CAMBODIA

Aid and War Report
1990 - 1991

by Catherine Geach
INTRODUCTION:

This report was compiled with the help of the Cambodian People, the authorities of Phnom Penh and the Foreign Ministry of Phnom Penh Cambodia, the International Aid agencies in Phnom Penh and their headquarters in the United Kingdom. Without their kind help and co-operation, this report would not have been completed.

It consists of information gathered by myself from a research trip made in Cambodia and South East Asia, during the months of July - September 1990 and information given to me both before the visit and after up to the present day, by Aid agencies and individuals specializing on the subject and problems of Cambodia. Prior to this visit research has been made into the history of Cambodia since 1988.

Although this report is intended to give those interested a general idea of the living conditions inside Cambodia under the present International development aid and trading restrictions, it also gives details of current military activity and fighting between the different Khmer factions and the Phnom Penh Government military, within the context of the effect it has on the lives of the civilian population within the provinces. In addition it highlights the current violations of Human Rights by the Khmer Rouge towards the civilian population, tactics which are not pursued by any of the other factions.

I did not intend originally to concentrate to such an extent upon the activities of the Khmer Rouge, presuming that it would portray an imbalance of facts on the situation inside the country. However, when I began to research and observe on the fighting and the poverty affecting provinces, I found there to be a direct link between the two - and that it was the Khmer Rouge only, who lay behind this linkage; And that the report would therefore be inaccurate if these details were not shown.

Studying the articles of the United Nations Covenant on Human Rights, I found there to be serious lapses in the observation of these rights by the Khmer Rouge, as a group who is at present recognized by the United Nations. Many of these I observed within the provinces I visited; Others, where information was given about Khmer Rouge controlled camps, were noted by Aid workers who had worked within these camps. However, I found that neither the Phnom Penh Government nor the other opposing Khmer factions, ( KPNLF, Sihanoukists ) violated these particular articles.

Unfortunately for the International Community, these violations by the Khmer Rouge cannot be ignored, because large numbers of Cambodian civilians are dying as a result. It is advisable therefore, that the countries within the United Nations cease ignoring these violations immediately, if the United Nations is to continue to represent a world organization with the authority and moral will to uphold Human Rights and International law.
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With many thanks to the Authorities of Kompong Chhnang, the Foreign Ministry Phnom Penh,
John Pedler Director Cambodia Trust I990, Batt/ Sis, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Dr Peter Carey,
Cambodia Trust, Madame Kak Galabru, Paris. The United Nations Association United Kingdom,
Grant Curtis SIDA report, Eva M, The International Isolation of Kampuchea, (Cambodia.)

With Many Thanks to Mr Nou Hak, Foreign Ministry, Cambodia, International Committee Of
The Red Cross, Phnom Penh, Australian Red Cross, Phnom Penh, Kompong Speo, the staff of
Kompong Speo hospital, Authorities of Kompong Speo, Swiss Red Cross, Cambodia, staff of
Kompong Chhnang hospital, staff of Kompong Chhnang orphanage, staff of Kompong Chhnang school.
KOMPONG SPOE PROVINCE : ( 46 KM FROM PHNOM PENH S E )

GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS :

The soil here is extremely poor, thin and sandy; in the last three years, the rain fall has dropped from 150 to 50 days a year. Consequently rice, the staple diet of the province, due to its reliance on a water supply, is now insufficient to feed the population of Kompong Spoe. Therefore from June to September 1990, at the time the harvest was at its worse, most people were forced to find food in the jungle, ( 5-10 KM from the town. )

A large part of the land lies barren, due to infertility of the soil, lack of rain and an obvious lack in the presence of vital agricultural machinery. Basic equipment such as tractors, hoes and ploughs are in very limited supply due to trade and development aid embargos on Cambodia.

It is difficult to maintain livestock, ( especially cattle ) because of the shortage of edible crops. Many animals die of starvation, or are so emaciated as to be worthless on the market.

