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The Cambodian Daily,  
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PHNOM-PENH.  
(Kingdom of Cambodia).

VIETMANIZATION OF CAMBODIA

Sir,

The following report of a retired Ambassador, who was posted in Cambodia in 1990, is an eye opener:-

"There is unhampered migration from Vietnam, to the point almost half of the population will be Vietnamese soon. Entire villages were no longer able to participate in the elections 2003, due to the uncontrolled advance of the Vietnamese border, these villages have become part of Vietnam. This has also been documented by the EU Election Observers, who knew these Khmer Villages, from previous election."

The population of Cambodia in 1970 was 6.5 millions, out of which, it had approximately 2-300,000 Vietnamese Refugees, overspill of the Vietnam Wars, majority settled in the border districts with South Vietnam, but small majority of fishermen in Tonley Sap Lake. They were not given the right to participate in the National Elections, but were issued Identity Cards as "Vietnamese Refugees"; the intention being that when the Vietnam War is over, they will be sent back to the Republic of Vietnam (then South Vietnam). After the Coup and overthrow of Prince (now King Father) Norodom Sihanouk in March 1970, when the killing of Vietnamese refugees started under Genl. Lon Nol, they were repatriated under Thieu-Lon Nol Agree ment on Repatriation of Vietnamese Refugees in 1971 to the Republic of Vietnam (then South Vietnam). Once a refugee is repatriated to its country of origin, he loses his refugee status under the International Law. Latter on any left over Vietnamese Refugees were killed by the Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouges) during their reign of terror (1975-78). As such when the Vietnamese troops attacked and occupied Phnom-Penh on 7th Jan. 1979, there was not a single Vietnamese left in Cambodia - Khmer Rouges had even killed those Cambodians, who could speak Vietnamese language even.

The SUDOSTASIEN ACKTUEL of Nov. 1989 had reported:-

"Hun Sen told Peter Schier of the Asian Affairs (Humburg FRG) in an interview of 6 Jan 1988, that the population of Cambodia at the end of 1987, was 7,995,000 people. According to Hun Sen, ethnic Khmers amounted to between 74% and 80% of the population."

This means that between 1.6 and 2.0 million inhabitants of Cambodia are not ethnic Khmers. If we assume that the number of Hill Tribe people is now about 200,000, the number of Cham no more than 300,000, and the ethnic Chinese about 100,000, then there are between 1 million and 1.4 million ethnic left, who cannot but be Vietnamese.

"Hun Sen however, pretended that there are only about 60,000 Vietnamese living in Cambodia at present - a number which is obviously not true."

No such census giving the number of ethnic Khmers and the minorities, appear to have been conducted in Cambodia again, during the last 18 years. It is high time that it should be done now.

The VIETNAM INSIGHT ( A forum sponsored by the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam of Nov. 1992, issued from USA), had stated in its Editorial:-

"The two million Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia, confirmed by the U.N. Peace-keeping Task Force, pose a genuine threat to the natives in the upcoming election. This is also the reason that the Khmer Rouges refuses to participate in the peace process. This fear and opposition to Vietnamese participation in the polls are legitimate. .... These two million Vietnamese voters represent one-fourth of the Cambodian population.

From the perspective of the Cambodian Government, there is a deep

concern that the nation's sovereignty is at stake, as one-fourth of the electorate is Vietnamese, a people whose Government invaded and occupied Cambodia for years, until being forced out by international pressure.

There are Vietnamese Communist Party Members, who have been planted in Cambodia, to continue the Party's interest on this foreign soil. .... Its withdrawal of troops, even as accurate as it claims, is not enough. It can recall its party members and cadres, planted in Cambodia under civilian clothes."

According to Son Sann, a former Prime Minister: "Out of every four persons in Cambodia, one is a Vietnamese." He could easily distinguish, as he came from Kampuchea Krom (now in South Vietnam).

According to William Shawcross (Cambodia Deal 1994, page 69): "There are atleast 500,000 to one million illegal Vietnamese crossing to Cambodia."

According to KPLNE (under Son Sann): "A programme of mixed marriages was introduced between Vietnamese settlers and Cambodians on the pretext of national integration. All senior Cambodian officials were required to have Vietnamese wives, while Cambodian women were encouraged to have sexual relations with and bear fatherless children by Vietnamese soldiers, so that Cambodians of tomorrow, have Vietnamese blood."

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Vietnam had done its home work properly, before withdrawing its troops from Cambodia in 1988, by issuing more than a million Vietnamese settlers with "Cambodian National Identity Cards", exactly the same type issued to the Cambodians; so that they could have a permanent say in the future elected Government. It looks Communism is being infiltrated by the back door, in to Cambodia.

