

THE RISING TIDE

A bulletin of information and opinion from the
FREEDOM LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION, INC.

The next issue of The Rising Tide will be devoted to the trip taken to South Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea taken by the President of the Freedom Leadership Foundation, Inc. in late March.

April 19, 1971

Vol I, No. 2

FLF on campus

Recently, FLF campus activists co-sponsored Mr. Gaffar Peang-Meth, a Cambodian doctoral candidate in political science at the University of Michigan, to deliver a message on the Cambodian crisis. Mr. Peang-Meth had just returned from his country, where he studied the causes of the conflict that has been devastating this once-peaceful land. Since his return to the United States he has been urgently relaying to college students Cambodia's vital message of its fight for survival.

(The following are excerpts taken from Mr. Peang-Meth's address to students at Georgetown University.)

"Obviously the territory which Prince Sihanouk permitted the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese to use as 'sanctuaries' in their war in Vietnam was also used against the Khmers...

"It was with a desire to preserve Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity that the government of Premier Lon Nol initiated informal negotiations with the Vietnamese communists in 1969 for the peaceful removal of their armed forces from Khmer territory...

"As foreign forces behaved in Cambodia more and more like conquerors, an explosion of resentment and anger on the part of the natives became unavoidable... It was precisely that reaction that triggered the anti-Vietcong and anti-North Vietnamese demonstrations and riots in the Kingdom (March, 1970).

"Meanwhile, news of the demonstrations against the Vietcong and North Vietnamese enraged Prince Sihanouk in France. General Lon Nol dispatched numerous wires from March 11 to March 17, 1970, attempting to explain the events occurring in Cambodia to the angered Prince. Additionally, on March 13, the government of Premier Lon Nol agreed to send two emissaries to meet with the Prince in France. Rendering conflict between himself and the government inevitable, Prince Sihanouk not only blamed the Parliament, the Government and the Armed Forces for causing all his troubles, he an-

nounced that upon his return to Phnom-Penh he would take vigorous action against those who opposed his policies vis-a-vis the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese.

"On March 18, 1970, at 1300 hours, the elected National Assembly and the Council of the Kingdom, with a reported vote of 92 voices to 0, decided to withdraw confidence in Prince Sihanouk as Cambodia's Chief of State.

"The decision to request arms (from abroad) was made only after the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese troops had penetrated deeply into Cambodia. When Saang, a town 20 miles from Phnom-Penh, was seized by their enemies on April 19, the Khmers feared a final takeover of Cambodia by the Vietnamese communists. Since the Khmer appeal for arms on April 14 received no reply, and with the situation getting ever more critical, on April 21 Premier Lon Nol sent a direct appeal to President Nixon to help Cambodia. The presidents of both chambers of the Khmer Parliament wrote to Senator Mike Mansfield '... we can assure you... that Cambodia would have preferred that the great international organizations assure her the peace and the security to which she is entitled. But, attacked and invaded, we have no other choice but to defend ourselves, with the material help of countries which affirm their devotion to liberty and justice, or alone with our poor means, in a world indifferent to the destruction of a nation..

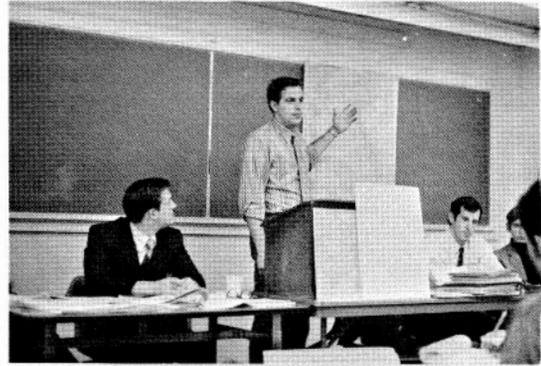
It was the refusal of Vietcong and the North Vietnamese to negotiate over the issue of peaceful withdrawal of their armed forces from Khmer territory as well as their increasingly aggressive invasion, the lack of response from other countries in assisting her with the arms she very badly needed, and her inability to defend herself against the aggression that led Cambodia and her people to feel relief when U. S. -South Vietnamese armed forces entered the Khmer Kingdom on April 30, 1970. As the Khmer Ambassador to the United Nations, Khim Tit, put it, 'Alone, we are sure to be crushed.'

(The full text of Mr. Peang-Meth's talk is available from FLF: see back page.)

CONFERENCE ON S.E. ASIA HELD

What is really happening in Southeast Asia? This question the FLF President and Campus Coordinators helped to answer for sixty student leaders who attended a recent conference sponsored by the World Youth Crusade for Freedom, at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Campus activists representing organizations and colleges around the country came seeking deeper insight into the conflict in Southeast Asia, to enhance their ability to confront the rhetoric of the "New Left" when they return to their campuses.