HOSPITAL KOMPONG SPOE :

The hospital has one main support, Australian Red Cross - supplying one surgeon and one nurse, equipment and medicines. The rest of the staff are trained Khmers.

Many facilities are very old, although Australian Red Cross provide as much as economically possible under present aid restrictions.

The pharmacy contains medicines which are extremely old and out of date. For malarial cases, there is little or no quinine, for anti-personnel mine, gun and general wounds there are inadequate supplies of anti-biotics. Communication systems within Cambodia, are limited and weak because of the fighting between Government military and the co-alition forces and Khmer Rouge sabotage of roads and travelling vehicles. Though the road to Kompong Spoe is generally in fair condition, even in the rainy season - because it is subject to Khmer Rouge ambush, medical supplies are not always delivered in time to the hospital.

The majority of cases admitted to the hospital are from injuries sustained by Khmer Rouge anti-personnel mines, ( see "Kompong Spoe, war the Khmer Rouge and its effects.") Other ailments from which people suffer, are nutritional related diseases - malnutrition and malaria.

To enable a patient to attend Kompong Spoe hospital for treatment, their family must sell their belongings to finance their visit, covering the cost of the patient's food and medicines.
KOMPONG SPOE : WAR, THE KHMER ROUGE AND ITS EFFECTS :

Kompong Spoe province, lies in close proximity to the Cardomames Mountains, a section of mountainous ridge stretching from the Thai-Cambodian border, to Kampot on the border area of Viet Nam. Much of the province in fact lies at the base of the mountains surrounded by thick jungle. The Cardomames are controlled by the Khmer Rouge and are used as a base from which to launch raids on nearby provinces.

During daylight hours, the Khmer Rouge are active between 10 - 30 KM away from Kompong Spoe province. During the hours of darkness however, it is impossible for the inhabitants of Kompong Spoe to leave their homes, as the Khmer Rouge frequently enter the province's route to other western or northern provinces and anyone found outside their homes during this time by the Khmer Rouge, are likely to be shot.

These hours are also used by the Khmer Rouge for the planting of anti-personnel mines. For example, it is reported both by Australian Red Cross and Khmers working in the hospital that it is of the utmost importance that the hospital is approached by the concrete paths laid out to each wing, and not by the undergrowth, as it is known that mines have been hidden there by the Khmer Rouge, both in the past and recently - during the night.

Prior to the 4.8.90, the majority of anti-personnel mines planted by the Khmer Rouge were in the rice, (paddy) fields of the province, - this being the main source of income and food produce in Kompong Spoe. However since the crop has virtually failed in the last year, to prevent starvation, the people of the province have entered the forest, (jungle) for food and firewood. The Khmer Rouge have monitored these activities and consequently have planted the majority of their anti-personnel mines in the forest.

It is estimated by the hospital staff, that the figures for mine casualties within the last year have multiplied, that at the time of this report, 10 - 15 people were injured by anti-personnel mines a week, estimated at around sixty a month, (ages ranging from 4-25 years.) That approximately 7 people are injured by guns every one to two weeks, targeted by the Khmer Rouge for intimidation tactics. Several people have been injured in recent months by explosions from B 41 rockets aimed at Kompong Spoe province by the Khmer Rouge from the Cardomames Mountains.

It must be noted, that there is no Govermental military presence in or around Kompong Spoe province. It holds nothing of military interest and the road from Kompong Spoe to Phnom Pehn is not an important communication link with the city.

Therefore it is within the full knowledge that there is no military position within Kompong Spoe, that the Khmer Rouge lay anti-personnel mines, shoot at civilians and aim rockets at the people of this province.
KOMPONG CHHNANG PROVINCE : ( 90 KM FROM PHNOM PENH W )

GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS :

The centre of Kompong Chhnang province is a large market town, which is surround-
ed by farmland and forest. The soil in this province is quite rich, fertilized by the Mekong
River, which flows directly through the province towards the far west of Cambodia to the
Tonle Sap lake.