During a T.V. programme on the Immigration Law, arranged by Khmer Institute of Democracy in Phnom-Penh on 10th Sept. 1994, Kan Morn M.P. stated that S.O.C. (State of Cambodia) or former People of Kampuchea, they issued I.D. Cards to foreigners (obviously Vietnamese immigrants), which were like the same I.D. Cards issued to Cambodians, and that the ID Cards that S.O.C. issued were for only governing and identifying the holder - It means they did not grant them nationality status even the I.D. Cards that issued by UNTAC." Chen Sngoun added: "When we have the Nationality Law, we will then know the "Khmer Nationality Status".

The above clearly show that the National Identity Cards issued by the SOC to the Vietnamese Immigrants (mentioned as foreigners) were the same as those of Cambodians. As such there was no distinction between the Vietnamese and Cambodian Identity Cards, and therefore for all purposes the Vietnamese were treated as Cambodians. On the bases of these I.D. Cards, all the Vietnamese Immigrants living in Cambodia, most probably became eligible to register themselves as voters in May 1993 Elections.

After the Vietnamese troops withdrawal, the present CPP is the successor to erstwhile Khmer Peoples Revolutionary Party (subservient to Vietnamese Communist Party), revived in 1978. The CPP has only changed its name, but the Party structure, the judiciary, and other working systems are still the same as that of Peoples Republic of Kampuchea, which William Shawcross, while writing on the Guardian on 20th Nov. 1991, described:-

"When Vietnam installed its client regime, mostly Ex-Khmer Rouges, in Phnom-Penh, at the end of 1978, it declared that the Situation in Cambodia, is now "irreversible". .... The Vietnamese were determined to impose a Communist Regime in Cambodia. That was much less brutal than the Khmer Rouges but it suppressed dissent, and its human rights record has been criticised by Amnesty and the Asia Watch. "Vietnamese Liberation" of Kampuchea in early 1979, became an illegal Occupation, rejected by the majority of the U.N."

This is further echoed in the SUDOSTASIEN ACTUELL of Jan. 1989, page 89, where it is stated:-

"..... Don't forget that Hun Sen and Heng Samrin were Khmer Rouges uptill 1977, and upto now they continue to violate human rights. If you read carefully the annual reports of Amnesty International , you know then their violation of human rights in so called "Peoples Republic of Kampuchea" are terrible, too. There are all kinds of torture in the prisons, people are being liquidated, people disappear etc. . They are not much different from the Khmer Rouges, but they are much more intelligent. In one respect this new generation of Khmer Vietminh is even worse than the Khmer Rouges, because they do not have a sense of National Independence. Heng Samrin and Khieu Samphan are both killers, but Khieu Samphan is not a traitor."

As is well known in Germany, where 3 to 5 million Turks, are living there for the last three generations, but they have not yet been given the right to vote in their national elections. Then why in Cambodia?

The UNTAC had completely forgotten that these were not normal Elections, but only the Khmers to select the type or form of Government of their choice, as they were twice forcibly placed under the Communism, which they had refused to accept. King Norodom Sihanouk had rightly observed that "the U.N. wasted \$ 3 billions in Cambodia, by allowing Vietnamese immigrants (planted to tilt the balance) to participate in the elections - the object of the Election was defeated."

From 0 % Vietnamese in 1979, their number went upto 17.5 % of the population in end 1987 (1.4 million). It went up 23% of the total population in 1995(2.4 million), and now it has gone up to 33% in 2005 (approximately 4¼ out of the population of 13½ million) - once the Nationality Law is passed, it is hoped the majority of Vietnamese voters will not be able to participate in the National Elections.

By the increase of Vietnamese immigrants, who will soon be voters in the future elections, the CPP will be able to get the 3rd majority to change the Constitution, and may vote for making an alliance with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, so as to have an Indochinese Federation, in which Vietnam will be dominant (the dying wish of Ho Chi Minh).

It is high time that all the Cambodians (inside and outside Cambodia) unite, and thwart the Vietnamese onslaught on democratic and peaceful Cambodia, and defeat the Vietnamese age old dream of "Indochinese Federation, dominated by Vietnam".

President George W. Bush is trying to bring in democracy and transparency in the Middle East. Here in Cambodia, a member of ASEAN, under his nose, Communism is being infiltrated into it by the back door, and a democratic Kingdom, which was once an oasis of peace and tranquility, is now being swallowed by its Communist neighbour. It is high time he should look into it.

Yours Faithfully,

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