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CAMBODIA
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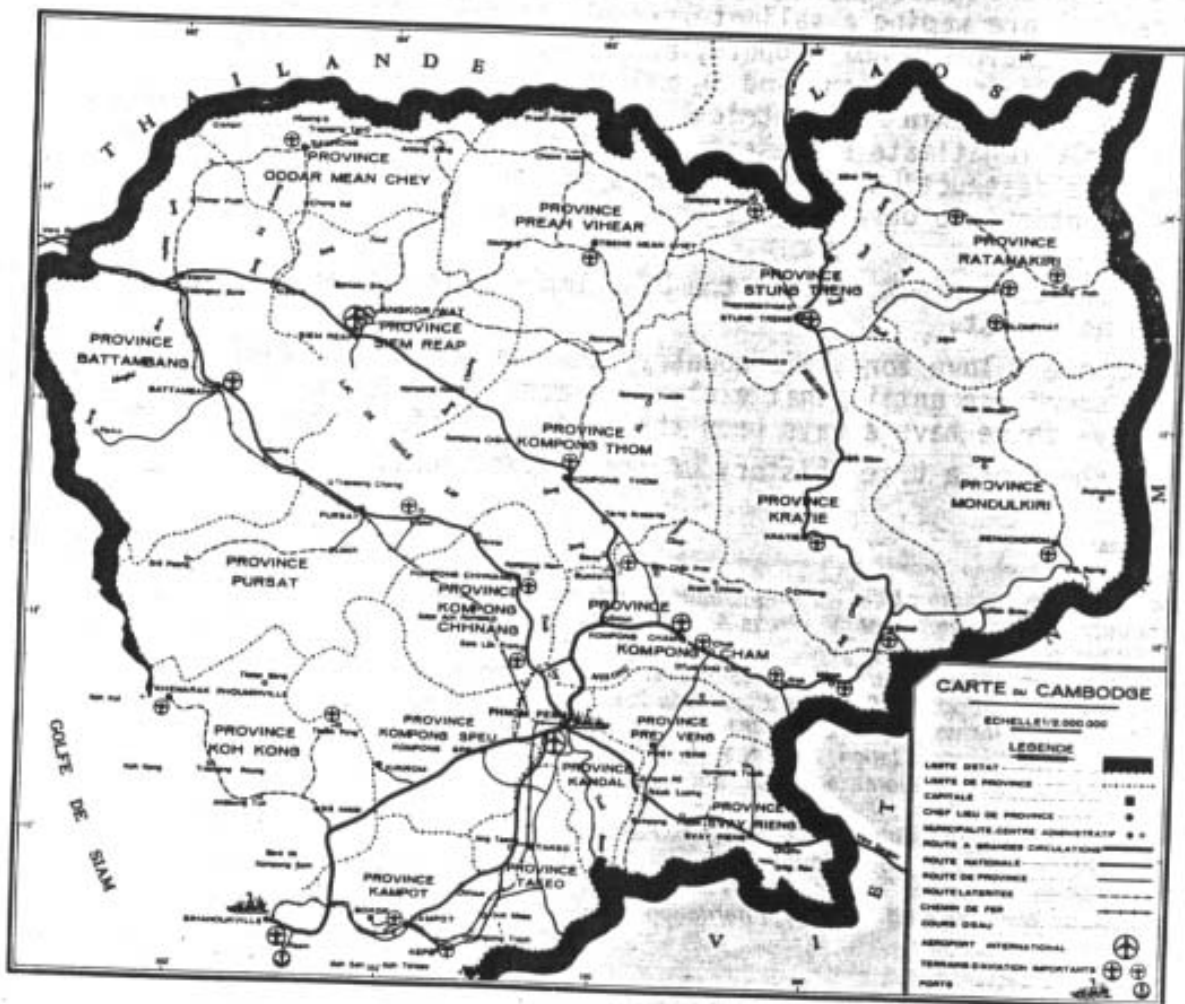
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CAMBODIA



1863-1975

INTRODUCTION

More than 2,000 years ago, an organized society was established in the area today called Cambodia. The light of the "Angkor" civilization shone throughout Southeast Asia for many centuries, making an appreciable contribution to world civilization.

During recent times the Cambodian (Khmer) people, along with the other peoples of the Indochina peninsula, suffered under colonialism and neo-colonialism, being invaded in turn by the French, Japanese and now the U.S. But loyal to their long tradition of struggle and resistance, the Cambodian people never ceased to carry on the fight against foreign invaders and to undergo untold sacrifices to safeguard their national independence and freedom.

Presently, under the leadership of the *ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF CAMBODIA (GRUNC)* and the *NATIONAL UNITED FRONT OF KAMPUCHEA (FUNK)* headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, are waging a valiant struggle to free their country from the U.S. Imperialists and their Lon Nol puppets, and are on the verge of total victory. More than 95% of Cambodia's territory and 5½ million of its 7 million people are under its leadership. More than 60 countries and national liberation fronts recognize the *GRUNC* as the sole legitimate representative of the Cambodian people and nation. Despite the massive destruction by B-52 bombers in the Cambodian countryside, the liberated Zones continue to develop, as the new society is born in the shell of the old.

These are the concrete facts and the U.S. Imperialists cannot ignore them, or pretend they do not exist.

Armed with great love for their country, the Cambodian people will continue their struggle and sacrifice until final victory is achieved. Peace, independence, freedom, democracy—these have always been the traditions of the Cambodian people.

This fact sheet is a brief history of these traditions.

Fact Sheet Sources:

- 1) *The "Voice of F.U.N.K."* (radio of the National United Front of Cambodia).
- 2) *A.K.I. (Kampuchea Information Agency), Press Agency of the F.U.N.K.*
- 3) *Shinhua (Chinese News Agency)*
- 4) *"Bulletin D'Information" (issued by the Paris mission of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, 2 Place de Barcelone 75016 Paris, France.*
- 5) *"Khmer Monthly News" (News bulletin of the "Khmer Residents of America", P.O. Box 5857, Grand Central Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10017.*
- 6) *Vietnamese Studies #28, "Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, 1969-70" (Hanoi—70).*
- 7) *Vietnamese Studies #33, "Indochina, 1972-72" (pub. Hanoi—1972).*
- 8) *"Cambodia, 1972", by Mr. Leng Sary (pub. GRUNC).*
- 9) *"Focus on Indochina," Malcolm Salmon, (pub. Hanoi—1961).*
- 10) *"Second Indochina War," Wilfred Burchett, International Pub.—1970.*

ABBREVIATION

- 1) *AKI* *Kumpuchea Information Agency*
- 2) *ARVN* *Army of the Republic of Viet Nam*
- 3) *CPNLA* *Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces*
- 4) *DRVN* *Democratic Republic of Viet Nam*
- 5) *FUNK* *National United Front of Kampuchea*
- 6) *GRUNC* *Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia*
- 7) *ICC* *International Control Commission*
- 8) *NLF-SVN* *National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam*
- 9) *PRG-RSVN* *Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam*
- 10) *SEATO* *Southeast Asian Treaty Organization*

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កម្ពុជា CAMBODIA

- 1863** The beginning of the French colonization of Cambodia. The high ranking bonze, (Buddhist Monk), Pukombo called upon the population of Kampot to resist the invaders.
- 1866** (-1877) Cambodian patriots led by Pukombo (until his death in 1867) and later by Sivotha rose up to fight against French domination.
- 1884** (**July 17**) Under the threat of using troops and gunboats, Charles Thomson, French governor-general, forced King Norodom to sign the convention which changed Cambodia's status from a French protectorate to a French colony.
- 1904** "Entente Cordiale" between Britain and France. King Norodom died, and the French gave the throne to his brother, Sisowath, who loyally helped the French put down several rebellions.
- 1907** Thailand agreed to return to Cambodia the two provinces of Siem Reap and Battambang after a long struggle.
- 1927** Sisowath dies and is succeeded by his son, Monivong.
- 1940** Hitler invaded France and set up a puppet regime headed by Marshal Henri Petain at Vichy. The change of leadership in France also affected the French administration in Indochina, including Cambodia. Cambodian children and adults had to sing French songs praising Marshal Petain for his 'wise' leadership.
- 1941** (**Dec.**) The Japanese militarists invaded Indochina and Cambodia, and got full cooperation from the French colonial authorities, which in fact, had become a part of the world power of fascism. Son Ngoc Thanh (now U.S. puppet premier of Phnom Penh), then became a full-fledged collaborator of the Japanese militarists and the French Vichy. Parts of the Cambodian territory: Siem Reap, Battambang, and parts of Kompong Thom and Stung Treng were annexed in favor of Thailand by the Japanese Militarists. Sisowath Monivong died, and the French passed over his sons and chose Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to succeed him. Said Sihanouk, "The French chose me because they thought that I was a lamb. Later they were surprised to find that I was a tiger."
- 1945** (**March 9**) With the fall of the Vichy regime in France, the Japanese militarists staged a coup d'etat and took over Cambodia. Son Ngoc Thanh continued to collaborate with the Japanese militarists.
(**March 12**) After the Coup, the Japanese arranged the proclamation of the independence of Cambodia by the young king, Norodom Sihanouk.
(**August**) Popular uprisings against the Japanese spread throughout Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam.
(**Sept. 23**) Supported by British warships and troops under Brig. General Gracey, French troops landed in Saigon, and after the resistance forces were forced out of the capital, the French used it as a base to move back into Cambodia.
(**Oct.5**) General Leclerc parachuted troops into Phnom Penh, thus officially opening the second French invasion of Cambodia, and began a new phase in the resistance struggle of the Cambodian people. Upon their arrival in Phnom Penh, the French Gaullists arrested Son Ngoc Thanh for his collaboration with the Japanese militarists. But because of his widespread popularity, he was not executed, and instead was sent to France.
That same year, the Cambodian National United Front or Nekhum Issarak (Khmer Freedom Front) was established. The movement was under the leadership of the Pracheachon Party (People's Party). The Pracheachon Party made great efforts to form a large peasant/intellegensia alliance. It also favored solidarity with the National United Fronts of Laos and Viet Nam.
- 1946** (**Jan. 7**) Franco-Khmer accord was reached. Cambodia became an "autonomous state within the French Union." France retained veto power in major areas of policy as well as control of the army, police, finances and judiciary.
(**April**) The "Democratic Party" (an anti-french party) was formed and organized under the leadership of its general-secretary, Chheam Van, and its supreme head, Prince Youthevong, who had just returned from France.
(**August**) The Khmer Freedom Front, which was founded to carry out the anti-colonial struggle against the French, struck their first real blow by wiping out the French garrison at Siem Reap and capturing their entire stock of arms.
(**Sept.**) The Democratic Party wins astounding victories in the nation-wide election held.
- 1947** (**May**) The Democrats demanded immediate and total independence, and criticized King Sihanouk who advocated a gradual, negotiated independence.
(**July**) With the death of its leader, Prince Youthevong, the Democratic Party was considerably weakened, with a portion of it falling under the influence of the KHMER ISSARAK and the followers of Son Ngoc Thanh, who were exiled in Thailand.