A four-member panel spoke to the students on the situation in South Vietnam and Cambodia, after which a film taken by the FLF delegation on its tour of Southeast Asia was shown. The afternoon session culminated in a lively "Q-A" session between speakers and participants. The evening and the following morning the students heard from three distinguished speakers, Dr. Fritz Kraemer from the Defense Department, General Lewis Walt, USMC, and Mr. Dolf Droge of USIA.



FLF President Neil Salonen speaks at WYCF conference

It is conferences such as these that are the building blocks for defeating the propaganda of the New Left, educating young Americans to the truth of communist aggression. However, the battle can never be won in just one conference. It will take many more and much hard work to reach young people with the facts.

The information war

One basic lesson learned from the Vietnam war is that the weapon of public opinion is a most decisive force in determining the overall success or failure of foreign policy. Without question, the perspective most people have of Vietnam today would be much different had the public been properly informed by both the government and press as American involvement increased. It is quite possible that the Vietnam phenomenon will repeat itself, this time in Korea.

The sudden upsurge in propaganda by radical elements favoring communist-dominated North Korea prompted a decision here to act to counter the falsehoods and illusion to Premier Kim Il-sung's so-called "paradise." To search out the background facts on Korea, two FLF researchers went first to the Library of Congress.

In seeking information there, it became apparent that the two men heading the Korean section were pro-communist. In answering objective questions neither Mr. Yang or Mr. Kang failed to extol North Korea. When pur-

sued on the question of North Korean aggression reported by the U.N. in 1950, Mr. Yang simply replied that U.N. sources were unreliable: "After all, you know who runs the U.N."

Obviously only the slanted facts as Mr. Yang presented them were available from personnel in that section. Consider the implications of this situation. If hostilities between North and South Korea were renewed, many students, congressmen, newspaper columnists and reporters in pursuit of the facts would go to the Library of Congress. They could easily be misled by the supposedly objective staff and their resulting misinformation would in turn help shape public opinion on America's role.

To avoid this future possibility FLF urges that our government not only increase its efforts to inform the public but also that it review those whom they choose to fill this job. Otherwise the weapon of propaganda, as in Vietnam, will again disguise the face of the true aggressor.

FROM THE PRESS

ED: Because the pressure of public opinion greatly affects the power of the Presidency, it is important to recognize the forces shaping it. Before he took office, Mr. Nixon said, "Bitter dissension has torn the fabric of American life and whatever the outcome of the (Vietnam) war, the tear may be a long time mending."

Here is one reason why:

"(President Nixon) is always going to have trouble with his credibility gap as long as it is to the advantage of a large number of people to disbelieve him.

"For his liberal critics, disbelief of the American withdrawal from Vietnam is not only an advantage, but a necessity. Because since the President is doing what the liberal critics always told him he should do and says he intends to keep on doing it, the only recourse for the liberals is disbelief.

"(The) issue, quite simply, is the implication that the President is lying when he says he is going to pull American troops out of the war.

"To back up this implication, the critics point to the fact that Nixon refuses to announce publicly a timetable for complete withdrawal. He can explain until he is blue in the face the perfectly obvious reasons for not making an announcement of such inestimable value to the enemy.

"The American withdrawal is accepted at all levels of the administration as a virtually irreversible process which would require

some catastrophic development...to change. The timetable, furthermore, is not all that much of a secret.

"The President himself has said that by May 1, there will be 33,000 fewer American troops than there are now. It is understood that the American combat role will be substantially ended by midsummer...

"Possible action by the enemy no longer seems to play any very large part in the formulation of the American timetable. The assumption that the major military threat to South Vietnam can be contained still holds...

"All this may be bad news for the South Vietnamese, who have never quite shared the confidence of American politicians that they can get along on their own. But neither have they shared the contention of American liberals that they wielded some kind of veto over the American pullout. And they realize with growing certainty that the moment of truth is rapidly approaching.

"But it probably is even worse news for the liberal critics who want so much to disbelieve - and to make others disbelieve - that the President means what he says.

"For, as this credibility gap gradually disappears, they will have to find another one to exploit as best they can."

(Excerpts from column in Washington Star, March 23, 1971, by Crosby S. Noyes.)



Unity Coalition Formed

Through the combined efforts of the Freedom Leadership Foundation, Inc. and the American Youth for a Just Peace, an April 7 meeting was held to unify the activities of Washington anti-communist groups for counteracting the leftist demonstrations in April and May.

Attended by such diverse groups as the College Republicans, Young Americans for Freedom, Council Against Communist Aggression and other organizations, each agreed that it was vocalizing protest against appeasement policies which reward communist aggression. The "Coalition for Peace with Freedom" (CPF) was formed and several demonstrations were planned. The CPF will be an on-going organization, combining our efforts to work for a true "peace with freedom".

The FREEDOM LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION, INC. urgently needs funds to continue its regular activities, including publication of this bulletin. THIS WORK DESERVES YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT! Please help to continue our efforts on campus and in the community with your contribution.

"They are ill discoverers
that think there is no land,
when they see nothing but sea."

— Bacon, Advancement of Learning, II: VII, 5

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