Within Kompong Chhnang province, there is a steady supply of food to the town
from the intensely cultivated land around it, most of the produce is sold in the largest
of the two markets in Kompong Chhnang town.

The harvest is generally good all the year round with a substantial amount of rain
each year, vital to the stability of the provinces' farming abilities. Rice, wheat and
other seed or grain crops are plentiful as well as fruit and vegetables. The Mekong River
yields a large amount of fresh water fish, which is available all the year round. This cul-
tivation of seeds and grain, allows greater amounts of livestock farming, ( cattle, pigs,
and poultry. ) The animals numerous and well fed, provide good nutrition and a high market
value.

Though the people within Kompong Chhnang have less nutritional related diseases than
those in poorer provinces, the town itself is actually very poor. Most buildings are in
a bad state of disrepair, having eroded and crumbled to a dangerous extent from the prox-
imity of war and simply, poverty. Roofs and walls are missing, unable to shelter adequately
the many families who live in one building.

It is apparent that equipment for the renovation, repair and restoration of
damage, is virtually non existant, or extremely difficult to aquire and can only be bought
at extortionate prices. Tension is such within the province, ( from the constant raids
on the province by the Khmer Rouge on people's property, the use of anti-personnel mines
and the threat of intervention and occupation of the province by the Khmer Rouge, ) that it
has created fear and depression. People feel too insecure, that their future is too unstable
for it to be worthwhile to repair the damage and re-build that which was so recently
destroyed.
HOSPITAL KOMPONG CHHNANG:

This hospital is of an extremely high standard in comparison with other provincial hospitals within Cambodia, it is supported by Swiss Red Cross, with a large number of skilled doctors and nurses who are Cambodian. The hospital consisting of separate oblong wooden huts, as different wards, is clean and well run.

Within certain areas, (such as the operating theatre,) there are a fair amount of new facilities, although no new operating table, which consists at present of a rough wooden table. But these facilities are few in comparison with the amount of equipment which is old or out of date. Within the maternity ward for example, equipment to induce labour and birth, dates from before the 1950's.

The pharmacy is well stocked, but as with all hospitals in Cambodia, the standard of basic necessities such as beds, food and blankets, remains low, or non existant.

Lack of availability in contraception and contraceptive advice, has resulted in women who must constantly undergo the rigours of child birth; And in addition to an already large family, difficult to clothe, feed and house, suffer from post natal depression and complications and diseases after the birth. Lack of elementary health education, results in many children dying from preventable diseases and exhausted mothers, who are no longer able to contribute to the financial upkeep of their families. This problem however, is not confined to Kompong Chhnang alone, but is widespread throughout Cambodia.

The majority of cases admitted to the hospital are people with injuries sustained from anti-personnel mines, or who are suffering from tuberculosis.

ORPHANAGE KOMPONG CHHNANG:

This is a small complex, consisting of dormitories, refectory, sewing room, weaving room and music room, with a main wooden two storey building as the centre of the orphanage and where the matron lives.

At present the orphanage contains 62 orphans, aged from 6 - 23 years, cared for by nine members of staff, including the matron, an elderly woman who has looked after children in the orphanage since it was established in 1979. The main support group for this project is UNICEF along with other Aid organisations, who oversee finance and health care.

Most of the children were orphaned as a result of the war. Either their parents were caught in the cross fire between Government forces and the co-alition, (Khmer Rouge KPNLF, Sihanoukists) or they have been fatally injured by Khmer Rouge anti-personnel mines, some have been caught by the Khmer Rouge and shot dead.

Teenagers and young adults still registered as orphans within the orphanage have remained, (their parents killed during the rule of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge,) because they have nowhere else to go and can assist with the care of the younger children.
Some children mentally or physically handicapped, were abandoned by their parents. Attempts have been made by the orphanage towards a degree of self sufficiency - Looms have been erected and cloth is woven and sewn into garments both for the residents and for export to other provinces, for profit.

Those in charge provide strong loving care, but are hampered by the activities of the Khmer Rouge and the war in general, in providing a stable background for the children to grow up in, as well as coping with transit to any neighbouring provinces, which is now dangerous.