- 1949 **(Feb.)** The government of Yem Sembaur came to power and abolished the Assembly. Through the Franco-Khmer Treaty, Cambodia was granted independence but enmeshed in a multiplicity of obligations. The French National Assembly attached the colony of Cochinchina to Vietnam by a vote of 351-209. The Cambodian government protested because control of this territory was contested by Vietnam and Cambodia at the beginning of French colonization. France still retained control of the police and army with the exception of "autonomous zones" turned over to Cambodia.
- 1950 **(Jan.)** The U.S. established diplomatic relations with Cambodia to "reinforce" the independence granted by France.
(Nov. 21-23) The National United Front of Cambodia (Pracheachon Party and Khmer Krom liberation forces (Cambodians from Cochinchina) held a conference in concert with the National United Fronts of Viet Nam and Laos, and defined their principal tasks.
- 1951 **(March 3)** Conference of the Nekhum Issarak Khmer and parrallel groups in Laos and Vietnam. The Vietnam-Khmer-Lao alliance was formed to coordinate the struggle against French colonialism in the 3 countries.
(Sept.) The Democrats win a stunning electoral victory, a defeat for the French and Cambodian monarchy. The struggle between King and parliament sharply intensified.
(Oct.29) King Norodom Sihanouk arranged for the return from France of Son Ngoc Thanh. After his return to Phnom Penh, Son Sgoc Thanh published a daily newspaper, in which he intensified his attack on the monarchy, and especially on Sihanouk's peaceful negotiation with France for Cambodia's independence.
(Nov.) French high commissioner was assassinated by a Khmer Patriot in Phnom Penh.
- 1952 Son Ngoc Thanh led a spurious ISSARAK movement which had no definite political, cultural or economic program. This movement was the forerunner to the now called KHMER SEREI (Free Khmer), financed, trained and run by the special forces of the CIA.
(June15) Because of the rising anti-government activity, King Norodom Sihanouk is forced to dissolve the Democratic Government and assume emergency powers, allowing himself three years to obtain full independence and insure economic recovery.
- 1953 **(March 5)** Sihanouk sent a note to the French stressing the strength of the Khmer Issarek movement, the popular basis of its support, and his refusal to permit Cambodia to become involved in France's fight with the Vietminh, stressing that the desires of the Cambodian people were for peace, freedom and independence.
(March 25) While speaking at a luncheon of President Auriol of France, King Sihanouk demanded speedy negotiations for Cambodia's independence. His demands rejected, he was told to clear out of France as quickly as possible.
(April) Instead of going home, Sihanouk went to the U.S. where his demands for the support of Cambodian independence were coldly rejected by John Foster Dulles, who told King Sihanouk to "go home and help General Navarre win the war against the 'communists' ". Interviewed by the N.Y. Times in Washington D.C. Sihanouk repeated that only full independence would satisfy the the Cambodian people. Asked whether or not he was aware of the "communist menace", King Sihanouk replied: "Among intellectual circles of the Cambodian people there has been created a growing conviction that the Viet Minh communists fight for the independence of their country."
(June 14) The French refused to seriously negotiate with the Royal Government. King Sihanouk went to Bangkok to alert world opinion and "to give a final warning to the French."
(July-Aug.) Back from Bangkok and exasperated by the French attitude, King Sihanouk resorted to armed struggle, leading his forces in Battambang Province. The majority of the Cambodian people applauded the King's decision and pledged their full support.
(Nov. 9) Cambodia won her independence from France. Faithful to the aspirations of the Cambodian people, the Royal Government of Cambodia, led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, declared that Cambodia will remain neutral and non-aligned, a policy which was formulated on the basis of the clear recognition of Cambodia's weakness and the necessity of avoiding war. John Foster Dulles declared that neutrality was immoral, and threatened to cut off military aid if Cambodia followed a neutral foreign policy.
- 1954 **(July 21)** Following the Viet Minh victory at Dien Ben Phu, the independence, sovereignty and neutrality of Cambodia were guaranteed internationally by the Geneva Accords at the Geneva Conference. The U.S. and the South Vietnam French puppet government refused to sign the final accords.
(Sept.) With the creation of SEATO (Southeast Asian Treaty Org.), the U.S. unilaterally put Cambodia "under its protection", and promises military and economic aid.
(Dec.) King Norodom Sihanouk declares that Cambodia will remain non-aligned and will practice a policy of strict neutrality.
- 1955 **(Feb.)** John Foster Dulles arrives in Phnom Penh to ask Cambodia to accept the SEATO "umbrella of protection."
(March 2) King Sihanouk abdicated and created the "People's Socialist Community", in order to compete in the National elections.

(March) At the Bandung Conference, Sihanouk reaches an understanding with the People's Republic of China to adhere to the 5 principles of Peaceful coexistence and allow no foreign military bases on Cambodian soil.

(April) While attending the Asian African conference in Bandung, Sihanouk met Chou En Lai and Pham Van Dong, both who said they would respect Cambodian integrity. This meeting pushed Sihanouk to strengthen internal unity and a foreign policy of neutrality.

(Aug.) Cambodia again refuses to accept the SEATO "umbrella of protection".

(Sept.) The People's Socialist community (Sangkum Reastre Niym) won an over-whelming victory in the elections with 82% of the Vote (Democratic party: 12%, Pracheachon Party: 3%, Liberal Party: 2%).

1956 Son Ngoc Thanh fled to Thailand and created the fascist "KMERS SEREI" movement financed and trained by the CIA.

Sihanouk made a trip to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and established diplomatic and trade relations with them.

Cambodia also recognized the People's Republic of China and accepted Chinese economic aid. Because of this, on American instigation Thai troops seized and occupied the famous Angkorian-period temple at Preah Vihear, and the Saigon and Bangkok governments carried out an economic blockade of Cambodia for 2 days. Dulles assured Sihanouk that the U.S. wasn't involved.

1957 **(Jan.)** The policy of neutrality and peaceful coexistence is unanimously approved by the Fourth National Congress.

1958 **(June)** 3,000 South Vietnamese troops of the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet regime with "U.S. advisors", invaded the northernmost province of Cambodia, Stung Treng. Cambodia appeals directly to the U.S., which forbids them to use arms furnished by American military aid to resist the aggression. The determination of the Khmer people obliged the aggressors to withdraw.

(Aug.) Sihanouk traveled to China and established full diplomatic relations.

(Sept.) Unable to crush Prince Norodom Sihanouk's determination to keep Cambodia neutral, the U.S. Government called for a strong counteraction: "the BANGKOK PLOT"—The forceful overthrow of the Cambodian government, the assassination of Prince Sihanouk, and the establishment of a Diem style "Republic" throughout the Cambodian territory. Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, Sarit Thanarat of Thailand, Son Ngoc Thanh, Sam Sary, Dap Chuon and Lon Nol of Cambodia, and U.S. military officials were involved in the Bangkok Plan.

While working inside Cambodia, Sam Sary and Dap Chuon were supposed to make contact with South Vietnam and Thailand through their representatives to Cambodia: Ngo Trong Aien. Son Ngoc Thanh had the task of setting up armed groups along the Cambodian—Thai border. At the same time, Thailand mounted a violent campaign against Khmer neutralism, and Cambodia broke diplomatic relations with Thailand.

