

Another U.S. fiasco in Indochina

Peking lures the Administration into embracing Cambodia

Washington's obsession with the China card has led to another travesty in American foreign policy. Last week the Carter Administration went on record as supporting the barbarous regime in Cambodia in its Chinese-provoked conflict with Vietnam.

This is the same Cambodian government that President Carter himself denounced only several months ago as the "worst violator" of human rights in the world. Administration officials now acknowledge to reporters a "pro-China tilt" in American policy on the Vietnam-Cambodia conflict, and justify the Administration's remarkable about-face toward the government of Prime Minister Pol Pot as necessary to maintain an unspecified "equilibrium" of power in Southeast Asia.

The "equilibrium" of course, is the Henry Kissinger scheme of giving tacit backing to China's known desire to be the dominant power in Southeast Asia, and cooperating with the Peking leaders on military matters as part of a NATO "second front" strategy in Asia against the Soviet Union.

The decision to "tilt" toward the monstrosity in Phnom Penh shows how much the pursuit of Chinese favors has become the *idée fixe* of Asia policy-makers in and around the Carter Administration. Led by National Security Council Director Zbigniew Brzezinski and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Richard Holbrooke, the Administration is driving for a "strategic" relationship with China in Asia, with all other policy considerations secondary to that objective.

However the Chinese have shown themselves vastly Brzezinski's superiors at playing big-power politics. Chinese Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping is cynically, and adroitly, playing his "American Card." With the Cambodian affair, he has managed to get the Carter Administration on its hands and knees, sacrificing self-respect as well as long-term policy.

The announcement by the State Department of official American support for Cambodia was made in part as a response to the formation last week of the Kampuchean (Cambodian) United Front for National Salvation in the areas of Cambodia now occupied by Vietnam and its anti-Pol Pot Cambodian allies. As reported by Radio Hanoi, the Front has called on the Cambodian people to "rise up for the struggle to overthrow the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique," referring to the Phnom Penh regime's top two leaders. The Front

denounced them as "dictatorial, militarist, and fascist." The Front (KUFNS), led by Hen Somrim, a former commander in the Cambodian Army, is also charging the "Chinese authorities" with backing a regime that violates human rights by herding its people into "camouflaged concentration camps."

'Freedom of residence' and an economic recovery program

Significantly, the KUFNS, in its own radio broadcasts, has emphasized its economic and political program to

'A dictatorial, militarist, and fascist regime'

The following are excerpts from the political program of the newly formed Cambodian United Front for National Salvation (KUFNS), announced in a radio broadcast Dec. 4. Beyond its denunciation of the Phnom Penh regime, the program called for "freedom of residence, movement, association and religion ... a planned economy, with markets, banks and a currency, and an end to forced labor."

The reactionary Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang and their families have totally usurped power, sought by all means to betray the country and harm the people, causing innumerable suffering and mourning to our fellow Kampuchean and threatening our people with extermination. It is the Chinese authorities who have encouraged and backed to the hilt these traitors and tyrants. In fact, they have herded our compatriots into camouflaged concentration camps, robbed our people of all means of production and consumer goods, forced them to overwork, while giving them the minimum of food and clothes, forcing all strata of the population to live in misery as slaves.

Everywhere our people have witnessed massacres more atrocious, more barbarous than those committed in the Middle Ages or perpetrated by the Hitlerite fascists. They spare not even fetuses inside mothers' wombs.