SCHOOL KOMPONG CHHNANG :

This is one of the largest provincial schools in Cambodia, educating infants, primary and secondary age school children. It is attended well by the children in Kompong Chhnang province and neighbouring provinces, as well as children from the local orphanage.

The school consists of a series of buildings, which though attractive are in a bad state of disrepair, as are most wood, stone and brick buildings within the province.

There is a severe shortage of teachers, a result both directly and indirectly from the purge of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, of all educated people. Most adults who trained as teachers before 1975, are dead, others fled abroad. Consequently, there has been an educationless vacuum within the last generation of adults, thus threatening the progress of education amongst the present generation of school age children.

Within Kompong Chhnang itself, only one teacher survived the Khmer Rouge rule of 75-79 and subsequently became director of the school. He has been responsible for the education of all teachers currently teaching at the school. However, the main problem is in the teaching of languages, i.e. there is only one English teacher for the entire province.

Obvious difficulties in educating the children of Kompong Chhnang, lie in lack of funding, with the virtual non existence of basic materials, tables, chairs, pens, paper and text books. However, the school does manage to provide a general education sending a number of students to Phnom Penh for further studies and qualifications.
KOMPONG CHHNANG : WAR THE KHMER ROUGE AND ITS EFFECTS :

Kompong Chhnang is a rich and fertile province and so is used frequently by the Khmer Rouge, (no other co-alition force involved) as a scource of food supply.

Consequently the peasants and inhabitants within the province are more valuable to the Khmer Rouge alive as a scource of food income, therefore there are substantially less mines planted within Kompong Chhnang province, than in those of poorer provinces.

However, people who have injuries sustained by mines are continually entering the hospital and recorded figures of such injuries run at approximately twenty a month, though not including unrecorded injuries, deaths, gunshot wounds and other wounds.

The balance within Cambodia of agricultural output, especially rice, has only within the last two years regained a degree of balance and self sufficiency, after the recent devastation and in some areas, obliteration of certain strains of grain and the crop rotation system, by the Khmer Rouge between 1975 - 1979. However, there still does not remain enough for export or additional profit. Thus the constant pillaging of the province's resources and stocks has resulted in a severe drain on the food supply of Kompong Chhnang. This has-left little alternative for the people of the province except to arm themselves - destitution and starvation can only be the other option.

Further west towards the Tonlé Sap lake, Battambang, Sisophon, there remains strategic points of military interest both to the Khmer Rouge and to the Phnom Penh Government, and so there is Governmental military presence in the west. However this presence does not exist within Kompong Chhnang itself.

Thus though the Khmer Rouge stage continual raids on the province, using the Mekong River as a crossing point to other eastern and northern provinces, that they constantly lay anti-personnel mines and demand ransoms from the people of the province. It is done in the full knowledge that there is no Governmental military presence in Kompong Chhnang, that the population is entirely a Civilian one. It is therefore a violation of Human Rights and cannot be classed under the context of war. I and others have come to the conclusion with this and other overwhelming evidence, that it is a deliberate plan by the Khmer Rouge one employed between 1975 - 1979 to create tension and fear amongst the inhabitants of the province, thus commanding obedience from the population they seek to dominate.
BATTAMBANG PROVINCE : ( 140 KM FROM PHNOM PENH W )

GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS :

Battambang, the second largest city of Cambodia, has become ever more populated from an ever decreasing population from the countryside; The city has become swollen with displaced people who have fled from the fighting between the Government military and coalition forces.

Battambang was once known before 1975, as the richest rice bowl of South East Asia. Though the land in parts remains as fertile as it was then, it has become impossible for many people to farm in certain areas, because of the thousands of Khmer Rouge anti-personnel mines and land mines buried in the mud and in the rice fields. It also has become impossible for some to farm because of the incessant fighting between the Khmer factions.

However, though the province cannot produce enough rice for export, the rate of cultivation being, 1 hectare of rice - to 1 tonne. It is still enough for the province to be self sufficient in its harvest of both rice and grain.