1959 **(Jan.)** The "Bangkok Plot" was discovered by the Royal Government of Cambodia. Dap Chuon was killed and Sam Sary fled and joined Son Ngoc Thanh. According to later accounts just before he died, Dap Chuon had asked for a high-ranking officer to whom he wanted to make a statement on the background of the plot which would have incriminated Lon Nol.

(Aug. 31) Sam Sary, in a desperate and cowardly manner, sent a parcel addressed to the Queen. The parcel which bore Hong Kong postmarks, contained a time bomb and exploded, killing three people, including the Chief of Protocol. After Thailand promised to cease all subversive activities, diplomatic relations were reestablished. Son Ngoc Thanh continued to be active, working and collaborating with the Green Berets in South Vietnam and the CIA in Thailand.

1960 Through a national referendum the Khmer people indicated their unanimous support for the policies of peace, national independence and neutrality carried out by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Prince Sihanouk called for an international conference on Laos.

1961 The Saigon puppet regime increased its repression of Khmer residents in South Vietnam, and the Thai government resumed its campaign against Khmer neutrality; as a result, diplomatic relations were broken again. At the Geneva Conference on Laos, Prince Sihanouk requested that the neutralization of Laos be extended to Cambodia.

1962 The International Court of Justice awarded Preah Vihear to Cambodia, and ordered the Thai forces to evacuate.

At the Geneva Conference on Laos, Prince Sihanouk proposed that the States participating recognize Cambodia's present boundaries. The U.S., Thailand, and South Vietnamese puppet regime refused, and increased their violations of Cambodia's borders.

In 1962, there were reported 126 violations of Cambodian territory, 17 violations of Cambodian water, and 164 violations of Cambodian air space, resulting in 18 killed and 23 wounded.

- 1963** Because of the increasing number of violations of Cambodian territory and the repression carried out against Khmer residents and Buddhist monks in South Vietnam, Cambodia broke diplomatic relations with the Saigon regime. The "Khmers Serei" increased their subversive activities and their propaganda against Khmer neutrality from Saigon and Bangkok.
- Lon Nol increased his repression against former resistance fighters and patriotic, nationalistic and progressive intellectuals, deliberately creating antagonism between them and Prince Sihanouk. As a result, many progressive intellectuals joined clandestine guerrilla forces. Among them were Professors—Son Sen, Ieng Sary, and Salot Sar.
- In 1963 there were 140 violations of Cambodian territory, 23 violations of Cambodian waterways, and 272 violations of Cambodian airspace, resulting in 17 killed and 21 wounded.
- 1964** **(Jan.)** The Royal Government of Cambodia applied economic and financial reforms: nationalization of foreign trade and of the banking system.
- (Feb.)** The economic and financial sabotage directed by Song Sak, CIA agent and close friend of Sirik Matak was discovered. Song Sak fled safely to Saigon, thanks to the aid of Sirik Matak and Lon Nol.
- (April)** Because of increased violations of the sovereignty of Cambodia by U.S. and Saigon troops, Cambodia recalled its diplomatic delegation from Washington.
- (Dec.)** U.S. and Cambodia opened talks in New Delhi. U.S. said it would support Cambodian neutrality if Cambodia would deny the use of its territory to the NLF-SVN. Cambodia insisted that the U.S. recognize its present boundaries before an international conference could take place. The U.S. refused and the talks ended abruptly the first day.
- In 1964 there were 255 violations of Cambodian territory, 24 violations of Cambodian waters, and 412 violations of Cambodian airspace, resulting in 46 killed and 85 wounded.
- 1965** **(May)** Cambodia broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. because of the increased U.S.—ARVN border violations. The U.S. attacked and burned 2 villages in the eastern Cambodian province of Mondulmon-dulkiri.
- (Oct.)** U.S. planes used napalm on a village, Svay Rieng province, in southeastern Cambodia.
- (Nov.)** Sihanouk gave conditions for renewed U.S. relations: recognition of Cambodian boundaries, cessation of military incursions, and indemnity for losses of life and property.
- A meeting was held in Pnom Penh of the First Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, convened on the initiative of Prince Sihanouk.
- In 1965 there were 335 land violations, 10 water violations, and 621 violations of Cambodian airspace, causing 22 killed and 52 injured.
- 1966** Border incursions into Cambodia by U.S. and ARVN troops continued.
- (Sept.)** CIA financed a monstrous press campaign against Prince Norodom Sihanouk's so-called 'dictatorship', denouncing the "single-party system", and accused Prince Sihanouk of having "Massacred democracy in Cambodia". Prince Sihanouk fell into this CIA propaganda trap by allowing the right-wing group to manipulate the general elections for the sixth National Assembly since independence. He decided not to propose any candidate, which meant that the ultra-rightists led by Lon Nol and supported by the CIA were free to spend their money financing the electoral campaign. Textiles, free cinema tickets, toys and sweets for the children—all these and many more things were given to the voters by the Lon Nol clique. As a result, right-wing opponents of Prince Sihanouk who desired the resumption of U.S. aid and diplomatic relations with the U.S. won a sweeping victory. Army commander-in-chief Lon Nol was elected Prime Minister.
- In 1966 there were 287 violations of Cambodian territory, 27 violations of waterways and 1,018 violations of Cambodian airspace, causing 25 deaths and 101 wounded.
- 1967** **(March)** Following provocations organized by Lon Nol, peasants revolted in Samlaut and in Stung Kragnoung (Battambang Province). Lon Nol ordered several hundred peasants shot. Lon Nol accused three progressive deputies—Khieu Sampahn, Hou Yuon and Hu Nim of having instigated this revolt and asked that their parliamentary immunity be lifted and that they appear before a military tribunal. He also accused them of being "Vietcong" and "Maoist" agents.
- (April)** Deputies Khieu Samphan and Hou Yuon left Phnom Penh to join the guerrilla forces (Khmer Rouges), followed by several hundred intellectuals.
- (April-May)** Demonstrations against the Lon Nol Government occur in Phnom Penh and other major cities.
- (May)** The Lon Nol Government resigns.
- (June)** Diplomatic relations were established with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and offers made to renew relations with Thailand when Cambodian borders are recognized.
- (July-Aug.)** U.S. organized numerous attacks into Cambodia from Thailand, penetrating up to 12 miles and claiming the "right of hot pursuit".
- In 1967 there were 261 violations of Cambodian territory, 17 violations of Cambodian waters and 1,635 violations of Cambodian airspace, causing 47 deaths and 110 wounded.

1968

(Jan.) A U.S. Mission led by Chester Bowles attempted to reestablish diplomatic relations, but Cambodia refused.

(May) Lon Nol succeeded in coming back to power as Third Vice-Premier.

(Sept.) The United States accused Cambodia of harboring Vietnamese resisters, charging that the use of its northeastern provinces as base areas by "North Vietnamese and Vietcong" had tripled.

(Nov.) Cambodia announced that U.S. air attacks had killed 300 Cambodians in border villages. Twelve captured Americans were released.

In 1968 there were 155 land violations, 26 water violations and 247 violations of Cambodian airspace, resulting in 58 killed and 124 wounded.

1969

(Jan.) The CIA-supported Khmer Serei and Khmer Krom mercenaries began "surrendering" to the Cambodian government in order to be absorbed into the army and police.

(April) The U.S. declared that it recognized and respected the sovereignty, independence and neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia, and Diplomatic relations were again established.

(May) The Mission of the National Liberation Front of South Viet Nam was raised to the level of Embassy.

(May) American Forces spread chemical and bacteriological products on 70,000 hectares of plantations in Cambodia, and 2 U.S. helicopters were downed.

(Aug.) American Embassy was reopened in Phnom Penh. Lon Nol was again made Prime Minister, and prepared once again to receive American aid.

(Sept) Lon Nol undertook the denationalization of the Khmer economy and prepared for the entry of foreign private capital.

(Nov.14) A U.S. F-105 was shot down during an unjustified attack on Dak Dam (Mondulkiri province), clearly showing U.S. disregard for Cambodian neutrality. The American government apologized and paid \$11,400 in reparations for the Raid.

(Dec.) The Cambodian government issued a statement in support for the Khmer Krom (Cambodians living in South Vietnam) resisting induction into the South Vietnamese army, as racial tension and anti-Vietnamese literature mounted in Phnom Penh.

In 1969, there were 305 land violations, 26 water violations, and 781 violations of Cambodian air space, resulting in 85 killed and 184 wounded.

1970

(Jan.) Prince Sihanouk left Cambodia for medical treatment in France.

(Feb.) Lon Nol took over the Ministry of Information.

(March 11) The Embassies of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in Phnom Penh were sacked. All trade agreements negotiated by Sihanouk were broken, and anti-Vietnamese demonstrations continued.

(March 18) Sihanouk was ousted in a coup d'etat engineered by the U.S. CIA and a right-wing faction led by Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh. After taking control of the Government and Army, Lon Nol began a campaign to destroy Sihanouk's high prestige among the people.

(March 18-31) Mass demonstrations were held all over Cambodia, even in the suburbs of Phnom Penh, pledging allegiance to Norodom Sihanouk and his policy of "national independence and neutrality". The LOS ANGELES TIMES correspondent in Cambodia wrote that the Khmer people were wholeheartedly loyal to Prince Sihanouk.

(March 20) U.S. accorded diplomatic recognition to Lon Nol's military regime, and stated that it had nothing to do with the overthrow of Sihanouk.

