pressure mounted in recent weeks, when it became clear that the deposed Khmer Rouge were in

danger of losing the only real asset they have left—the continued possession of Cambodia’s seat in the United Nations in the name of “Democratic Kampuchea.” ASEAN diplomatic sources had reported before their ministerial meeting that U.N. members were increasingly disposed to make the seat “empty,” at the least, and votes for keeping Pol Pot in the U.N. were eroding, particularly among Latin American nations after the Malvinas crisis.

The “coalition” is designed to last until the September U.N. General Assembly session to ensure the vote to keep Pol Pot there, although there are doubts in some diplomatic circles that it will hold together that long. The coalition agreement, observers point out, looks like it was written by Harry Houdini—it has an escape clause for every point of agreement, including one which specifies that if it falls apart, the U.N. seat, and all the other international pseudo-legitimacy that goes with it, will return to the Pol Potists alone. It also gives the Pol Potists control over the diplomatic affairs of the “coalition” including their U.N. representation, for the next six months, indicating about how long they expect it to last.

The point was voiced without niceties in a Vietnamese Communist Party daily *Nhan Dan* article: “No perfidy can reverse the situation in Cambodia. A corpse is a corpse, no matter how it is dressed up.”

The shift in the U.N. was also reflected in divisions within ASEAN over Cambodia policy. While the regime in Thailand, Singapore, and, to a lesser extent, Malaysia favor a continued hard line against Vietnam and the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh, the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines have indicated their frustration with China’s plan to reimpose the Khmer Rouge on Cambodia through military attacks and their increased willingness to reach a political settlement with the Indochinese countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Peking and the U.S. State Department have been worried about ASEAN’s drift toward a settlement with the Vietnamese, and pressures from that direction to form the nominal coalition are clearly aimed at driving a wedge between ASEAN and Indochina and maintaining the fiction of Democratic Kampuchea in the U.N.

Vietnamese initiatives toward a political settlement have further disconcerted Peking and the State Department. Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach is scheduled to make a diplomatic tour of the ASEAN countries in July and August, a tour that will be premised on the new Indochinese proposals. Even before the ASEAN summit, a high-level Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official told *EIR*, the new offers had been conveyed in a meeting at the U.N. between Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar and the number-two Foreign Ministry official, Vietnamese Vo Dong Giang.