Agricultural output has suffered since 1975, both because of the destruction by the Khmer Rouge of the crop rotation and rice planting systems; And because of the destruction of the irrigation system built under Prince Sihanouk - vital to the cultivation of rice.

Education has also suffered within the province, schools and other educational facilities built under Prince Sihanouk, were either destroyed by the Khmer Rouge, or rendered inefficient, thus there is a vacuum of educationless people within Battambang, unable to complete the technical and skilled requirements of vital jobs.

There is no foreign Aid mission within Battambang Province, it is considered too dangerous and unstable for the people to set up projects there. Therefore there is a marked sense of advanced or even basic technology and equipment available to restore factories and rebuild damaged irrigation channels, sewers, waterworks, there is also no health education for basic health care.

However, there is a jute mill factory, which has considerable financial capacities for the people of Battambang.
HOSPITAL BATTAMBANG:

This hospital is staffed entirely by Khmers, because there is no foreign aid presence in Battambang.

The hospital is of a very high standard, situated in a series of modern buildings, it is kept extremely clean and the standard of care is very good and extremely resourceful. However, western technology and financial assistance are still required, for there are not enough medicines and basic materials and advanced knowledge to deal with all those who visit the hospital.

A tax system has been formed within the province, where the richer landowners have subscribed money and goods, most of the money was used last year to build an additional wing to the hospital.

A limbs workshop has been established, but it is very basic and is unable to cater for the sheer numbers of mine victims who require prosthetics technology, (artificial limbs.) And who are unable to continue with their lives and the support of their families until an artificial limb has been properly fitted. For the majority of cases admitted to the hospital are not disease related, but are mine and war casualties.
Much of the surrounding countryside and in the west of Cambodia in general, is subject to intense fighting between the three factions, (Khmer Rouge, KPNLF and Sihanoukists,) and the Phnom Penh military. This has resulted in large numbers of people becoming homeless, displaced. Sometimes whole villages and towns are forced to move either because of the fighting or because of Khmer Rouge bombardment on their province.

Between July - September 1990, it was estimated that there were at least 100,000 displaced people who as yet had not been monitored by the International Relief agencies, because of the constant transition of these people between provinces, consequently many could not be given adequate aid, some receiving only rice.

In Battambang alone, it was estimated that there were 19,700 displaced families, (98,000 individuals.) - who were in desperate need of aid.

This figure according to OXFAM and other aid agencies, has risen throughout Cambodia since January 1991 by 30%.

Although security has improved in some parts of the province within the last year from Khmer Rouge attacks, there have still been frequent incidents where the Khmer Rouge (no other opposition faction involved,) have aimed heavy artillery fire at the civilian population of the province.

Battambang is a fertile province and the Khmer Rouge use it as a food supply, threatening people to give up their livestock, or their rice supplies or vegetable supplies consequently there has been less anti-personnel mine activity within the immediate town and countryside; It is however extremely dangerous once outside the centre of Battambang, because Khmer Rouge have laid mines indiscriminately.

Within Battambang itself, the average number of mine casualties admitted to the hospital, (July - September 1990) has been 15-20 a month and it has been estimated that the same figure applies to unrecorded injury and death from mines.
SISOPHON : ( 25 KM FROM THAI CAMBODIAN BORDER ; PHNOM PENH W )

GENERAL LIVING CONDITIONS :

The town of Sisophon once was a self sufficient centre, with an extremely fertile countryside surrounding it.

Now, even during the rainy season, (July - September 1990) it is extremely dry and the land lies almost barren in some areas.

Although there have been attempts by Aid agencies, such as OXFAM to set up fertilization and agricultural programmes, it cannot replace loss of rain fall, nor the ever decreasing numbers of people within the countryside, who have been displaced by war, or who can no longer farm on their land, because of the sheer numbers of Khmer Rouge mines buried in it.