(March 23) Solemn declaration of 5 points of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State of Cambodia. The founding of the National United Front of Kampuchea (F.U.N.K.), and the founding of the People's National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia (CPNLAF).

(March 26) Declaration of the 3 deputies Khieu Samphan, Hou Yuon, and Hu Nim, unreservedly supporting the 5 point declaration of Norodom Sihanouk.

(March 25-26) Massive non-violent demonstrations by the Khmer people against the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique, with bloody repressions of the demonstrations by the Phnom Penh puppet troops.

(April 10) Massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia at Prasaut.

(April 15-16) Massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia at Takeo and the island of Ta Chhor.

(April 24-25) Meeting of the Summit Conference of the three Indochinese People's in Canton.

(April 30) Nixon sent 100,000 U.S. and Saigon Troops, supported by the U.S. Air Force, tanks and gunboats to invade Cambodia starting from Ratanakiri province in the northeast to Svay Rieng province in the southeast, stating that "enemy" actions in Cambodia "clearly endanger the lives of Americans in Vietnam".

(May) Massive anti-war demonstrations in the U.S. Over 400 colleges and universities were shut down.

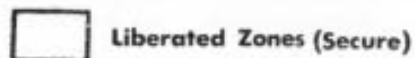
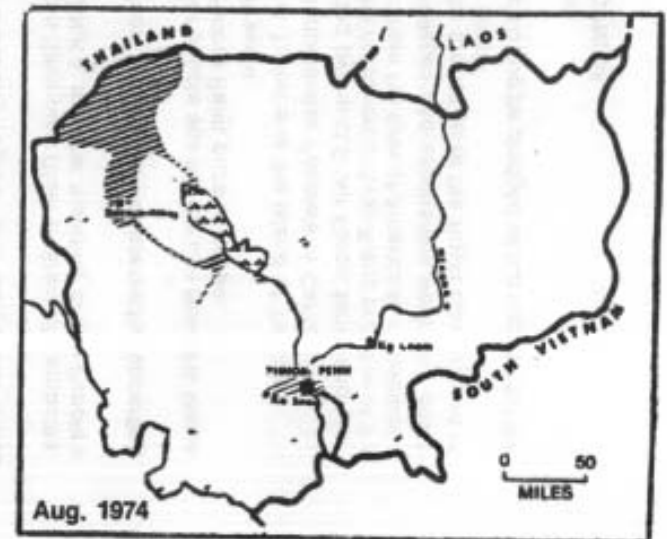
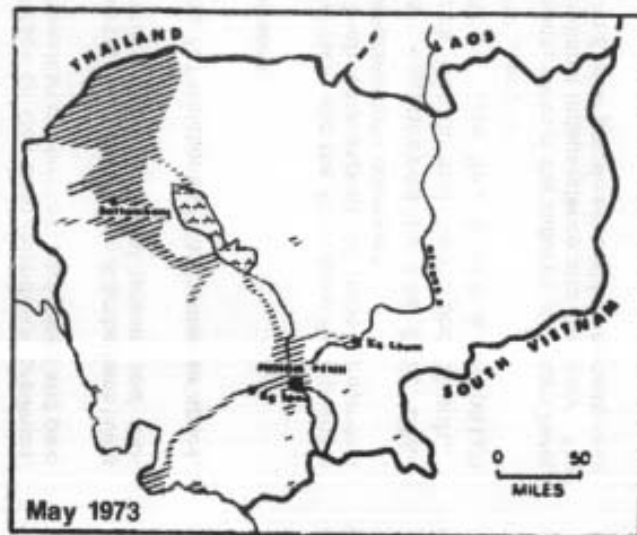
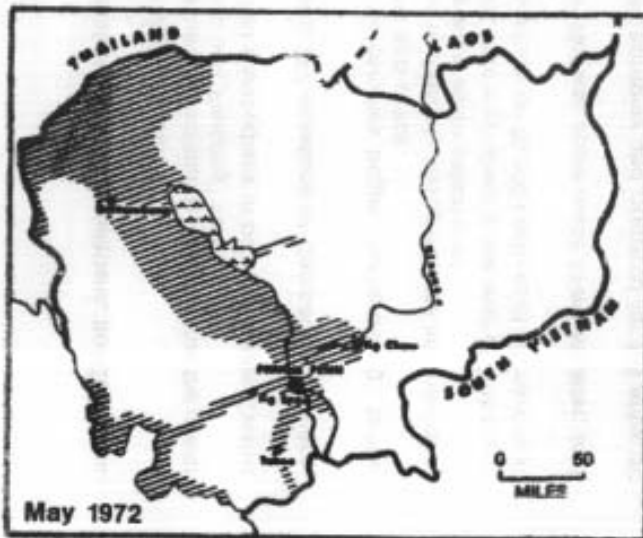
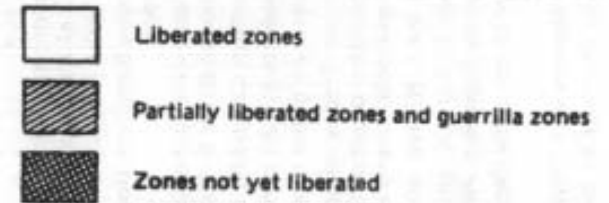
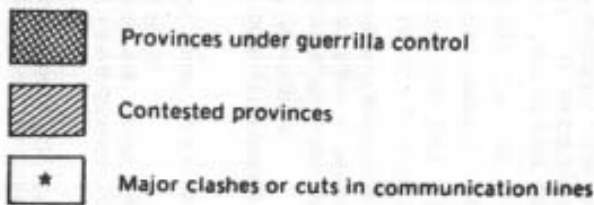
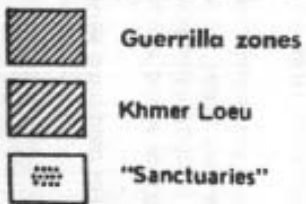
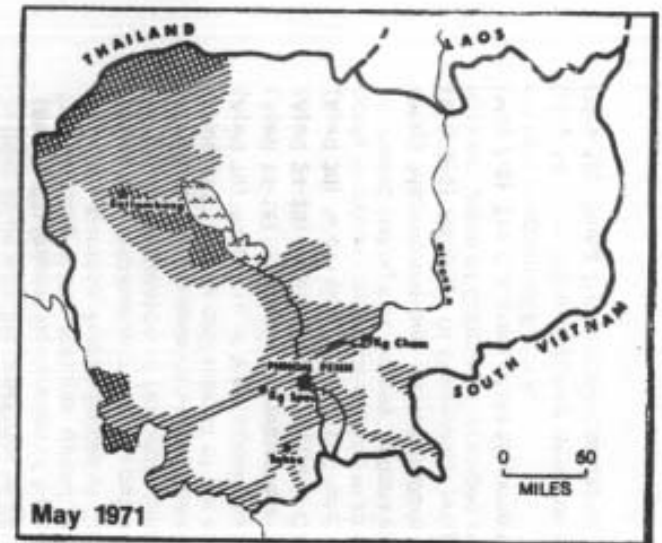
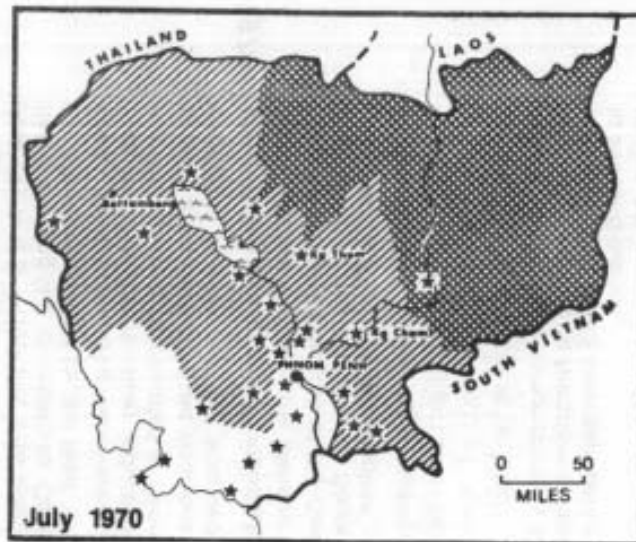
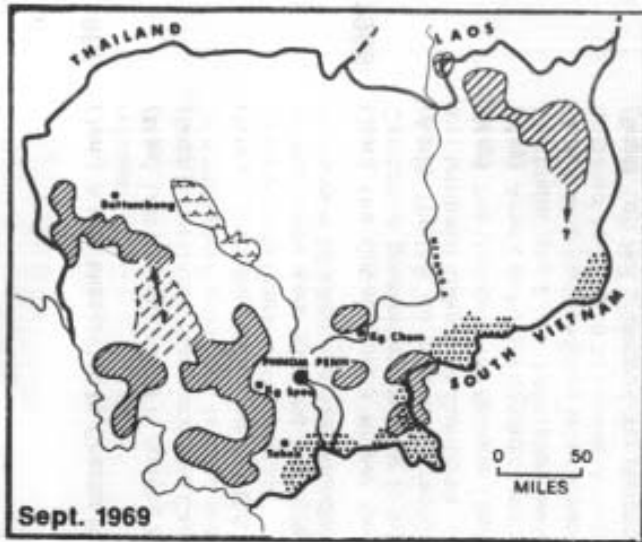
(May 3-4) Adoption of the political program of F.U.N.K. and the formation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, presided over by Samdech Penn Nouth.

