

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Return of the China card's Pol Pot

Many sharp questions are now being posed about the Cambodia policy of West Germany's government.

The broadening campaign in West Germany against the Beijing regime is beginning to hit the number-one exponent of the "China card" in the Bonn government, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Not only his continuous interfering with the parliament's debate on the China policy and his refusal to declare sanctions on Red China, are attacked, but also his conduct on a specific aspect of the China card: the question of Cambodia.

Acting upon Genscher's directives, the government has refused to recognize the current Cambodian government under Hun Seng, on the pretext that he "was installed as a puppet by Vietnam." Genscher does not, however, show the same "scruples" toward the overthrown genocidal dictator Pol Pot, who is a Red Chinese puppet. The foreign ministry still recognizes the butcher of 3-4 million Cambodians as the "legal government," and refuses to pay any development aid to Hun Seng.

Moreover, Genscher has repeatedly meddled in the debate among countries bordering on Cambodia, to prevent them from recognizing Hun Seng. It is said that Genscher's personal intervention secured Pol Pot's seat at the United Nations, and the diplomatic boycott of Hun Seng internationally. This policy has been attacked also in West Germany as a monstrosity. For Genscher and his Asia staff, moral criteria don't count.

Voicing growing disgust at this policy, Hans Otto Hahn of the foreign mission department of the Lutheran Church took aim the Cambodia policy of Genscher on July 14. Reporting on a just-concluded tour of Cambodia,

Hahn said he simply cannot understand how the foreign ministry in Bonn could still recognize Pol Pot and deny aid that is urgently requested by the Hun Seng government. Hahn reported he saw a school which, under Pol Pot, was used as a torture camp: "This recalled memories of [the Nazi concentration camps] Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen."

But, Hahn pointed out, the crimes of Pol Pot are not past history, as the Cambodians fear his return. "At present, there is fear and uncertainty in Cambodia," declared Hahn, "people are afraid that Pol Pot will be knocking at the doors of Phnom Penh again, once the Vietnamese have left the country in September." Cambodian estimates are that Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge consists of at least 30,000 well-trained brutal warriors (well-supplied with Red Chinese arms), to whom Hun Seng's poorly equipped troops will not be much of a challenge. A massacre far worse than the one in Tiananmen Square, a replay of the Pol Pot nightmare that killed millions, could be in store for late this year.

Several sources are pointing at the September timetable of Pol Pot and his backers in Beijing, indicating that Red China is exerting maximum pressure on Vietnam to respect and not circumvent international agreements (negotiated by the China card players) on the September deadline. Apparently, there is resistance in Vietnam as well as in Cambodia, not least because of the bloody events in Red China.

To the Vietnamese, the fact that it was Red China's 27th Army that did most of the round-up and massacre in Tiananmen Square, is a sign of bad

things to come. It was that very same army that invaded the northern border regions of Vietnam in late 1979, upon Deng Xiaoping's directives. This was designed as a "punitive expedition," old Chinese imperial style. Moreover, back the 27th Army predominantly killed civilians, women and children, in Vietnam's northernmost province, rather than Vietnamese soldiers.

There are signs that Red China is at least threatening, probably even preparing, another invasion of Vietnam to end all resistance to the return of Pol Pot (who lives in exile either in Beijing, or near the southern Chinese border).

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the West German parliament, which has access to secret intelligence (including satellite-based) information, received news that Red China is actively pushing a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia to prepare the return of Pol Pot. The office of committee chairman Hans Stercken reported that around the time of the Tiananmen massacre, Chinese troops were massing along the border to Vietnam, in what looked as "yet another of these aggressive foreign adventures we've witnessed before."

Hans Stercken, a long-standing foe of Genscher's China card policy, confirmed in a discussion with *EIR* that a replay of Red China's military aggressions like the one against India in 1962, or intense insurgency operations like the one that shook up Indonesia in 1965, can't be ruled out. The bloody crackdown in Beijing, Stercken warned, spells deep trouble for the entire Asian region.

These warnings underline the need for concerted international action against the Beijing regime, to save the lives not only of China's opposition and the Cambodians, but of millions of Asians living within reach of Red China's military as well.