Sisophon, is surrounded by heavy fighting between the warring Khmer factions, (Khmer Rouge, KPNLF, Sihanouksits) and the Phnom Penh Government military. Consequently there has been a large influx of displaced people coming from various neighbouring provinces, into the town of Sisophon.

To contain the growing numbers of refugees, four camps have been set up, housing at least four thousand people per camp, (Approximately 6KM from the town of Sisophon.)

However even during the rainy season, water supplies to the camps were inadequate, people having to travel up to 3 KM or more to fetch clean water, even the amount of rice was insufficient to feed the great numbers of people.

Although within the province and within the camps, there is no Governmental military presence, people have had to dig trenches to protect themselves from constant shelling by the khmer Rouge.

It has been extremely difficult if not impossible, for the International Aid agencies to reach Sisophon, (though the railway line from Phnom Penh ends within the province) The railway is forever being sabotaged by the Khmer Rouge, where mines are laid on the track, and on impact both the train and the railway line are destroyed. The telephone cannot, (because of the destruction of the wires and lines) be used directly from Phnom Penh to Sisophon, all communications must first go to Pursat. The road from Pursat to Battambang, a vital link with both Phnom Penh and the west of Cambodia is very badly damaged and it is almost impossible for a large heavy Aid convey to gain access to Battambang and thus be distributed and re-directed to Sisophon.

In addition to the difficulties posed by lack of communication systems, it is difficult for Aid agencies to work there, because the province is extremely tense. There is severe war damage within the town from artillery fire and the market has been sandbagged and trenches dug as protection in readiness of attack.
HOSPITAL SISOHON : (MONKOL BOREI)

This hospital is staffed and run entirely by Khmers, because there is no foreign aid presence within the province.

Thus although it is clean and well run, as well as possible under such circumstances, there is still urgent need of advanced technological and financial assistance to cope with the sheer numbers and types of illness and injury.

A large majority of cases are those caused by Khmer Rouge anti-personnel mines. Many people who have been injured come from Sisophon, but there are others who have to travel great distances from neighbouring provinces to seek medical attention and advice, because they cannot treat anti-personnel mine related injuries.

A limbs workshop is present in Sisophon, but it is very bad. What artificial limbs, prosthetics technology they can provide, is not enough to cope with the large numbers of people requiring them, but they are also of extremely bad quality, so that in some cases where a person requires an artificial leg, they are given what resembles a crude wooden post. With this lack of skilled prosthetics technology, people who have lost limbs are not only unable to carry on sufficiently with their everyday lives, the artificial limbs are often so badly fitted, as to cause the injured stump further damage and ruin any remaining muscle. Many mine victims commit suicide, because they feel that they have no future, so restricted are they in their movements and the continuation of their lives.

However, in addition to war and mine victims, there are still many who are afflicted with serious but preventable diseases, i.e. diarrhoea. Within Cambodia, because of such restricted communications, aid agencies are unable to reach many provinces and so are unable to establish health education programmes. One in five children die before reaching the age of five, mostly from nutritional related diseases and diarrhoea - all easily prevented.
SISOPOHON : WAR THE KHMER ROUGE AND ITS EFFECTS:

Sisophon is surrounded by the three anti-Phnom Penh Government factions. The Khmer Rouge, the KPNLF and the Sihanoukists, though there is no Governmental presence within Sisophon.

This continued fighting is disruptive both to the town and its inhabitants in agricultural and food output and perhaps more importantly, psychologically to the inhabitants. It means that vital communication links with Phnom Penh and the rest of Cambodia are severely damaged, the people of Sisophon can no longer export their goods to other provinces, because the roads are mined and anyone travelling on them, is liable to provoke a Khmer Rouge ambush. Bridges have been destroyed and the railway line is subject to Khmer Rouge mine warfare.

Due to Khmer Rouge unrestricted shelling at civilian targets, it has become necessary for the inhabitants of Sisophon to dig trenches near their homes in which to take shelter from these attacks; it has even become necessary to erect shelters in the market and in public places, such has been the intensity of the fire.