(May 7-8) The Congress of the Movement of Union of the People's Struggle pledged all out support for the political program of F.U.N.K.

(May 14) Lon Nol established diplomatic relations with Thailand.

(May 16) Stung Treng provincial capital was liberated by the CPNLAF

The Liberation of Cambodia in Maps.



(May 26) The U.S. Senate adopted, with an overwhelming majority, the Cooper-Church amendment, restricting the use of U.S. ground troops in Cambodia after June 30.

(June 1) Lon Nol declared martial law throughout Cambodia, and advised the puppet troops "to learn occult sciences in order to protect oneself against the enemy fire". More than 100,000 Vietnamese civilians were regrouped in concentration camps (18 of them) around Phnom Penh, and many more were forced to go to South Vietnam.

(June 30) After 2 months the American people, world opinion and the Cambodian people and National Liberation Armed Forces forced the U.S. troops out of Cambodia with heavy losses: 12,000 G.I.'s, 18,000 Saigon troops and over 50,000 Lon Nol troops killed, wounded, captured or disbanded, 2,400 military vehicles destroyed and over 400 planes downed.

(Aug.) Son Ngoc Thanh was named advisor to Lon Nol, but remained in Saigon. The U.S. and Thailand both pledged military assistance to Lon Nol.

(Aug. 1) Founding of the radio "Voice of F.U.N.K."

(Aug. 10) Founding of the Kampuchea press agency, "Kampuchea Information Agency" (AKI).

(Oct.) Lon Nol established a republic.

(Nov.) Saigon puppet troops took over the offensive in Cambodia, and Nixon asked Congress for \$225 million in military and economic aid for Cambodia.

(Dec.) The American embassy in Phnom Penh was severely damaged by an explosion.

(Dec. 31) According to AKI, by the end of the year: 7/10 of the Cambodian territory including 5 provinces, 60 districts, and 600 villages with a population of 4 million people were completely liberated. U.S. Senate investigators announced that Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy was tied to the survival of the Lon Nol regime.

1971

(Jan.) German and French newspapers carried photos of Phnom Penh puppet troops mutilating and eating bodies of the guerrilla fighters.

(Jan. 22) Cambodian CPNLA attacked Pochentong airfield wiping out nearly all of Lon Nol's air force: 750 casualties and 90 planes destroyed.

(Feb. 1) Saigon and Phnom Penh troops clashed in severe racial disputes.

(Feb. 4) Codenamed Operation "Toan Thang 1-71" (Complete Victory 1-71), the U.S. flung 20,000 Saigon and Phnom Penh troops into Eastern Cambodia (Kompong Cham and Kratie provinces) under the pretext of attacking "VC sanctuaries".

(Feb. 17) An Air American Plane rented to the "Khmer Serei" with two American pilots was downed at Chup.

(Feb. 22) In the center of Phnom Penh the Thai embassy was damaged by a bomb.

(Feb 23) Despite mounting pressure, the U.S. Embassy refused to say whether or not American military personnel were involved in operations in Cambodia.

(March 1) Cambodian CPNLA hammered Sihanoukville (Kampot province), destroying the oil refinery and putting out of action 350 puppet troops.

(March 3) The end of Operation "Complete Victory 1-71" conducted by Saigon troops in the fish hook area in northeastern Cambodia: 8,000 Saigon troops put out of action, 950 military vehicles destroyed or captured, and over 100 helicopters and planes downed.

(March 22) A joint Cambodian-Vietnamese report condemned the Saigon troops for plundering and brutality in Cambodia.

(April 21-22) Lon Nol attempted unsuccessfully to resign as Premier. To prevent Sirik Matak from assuming the premiership, a clique of army colonels led by Lon Non (Lon Nol's brother) refuses to accept the resignation. At the request of his Chief of State, Lon Nol convoked a meeting of his principal advisors (including Son Ngoc Thanh) to draw up recommendations for a new government. The U.S. strongly hinted that such a move would lead to the interruption of military and economic aid to the Phnom Penh regime.

(May 31) At Snoul (170 km east-northeast of Phnom Penh), Saigon's invading forces were completely routed and expelled from the area: 1,500 killed or wounded, 300 captured, 230 military vehicles seized or destroyed, and Kratie was totally liberated.

(July 8) AKI released a communique on the 1970-71 dry season (Oct., 1970-April, 1971) battle count: the CPNLA put out of action 75,000 enemy troops (including 38,500 Saigon troops), and 490 planes downed or destroyed.

(July 22) 10,000 ARVN troops spearheaded by 200 armored cars, staged another raid into Cambodia from the town of Krek to Meamot in order to "saturate the area and provide security for the upcoming elections in Saigon".

(Aug. 6) Sirik Matak came to the U.S. to ask for an increase in military and economic aid.

(Aug. 7) The Government of the Republic of Senegal became the 28th country to recognize the RGNUC as the sole representative of Cambodia.

(Aug. 20) Phnom Penh and Saigon troops launched a large-scale raid codenamed "Tchenla II" in order to clear highway 6, attack the liberated zones and rescue the besieged town of Kompong Thom. "Tchenla II" ended in disaster.

(Sept. 1) Following "daily protests" to Saigon officials-to no avail-the Phnom Penh regime demanded that Saigon troops get out of the country. The raping, looting, pillaging and burning could no longer be tolerated by Cambodia's "allies".

(Sept. 3-10) CPNLF launched a series of attacks on highways 5,6,7 and along the banks of the Mekong river.

(Sept. 20) Phnom Penh's 2 biggest fuel depots were set ablaze by Khmer patriots.

(Sept. 30) After 3 months of the rainy season, AKI reported 8,000 enemy troops put out of action, 30 planes downed or destroyed, 300 military vehicles destroyed, 2,000,000 litres of gasoline destroyed.

(Oct. 30) Lon Nol dissolved the national assembly in Phnom Penh and announced he would set up a "dictatorial regime".

(Oct. 25) More than 4,000 monks demonstrated against the dissolution of the National Assembly by Lon Nol.

(Nov. 9) CPNLF attacked Phnom Penh's Pochentung airport and radio station, killing 50 enemy troops and destroying 2 helicopters.

(Nov. 11) Lon Nol was forced to devalue the riel (Cambodian currency) from 55 riels to a dollar, to 140 riels to a dollar.

(Nov. 13) CPNLF decimated the Lon Nol army at Rum Luong: over 1,000 enemy soldiers put out of action.

(Nov. 22) 50,000 Saigon troops entered eastern and southeastern Cambodia in an attempt to bail out the decimated Saigon and Phnom Penh troops already there.

(Dec. 2) End of Operation "Tchenla II" (started on Aug. 20): 12,000 Phnom Penh troops killed or wounded, 1,000 captured. It was the biggest battle fought by the Khmer patriots, and the most disastrous defeat for Nixon's "Khmerization".

(Dec. 12) In only 20 days of fighting, Saigon and Phnom Penh troops in the Damber area (southeastern Cambodia) lost 1,500 men, 32 aircraft, 120 military vehicles and were expelled from the area.

(Dec. 31) According to AKI, in 1971 the Cambodian people and NLF wiped out or captured 80,000 enemy troops including 28,000 Saigon troops and hundreds of G.I.'s, 600 aircraft downed or destroyed, 200 ships sunk or set aflame, 2,700 military vehicles (including 800 tanks and armored cars) wrecked or seized, and set aflame or exploded 150 ammo and fuel storages.

1972

(Jan. 11) Saigon troops were forced out of Krek, Snoul and all their bases in eastern Cambodia by CPNLF. The entire 22nd Brigade of the Saigon army (2400 men) deserted and fled into nearby regions in South Vietnam.

(Jan. 19) Signing of the "border security treaty" between Bangkok and Phnom Penh. According to the treaty the police of both countries are authorized "to pursue the communists" from one country to the other.

(Jan. 24) In the New York Times, U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield (Dem.-Montana) was quoted as saying, "the only hope for preserving Cambodia's independence lies in the Chief of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk".

(Jan. 28) General W. Westmoreland, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Land Forces, arrived in Phnom Penh to discuss a plan for war intensification.

(Feb. 12) Mr. Thiounn Prasit, secretary of the Politbureau of F.U.N.K. (National United Front of Kampuchea), headed a Cambodian delegation to the World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina in Versailles, France.

(March 1) Siem Reap city (Siem Reap province) was attacked from all sides by the CPNLF.

(March 10) Coup d'etat in Phnom Penh. Lon Nol dissolved the constituent Assembly and made himself 'president of the republic'. He now held three posts: President, Prime Minister, and Commander-in Chief of the Army.

(March 21) CPNLF attacked Phnom Penh, hitting many military and administrative targets, including the Pochentong Airport, the Police Headquarters, the radio station and the National Defence Ministry. Over 600 puppet troops were killed, wounded or captured, and many aircraft and military vehicles destroyed, according to AKI (Kampuchea Information Agency).

(April) According to AKI in the recent dry season (Oct. 1971-April 1972), the Cambodian people and CPNLF killed, wounded or captured 56,000 enemy troops (including 4,000 Saigon troops), downed or destroyed 72 aircraft, and seized or destroyed 320 military vehicles.

(April 27) Lon Nol troops opened fire on demonstrators who had gathered in Phnom Penh's Independence Square to protest against the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak-Son Ngoc Thanh clique. Three students were killed and 19 wounded.

(April 16) The CPNLF attacked Pochentung airfield again: 10 enemy aircraft were destroyed or damaged.

(April 30) The CPNLF wiped out Battalion 421 of the 1st Lon Nol Brigade, and liberated the district capital, Kompong Cham (Kompong province). After 9 days of fighting, the Liberation forces put out of action 2,200 Lon Nol troops and liberated the district capital of Kompong Trach (Kampot Province).

1972

(May) According to AKI, in coordination with their Vietnamese and Lao counterparts, the Cambodian people and Liberation Armed Forces launched devastating attacks throughout the southeastern parts of Cambodia (Kompot, Takeo, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng provinces). 7,544 enemy troops were put out of action, including 1,600 captured, 3,200 arms and over 100 tons of ammunition were captured, and 74 enemy positions and bases were destroyed or seized, during the month of May.

(May 3) Several thousand university and high school students marched through the streets of Phnom Penh and occupied the Independence monument, in protest of the student massacre April 27 by Lon Nol troops. According to reports of the Government Accounting Office prepared for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Refugees, 2,000,000 Cambodian civilians have been made refugees by the war since the March 18, 1970 Coup d'etat.

A Cornell Study estimated that 176,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia by U.S. planes during 1970-1971.

(May 13) RGNUC (Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia) issued a statement condemning the U.S. Imperialist mining of the ports of the DRVN and the intensification of air and naval attacks.

(May 31-June 2) CPNLF dealt heavy blows at Saigon puppet troops invading Prey Rumlong (Prey Veng province), putting out of action 4 ranger battalions and shooting down 5 planes.

(June 4) Lon Nol was "elected President of the Republic" in a fraudulent election.

(June 7-8) CPNLF put out of action 2 enemy battalions and 4 companies in Kandal province and killed or wounded over 300 enemy troops in Kompong Cham province.

(June) The Cambodian workers and people staged mammoth demonstrations and strikes in many cities and areas temporarily controlled by the Lon Nol regime to protest against the hoarding and speculation by Lon Nol's henchmen in factories, and to denounce the fascist military regime for driving the workers to the front to be used as cannon fodder.

A U.S. Congressional Committee accused the Nixon Administration of concealing the amount of "aid" to the Phnom Penh regime.

(July 3) Lon Nol swore himself in as president of the "Khmer Republic".

(July 7-8) AKI reported more than 100 inhabitants (including Buddhist monks) of Svay Rieng village (Kompong Trabek province) killed by U.S. B-52 raids.

(Aug. 6-7) CPNLF scored a resounding victory in the Kompong Trabek area, in Prey Veng province, wiping out 1 enemy battalion and badly mauling another. In an attempt to rescue Lon Nol's puppet forces, the U.S. Imperialists issued planes to the area, and mistakenly dropped bombs on puppet positions, killing more than 100 soldiers.

(Aug. 12) The Conference of Non-aligned Countries held in Georgetown (Guyana) from Aug. 8-12, accepted the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia as a full member of the Conference, and the sole representative of that country.

(Aug. 31) Khmer patriots raided a storage depot 9 miles outside of Phnom Penh killing 28 Lon Nol troops and wounding 35.

(Sept. 8) The CPNLF routed Lon Nol troops who were counter-attacking Kompong Trabek: 3 enemy battalions were wiped out, and 7 others broke ranks and fled. All roads leading to Phnom Penh were now under the control of the Khmer patriots and the Cambodian capital was facing a great shortage of rice.

(Sept. 22) 12,000 inhabitants of Phnom Penh participated in a meeting hailing Vice Premier of the GRUNC Khieu Sampahn's Sept. 14 appeal calling on the people in the occupied zones to speed up the struggle against the U.S. aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppet Government.

(Oct. 6) The CPNLF attacked puppet troops stationed in Kirivong, Ton Leap and Kon Andet (Takeo province), and liberated all villages on the section of Highway 2 from Takeo city, to the South Vietnamese border. Over 2,000 enemy troops were killed, wounded or captured.

(Oct. 7) The Liberation forces attacked the Phnom Penh Second Armored Company's camp right in the heart of Phnom Penh: 285 enemy troops were wiped out and 25 tanks destroyed.

(Oct. 14) Son Ngoc Thanh resigned as "Chief Minister" of the Lon Nol regime, and was replaced by Hong Thun Hak.

(Oct.) During the month of October, Phnom Penh troops counter attacked 17 times in an attempt to reopen Route 5 and were heavily defeated: 2,400 enemy troops were killed, wounded or captured. The road linking Phnom Penh to the rice-growing province of Battambang remained cut.

(Nov. 11) UPI reported a massive air-lift of U.S. Military equipment into Cambodia, including at least 8 fighter-bombers, 16 L-19 Light Observation planes, and massive shipments of arms and ammunition—in the event that a Peace agreement might be signed in Viet Nam. Within 10 days the Phnom Penh air force had doubled, with 200 T-28 planes, and more than 50 fighter-bombers and transport helicopters.

(Nov. 19) The Liberation forces annihilated a 50-vehicle convoy carrying Lon Nol troops on Route 5: 1,200 enemy troops were wiped out, and all the vehicles were destroyed.

(Nov. 20) The CPNLF once again bombarded Pocheritung airport with rockets: 140 enemy troops were

killed or wounded, 2 planes were destroyed and many others damaged.

(Dec. 7) A 3,000 ton U.S. cargo ship with grain and ammunition was mined by the Patriotic forces: 40 enemy troops were killed and 150 wounded.

(Dec. 8) At a plenary meeting of the 27th session of the U.N. General Assembly, representatives from many Third World countries and the People's Republic of China condemned the Lon Nol regime as a puppet gov't, pointing out that the GRUNC represented over 5 million people and governed 90% of the territory, and stated that only the GRUNC had the right to govern the Cambodian people.

(Dec. 9) In an interview with AKI, Khieu Samphan (defense minister of the GRUNC) rejected all proposals by the U.S. and the Lon Nol regime for negotiations, compromise or a cease-fire.

(Dec. 15) A U.S. petroleum barge anchored on the Tanle Sap river outside Phnom Penh was blown up and sunk.

In 1972, the CPNLAF killed, wounded or captured 103,000 enemy troops (including 120 officers); captured 17,300 fire-arms, 140 radios, and some 1,000 tons of war material; 415 tanks, 35 war vessels and 80 gunboats were destroyed; 109 aircraft were shot down or destroyed on the ground. 750,000 people were freed from the rule of the Lon Nol regime, and 1,500 officers and men crossed over to the side of the CPNLAF with all their weapons. All roads leading to Phnom Penh were cut, and the Cambodian economy was plagued by a severe rice shortage. The prestige and the support of the patriots and the GRUNC increased around the world, with recognition of the 64 non-aligned countries.

1973

(Jan. 3) The CPNLAF fired rockets in to Pochentung airport: more than 100 enemy troops were killed, and 7 planes set ablaze.

(Jan. 18) The CPNLAF liberated Rormeas (Kompong Chuang province), a town of economic and military significance on the railway linking Phnom Penh to the western provinces of Cambodia.

(Feb. 5) More than 40,000 workers in Phnom Penh staged strikes and occupied 15 factories, demanding an increase in wages, better living conditions, and an end to fascist regulations. The GRUNC Ministry of Information denounced the Lon Nol regime for proposing to introduce the 1954 ICC members into the liberated zones of Cambodia.

(Feb. 9) Pentagon spokesman, Jerry Freidheim stated that the U.S. would continue to bomb Cambodia until there was a cease-fire in that country.

(Feb. 21) More than 20,000 teachers and thousands of students in Phnom Penh went on strike to protest the rising prices and cost of living, and also the fascist rule of Lon Nol. Every school in Phnom Penh was shut down.

(Feb. 21) Monique and Norodom Sihanouk arrived in the Cambodian Liberated Zone.

(Mar. 6) The entire U.S. Pacific Air Fleet (including 120 B-52's) began round-the-clock bombing of Cambodia, to try and reverse the deteriorating military situation of the Lon Nol regime.

(Mar. 17) Lon Nol's residence was bombed by a patriotic pilot in the Phnom Penh Air Force: 43 puppet troops and officials were killed. Using this as a pretext, Lon Nol declared Martial Law and suspended all democratic liberties. Hundreds of students, teachers, workers and even 20 members of the Royal Family were arrested and labelled "subversives".

(Mar. 18) Ten people were killed and 40 wounded, when a demonstration of striking teachers was fired on by Lon Nol troops at Kampot city.

(Mar. 29) Liberation Forces moved to within 15 miles of Phnom Penh on Highway 1, seizing more than a 20 mile stretch of the strategic transportation route.

(April 9) After a visit by U.S. General A. Haig, a special airlift was organized to supply the Cambodian capital with additional fuel and war material.

(April 16) The town of Tram Khnar (on Highway 3) and the coastal resort town of Kep were liberated by the CPNLAF.