It is easy for the Khmer Rouge to infiltrate Sisophon, there is no Governmental military presence - the countryside surrounding the town is crippled by drought, bad harvest and mines, the resistance offered by the people of Sisophon towards a Khmer Rouge onslaught, could only be a short lived one.

Within Sisophon itself, the number of casualties from Khmer Rouge anti-personnel mines are surprisingly few, running in July-September 1990, at seven a month. However, not only does this number rise infrequently, it also does not apply to those working in the fields outside the immediate centre of Sisophon, where the numbers are substantially higher, as are the numbers of gunshot wounds - for the poverty of the province has little to offer the Khmer Rouge in the way of food and goods; and the people, it seems are better left mutilated or dead, than alive and well.
CONCLUSION:

This report was originally intended to show both the effects of poverty on the Khmer people and the effects of war, within the context of the International isolation of Cambodia.

It however soon became apparent, that there was one overriding factor, that the war and consequently poverty, was the direct result of Khmer Rouge activity within Cambodia. That not only did they focus their attention on the civilian population in de-militarized zones to impress upon the inhabitants their doctrines, they also used their weaponry upon these very same people, even though there was no Governmental military presence. This including the planting of anti-personnel mines by the Khmer Rouge, the shooting of civilians by them and the destruction of civilian transport and communication systems.

The consequence of these actions by the Khmer Rouge, was to impoverish the province on which they were focusing their attention, it becoming impossible to farm in many areas because of the great numbers of undetectable mines, or the danger of inviting a Khmer Rouge ambush.

Khmer Rouge mines have become one of the greatest problems in Cambodia. Made and supplied by China, these T-69 mines are of green plastic, able to float just beneath the water in paddy fields or in communal ponds, or they are camouflaged in the fields of wheat and long grass. It is extremely difficult to use detector equipment, unless it is highly advanced, for there is only one metal component in the mine, a tiny screw, serving both as the detonator and the pin on which the components of the mine are held together. The mine itself, is very small, fitting into the palm of an adult sized hand.

The rate of attrition, of people killed or injured by these mines, runs at 1000 a month, Cambodia containing the largest percentage of handicapped people in the world. If this were not enough, it is also the third poorest country in the world, with one of the highest rates of infant mortality rates in the third world.

The suffering of the Khmer people is apparent - and this must be acknowledged internationally, for there to be any hope of a compassionate Aid effort by the world, channelled through the various Aid agencies already working in Cambodia. And that those Agencies already present in Cambodia making a greater effort to unite, to work together, this producing more effective results.

However most important of all, this report must highlight the inconsistency of the International community in its support of International law and Human Rights. The International community must not differentiate between countries in need of assistance and the laws of Human Rights applying to these countries. The world community cannot allow politica
and economic interests to impair judgements regarding the countries who they are in the process of observing, or who are member states of the United Nations.

Though there have been infrequent attempts to unite verbally the Khmer Rouge with the other two opposition Khmer factions, the KPNLF and the Sihanoukists, to render the Khmer Rouge more acceptable politically within the International community - As such, they are not united, often fighting each other; And perhaps most importantly of all, the Khmer Rouge being the only faction to use mine warfare on the civilian population.

Listed in this report, are the articles of the United Nations Covenant of Human Rights, many of which apply to all countries and groups, regardless of whether the country is a member state of the United Nations or not. All articles listed, have been violated by the Khmer Rouge (no other opposition faction involved.)

It is extremely foolish for the International community not to have acknowledged that which happened in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, Pol Pot rule, between 1975-1978, and that which is happening now, campaigns which are being led mostly by those Khmer Rouge who were in power in the mid to late seventies.

The conduct of the Five permanent members of the Security Council and the United Nations itself, must be called into question, regarding the lax omission in the latest peace documents regarding Cambodia, which do not include, in the recent history of the Khmer Rouge the word, "Genocide." Considering that the United Nations body for the observation of Human Rights in 1979, returning from a visit to Cambodia, concluded that it was the worst case of genocide anywhere in the world since Nazism. It is therefore, rather extraordinary that the International community does not indeed observe the violations of Human Rights by the Khmer Rouge in the late seventies, nor in the present day - Yet still claiming to uphold International law and protections for all peoples of all nations.