(April 17) The Phnom Penh cabinet resigns.

(April 24) A "Supreme Political Council" was set up in Phnom Penh, consisting of 4 members: Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Cheng Heng and In Tam.

(April 26) Pochentung Airport was shelled by the CPNLAF: 18 aircraft were destroyed and 10 others seriously damaged.

(April 30) After heavy pressure from U.S. officials, Brig. General, Lon Non (younger brother of Lon Nol) was forced to go on an "extended visit to the United States."

(May 10) The U.S. House of Rep. voted 219-188 to restrict President Nixon from using defense funds granted for other purposes for the air war in Cambodia. This action marked the first time in over 9 years the House had supported an end-the-war amendment.

(May 12) In Tam was ordered by the "Supreme Council" to form a new government.

(May 13) A Gallup Poll showed that the American people by over a 2 to 1 majority (70%) opposed continued bombing in Cambodia.

(June 14) The U.S. Senate adopted a bill cutting off all credits granted for U.S. military activities in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

(Jan. 6) In a lightning attack lasting 3 days, the CPNLF liberated 17 villages northwest of Phnom Penh and began shelling Pochentung airport. Guerrillas attacked the home of Sosthene Fernandez with rockets and grenades.

(Jan. 12) Former Prime Minister, Son Sann, urged Lon Nol to resign and "go to the U.S. for medical treatment", so a new government could be formed that would enter into negotiations with the GRUNC.

(Jan. 21) Without abandoning any of its positions north and northwest of the capital, the CPNLF broke through Phnom Penh's defense lines south of the capital and moved to within one mile of the city's outskirts.

(Jan. 24) 185 rounds of U.S.-made 150 mm artillery shells smashed into Lon Nol's residence, the Presidential palace and near the American embassy.

(Jan. 29-30) Massive demonstrations held throughout Phnom Penh.

(Jan. 30) For the fourth time, Lon Nol prolonged the state of emergency for another 6 months.

(Feb. 1-15) Demonstrations by workers and students swept Phnom Penh.

(Feb. 1) Four patriotic students arrested and tortured 4 days earlier by the Lon Nol regime were found murdered in their cells.

(Feb. 4) 120 rockets fell on Phnom Penh, hitting army posts, defense camps, a government radio station, and Lon Nol's residence. 50 rockets fell on Pochentung airport, destroying 5 planes.

(Feb. 26) Four prominent government officials of the Lon Nol regime defected to the GRUNC while on official business in Paris.

(March 2) Lon Nol officially ventured out of the Presidential palace for the first time in two months.

(March 11) A GRUNC delegation, headed by Sihanouk, paid a visit to the Lao Liberated Zone.

(March 13) Washington Post correspondent, Elizabeth Becker, discovered a U.S. army Major directing and advising Phnom Penh troops in the besieged town of Kampot. According to Becker, "*Maj. Ondecker was showing the Cambodian officers how to mount a counter-attack . . . He was pouring over maps and . . . was in and out of the Command Post, openly recommending military maneuvers.*"

(March 18) Oudong, the ancient Royal Capital located on Highway 5, 23 miles northwest of Phnom Penh, was liberated by the CPNLF.

(March 20) According to an urgent communique released by AKI, there were now 3,500 U.S. advisors operating in Cambodia; they had taken personal charge of all military operations, and had begun training Lon Nol's troops inside Cambodia.

(March 21) 6,000 orphans and boy scouts, age 12-14, were forcibly drafted into the Phnom Penh army.

(March 31) Lon Nol declared the dissolution of the Supreme Political Council, and set up a "Supreme Executive Council" consisting of himself, Sirik Matak, Sosthene Fernandez and Lon Boret.

(April 4) The CPNLF entered the northern section of Kampot city, destroying the city's only power station, and forming a corridor for 13,000 people to escape to the Liberated Zone.

(April 6) 5,000 workers at an electric plant and 2,000 workers at the Phnom Penh went on strike demanding higher wages and an end to forcible drafting.

(April 21) Lon Nol's forces were routed from their beachhead at Kompong Luong. CPNLF seized control of the Tonle Sap River.

(May 2) Saigon tanks, planes and infantry invaded Cambodia at two points west of Saigon near Highway 1, but were immediately driven back by the Liberation Forces.

(May 14) Lon Nol passed a new law prohibiting meetings or gatherings of 5 or more people.

(May 15) 50,000 students and teachers held demonstrations, and occupied 27 universities and high schools.

(May 26) Hundreds of students and teachers were rounded up by Lon Nol's police.

(June 1) 400 officers and soldiers of the Phnom Penh army demonstrated in front of the Presidential palace, demanding the release of detained students.

(June 4) Thousands of students forced the Minister of Education, Keo Sanghim, and his deputy, Thach Chia, to go to a local high school in Phnom Penh, and demanded the release of 15 students and 4 teachers in exchange for the two Lon Nol officials. But the riot police stormed the school with M-16's blazing. When the shooting stopped, the two Phnom Penh officials and two students lay dead.

(June 5) Six Cabinet Ministers in the Long Boret Government resigned.

(June 14) Long Boret resigned, and Lon Nol ordered him to form a new cabinet excluding 2 of the 3 factions that made up the last government, including Sirik Matak's 'Republican Party'.

(June 22) A Panamanian freighter carrying 2,000 tons of American rice, was sunk right in front of the Phnom Penh docks. The Mekong River, Phnom Penh's last lifeline, was coming under increasing attack (all the highways were cut by the end of the dry season).

(July 9) Oudong was finally retaken by Lon Nol's troops. But the town's entire population of 30,000 people had gone to the Liberated Zone with the CPNLF.

(July 10) Lon Nol announced for the first time in the four year war that he was ready to negotiate with the GRUNC "without any prior conditions", and the Nixon administration announced that it was prepared to accept a Laotian-style coalition government in Cambodia. Sihanouk and the GRUNC immediately rejected the offer, stating that they would never accept an 'American peace', which imposes the partition of their country, or a coalition government with out and out traitors.

(July 20) The GRUNC nationalized all rubber plantations in the areas under its control.

(Aug. 4) A report released by the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee stated that, by his own admission, John Gunther Dean, U.S. Ambassador to Phnom Penh, was giving military advice to Lon Nol officials and army officers.

- (June 20) The Thai English language daily, *The Nation*, revealed that 7,000 Thai mercenaries withdrawn from Laos would be sent to Cambodia.
- (June 29) The U.S. Congress through a compromise, authorized Nixon to continue the bombing until Aug. 15, 1973. The law stated, "Notwithstanding any provision of law on or after August 15, 1973, no funds herein or heretofore appropriated may be obligated or expended to finance directly or indirectly combat activities by U.S. Military forces in or over or off the shores of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia."
- (July 15) The U.S. Defense Dept. admitted that B-52 bombers had carried out 156 tactical and 3,360 strategic missions (3 planes in each mission), and dropped 104,000 tons of bombs on Cambodia during secret raids carried out over a 14 month period from March, 1969 to May, 1970.
- (July 19-21) The first Cambodian National Congress was held in the Liberated Zone, representing all the people and organizations opposed to U.S. aggression and the U.S. puppet regime, headed by Lon Nol.
- (July 21) General Sosthene Fernandez, Commander-in-chief of the Lon Nol army, admitted that 800-1200 Phnom Penh troops were being killed or wounded every day.
- (July 23) U.S. B-52's were reported to be dropping bombs only 6 miles from the center of Phnom Penh, in an attempt to halt the CPNLF against the capital.
- (Aug. 1-10) U.S. warplanes mistakenly bombed Phnom Penh positions 5 times. One of these "mistakes" killed and wounded more than 400 of Lon Nol's elite marines and their families at the ferry town of Neak Luong on Aug. 6.
- (Aug. 13) The strategic town of Skoun at the junction of Highway's 6 and 7 was liberated by the CPNLF.
- (Aug. 14) According to the Saigon daily, *Doc Lap*, 10,000 Saigon Commando troops of Khmer origin were sent to Phnom Penh to help defend the capital, which was coming under increasing pressure from the Liberation Forces.
- (Aug. 15) The U.S. was forced to halt all bombing of Cambodia. According to Pentagon statistics, 240,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Cambodia since the signing of the Vietnam Peace Agreement on Jan. 27, 1973 (1½ times the tonnage dropped on Japan during all of World War II).
- (Aug. 16) Liberation Forces closed in on Kompong Cham from four directions.
- (Aug. 20) Nixon admitted ordering the secret bombings in 1969-1970.
- (Sept. 5-8) The Conference of Non-aligned Nations, held in Algiers and representing 76 countries and 25 National Liberation Fronts, voted unanimously to seat the GRUNC as the sole legitimate Government of Cambodia, and condemned U.S. aggression.
- (Sept. 7) Liberation Forces entered the southern and western sections of Kompong Cham, seizing control of the city's textile plant and only university.
- (Sept. 16) A U.S. F-4 phantom bombed CPNLF positions at Kompong Cham, in defiance of the Congressional ban.
- (Sept. 19) After running out of ammunition, the Liberation Forces were forced to retreat from Kompong Cham, accompanied by 30,000 of the city's 50,000 people.
- (Oct. 10) After strong pressure from the Non-aligned Conference, the Soviet Union recognized the GRUNC.
- (Oct. 11) A recommendation by the People's Republic of China, Algeria, Albania and 30 other countries to include in the current agenda of the U.N. General Assembly the "RESTORATION OF THE LAWFUL RIGHTS OF THE GRUNC IN THE UNITED NATIONS" was adopted by a vote of 69 for, 24 against and 24 abstentions.
- (Oct. 30) The U.S. Government Accounting Office (a Congressional investigating body) released a detailed report charging that a 73-man U.S. Equipment Delivery team was functioning in Cambodia as a Military Advisory Group.
- (Nov. 9) Sihanouk announced that all Cabinet Ministers in the GRUNC had been transferred to the Liberated Zone in Cambodia, and there could no longer be any excuse for calling it a "government-in-exile."
- (Nov. 13) The U.S. Congress authorized more than \$700 million in aid for Lon Nol in the fiscal year 1973-74.
- (Nov. 19) A Lieutenant in the Phnom Penh army, Pich Lim Kuon, bombed the Presidential palace (Chamcar Mon) while Lon Nol was presiding over a cabinet meeting. More than 100 people were killed or wounded. He landed his plane safely in the Liberated Zone.
- (Nov. 21) Nixon sent Lon Nol a personal telegram pledging that the U.S. would "stick with him to the end," and give him "all out support." In the message, he continued to blame the war on "North Vietnamese aggressors," despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.
- (Nov. 30) The city of Vihear Suor was liberated by the CPNLF.
- (Dec. 5) In a surprise vote with many representatives and supporters of the GRUNC out of the room, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a U.S.-Liberian proposal to postpone the vote on who should represent Cambodia in the U.N. by a vote of 52-50.
- (Dec. 8-9) An international Conference in Solidarity with the Cambodian people, held in Paris at the initiative of 52 French organizations and the Stockholm Conference on Vietnam, demanded an end to all U.S. military activities in Cambodia, and called on all countries to recognize the GRUNC.
- (Dec. 10) In Tam resigned from the "Supreme Political Council" for the second time.
- (Dec. 14) 12,000 teachers went on strike in Phnom Penh, demanding higher wages and an end to press-ganging and rice hoarding.
- (Dec. 20) Lon Nol admitted that a U.S. F-111 plane bombed a CPNLF position 70 miles southwest of Phnom Penh on the Mekong River.
- (Dec. 23) CPNLF began massive shelling of Phnom Penh.