If International law is to be upheld, then it is to be upheld in all circumstances. That violations of Human Rights within a country cannot be either acknowledged or ignored according to the International political and economic climate of the day.
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

VIOLATION OF ARTICLES WITHIN THIS COVENANT, BY THE KHMER ROUGE:

ARTICLE 2: Where in Khmer Rouge controlled territories, the inhabitants are denied the choice of political and religious freedom and where, if they are of Viet Namese or any other extraction, they are subject to discrimination by the Khmer Rouge.

ARTICLE 3: Regarding the violation by the Khmer Rouge, of civilian lives, with the use of mines and military weapons on the population.

ARTICLE 5: Regarding the use by the Khmer Rouge, of torture, punishment and degrading treatment towards inhabitants of provinces, or camps under Khmer Rouge control.

ARTICLE 12: Regarding the interference within civilian households with restrictions placed on the civilians rights in communication and association with others by the Khmer Rouge, and the demands of ransoms made on the civilian population by the Khmer Rouge.

ARTICLE 13: Section I: Regarding the rights of civilians held in Khmer Rouge controlled Thai-Cambodian border camps, who have lost the rights of freedom, of movement and residence in other provinces or states.

ARTICLE 18: Regarding civilians within Khmer Rouge controlled border camps or under Khmer Rouge controlled territories, who no longer have the freedom to choose their religious or political beliefs without fear of persecution by the Khmer Rouge.

ARTICLE 20: Section 22: Regarding the rights of civilians under Khmer Rouge border camp control - who have no choice as to whether they choose not to belong in the Khmer Rouge system, having to observe rigidly all rules imposed on them by the Khmer Rouge.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS:

PART I

Article I, Section 1: The rights of the civilian population under Khmer Rouge controlled territory - to pursue economic, social and cultural development, are violated by the Khmer Rouge.

PART II

Article 5, Section 1: Observing that all states, groups, persons must not be allowed to destroy any of the rights of freedom recognized by the covenant herein.

PART III

Article 10, Section 2 and 3: Regarding the use by the Khmer Rouge within border camp areas, of pregnant women and young children, to porter goods and weaponry across minefields, where the Khmer Rouge follow behind threatening to shoot anyone who disobeys, safe in the
knowledge, that those in front, will tread on any mines in their path.

INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS:

Article I

PART I: Regarding the violation of civilian self determination by the Khmer Rouge for those under their control, to pursue freely economic, social and cultural development.

PART III

Article 6, Section I: The violation by the Khmer Rouge of the inherent right to life of the civilian population, whom they shoot indiscriminately and use military weaponry against, lay anti-personnel and other mines, (of which it is estimated, there are a million within Cambodia.)

Article 7: The violation by the Khmer Rouge of the rights of civilians, that they may not under this convention, be subject to torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, the Khmer Rouge are guilty of abusing the above rights, within Khmer Rouge controlled border camps and provinces.

Article 8, Section 3a: Regarding the use of forced labour by the Khmer Rouge of pregnant women and young children in the act of portering, (see also section III, Article 10)

And of young men and women, forced by the Khmer Rouge to obey and inact that which is demanded by the Khmer Rouge in controlled territories and border camps, the civilian is forced to obey, under threat of his/hers life.

Article 20: The use by the Khmer Rouge of propaganda for war.

The use by the Khmer Rouge in the advocacy of racial and religious hatred, to incite discrimination, hostility and violence. - This was used in their campaign between 1975-1979 when they had power over Cambodia and earlier within the jungles of the Thai-Cambodian border, where they recruited supporters. It is in evidence today in their current campaign to regain control of Cambodia.

If we are to live at all, the rights of all human beings must be observed

For there are repercussions globally, for each violation individually.

Catherine Geach  May 1991
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