(Sept. 15) Lon Nol passed new harsh economic measures: the riel was devalued to 1400 to the dollar (it was 35 riels to a dollar before the 1970 coup), rice prices doubled, and gasoline prices increased 350%.

(Sept. 21) Thousands demonstrated in front of the Presidential Palace, protesting Lon Nol's new economic measures. Widespread rioting and looting of government rice storages was reported.

(Nov. 28) Using blackmail, behind-the-scenes maneuvering and a series of complicated parliamentary procedures, a U.S. counter-proposal was passed in the U.N. General Assembly by a vote of 56-54, with 24 abstentions to delay the vote till next year on the *"RESTORATION OF THE LAWFUL RIGHTS OF THE GRUNC IN THE UNITED NATIONS."*

1975

(Jan. 1) At 1:45 a.m., the CPNLF launched an all-out offensive against the last remaining strongholds of the Lon Nol regime: the capital, Phnom Penh, all along both banks of the lower Mekong River (between Phnom Penh and the South Vietnamese border), around the Provincial capitals still held by Lon Nol, and along Cambodia's major strategic highways—1, 4, 5 and 7. Within a matter of hours, the major Lon Nol base at the town of Ang Snoul (on highway 4) was liberated.

(Jan. 4) After only 4 days the CPNLF overran 137 positions around Phnom Penh and cut the defense perimeter of the capital from 6 to 1½ miles. Almost the entire length of both banks of the Mekong River was seized. With traffic on the River almost completely halted, the U.S. began a massive airlift into the capital, using a private U.S. company, *Bird Air*, to get around Congressional restrictions on direct U.S. military involvement. According to William Bird, a president of Bird Air and a suspected CIA agent, *"The U.S. Air Force provides the planes and maintenance, we only furnish the crews."*

(Jan. 13) The ferry town of Neak Luong (where Highway 1 and the Mekong River cross), Lon Nol's last major base on the Mekong, came under heavy attack by the Liberation Forces.

(Jan. 20) A letter was released by the Senate Armed Services Committee revealing a super-secret mission code-named *"Operation SCOOT"* (Support for Cambodia out of Thailand) in which U.S. (C-130) Cargo planes had been flying thousands of sorties to supply Lon Nol troops with arms, ammunition and other supplies. Richard Boyle, the U.S. journalist who gave the information along with photographs to the Congressional Committee, also said that he had seen USAF phantom jets flying cover for the cargo planes.

(Jan. 20-21) The major naval base at Ka-Am Samnar on the west bank of the Mekong (at the Cambodian-South Vietnamese border) was completely liberated by the CPNLF. The following day, the Thieu regime in South Vietnam unleashed 6 waves of bombings with 3 planes each, using napalm and anti-personnel bombs against the Cambodian civilian population in the area. More than 50 people were killed or wounded.

(Jan. 23) Pochentung airport was heavily shelled, and closed to all civilian traffic.

(Jan. 26) The U.S. undertook a major effort to send supplies up the Mekong to Phnom Penh. Though several ships managed to get through, 28 boats including 1 tanker, 2 barges, a tugboat and 21 escort vessels were either sunk or badly damaged.

(Jan. 27) Khieu Samphan issued an appeal, calling on the population to rise up and overthrow the Phnom Penh regime, in coordination with the Liberation Forces outside the city. He also called on all foreigners, personnel at foreign embassies and dependents of the Lon Nol puppets to immediately evacuate the capital, stating that the GRUNC and FUNK would not be responsible for the consequences if they remain.

(Jan. 28) Ford asked Congress for another \$222 million in emergency aid for the Lon Nol regime.

(Jan. 31) After one month of fierce attacks, 435 Lon Nol positions were either captured or destroyed. On the Mekong River, 135 vessels were sunk or badly damaged. After the U.S. managed to slip a few supply ships through the last week in January, the Liberation Forces blockaded the river with mines. Panic stricken by the deteriorating military situation, Lon Nol ordered rice distribution cut back by 50%, causing the already exorbitant prices to soar even higher. Electricity in the capital was cut by 80%, and car drivers were restricted to 1½ gallons of gas a week. To replace the heavy losses suffered by his units, Lon Nol raised the draft age from 35 to 50 and began rounding up people everywhere—in the streets, market places, factories, theaters, schools and pagodas. According to one French journalist, *"Lon Nol's system is much the same as that employed by the Nazis in Vichy France during World War II."*

(Feb. 1-2) With the situation rapidly deteriorating at Neak Luong, Lon Nol rushed troops from the provincial capitals to bolster its defense. When this happened the CPNLF opened up heavy attacks on the Provincial capitals: at Kampot, 9 positions were overrun and the defense perimeter shrunk to less than a mile, as the Liberation Forces moved to within 100 yards of the government headquarters. At Kompong Speu, the CPNLF entered the town and seized half the market place. Kompong Som, Takeo, Prey Veng, Kompong Chhnang were also heavily attacked, and Lon Nol was forced to take the troops sent to defend Neak Luong back to their original positions around the provincial capitals.

(Feb. 3) More than 40 rockets fell on Pochentung airport. During January, 28 planes, including 10 civilian airliners were destroyed by CPNLF rockets and artillery.

(Feb. 5) Nearly 50 boats were sunk, set on fire or damaged when another attempt was made to send supplies up the Mekong. With this failure, all attempts to send supply convoys up the Mekong were suspended indefinitely.

(Feb. 7) The *N.Y. Times* reported that since the beginning of the year, more than 550 rockets had fallen on Phnom Penh.

(Feb. 12) The U.S. doubled the number of cargo flights into Phnom Penh.

(Feb. 13) Admiral Noel Gaylor, Commander-in-Chief of all U.S. Forces in the Pacific, paid a visit to Phnom Penh to assess the deteriorating military situation. Two battalions (at least a thousand troops) of Lon Nol's elite special forces (CIA-trained Khmer Krom) made an amphibious landing on the Mekong, 40 miles from

Phnom Penh, in an attempt to reopen the vital supply route. The U.S., French, Japanese, South Vietnamese and Australian embassies began evacuating their dependencies from the capital.

(Feb. 16) World Airways and Airlift International joined Bird Air in the massive airlift to Phnom Penh. According to an *AKI* report, the U.S. had tripled the number of airlifts, flying 90-120 sorties a day. Lon Nol troops were forced to evacuate all positions on the Mekong, as the attempts to reopen the River were complete smashed.

(Feb. 17) Three towns in Battambang province fell to the CPNLAF, including Mong Russie, a town of 10,000 people and 2,000 tons of rice.

(Feb. 20) Nearly 5,000 students and workers demonstrated in Battambang city, protesting press-ganging, spiraling prices, rice-hoarding and continued U.S. intervention in Cambodia. Western News agencies reported widespread rioting and looting of food shops and rice granaries.

(Feb. 25) The ancient Royal capital of Oudong was liberated for the second time by the CPNLAF.