
CAMBODIA

Democratic Kampuchea

Area: 181,035 sq. km

Population: 6,682,000

Capital: Phnom Penh

Head of State: Heng Samrin (President of the Council of State)

Minister of the Interior: Khang Sarin

Before the Khmer Republic fell to the Khmer Rouge forces in April 1975, Cambodia had a National Police, based on the French system, commanded by a Director-General. Headquarters was at Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge government, headed by the veteran Marxist Pol Pot, changed the system to a People's Militia based on Chinese practice. The Militia was involved in the enforcement of agricultural collectivization imposed by the

Communist party, and in the execution of intellectuals and enemies (both actual and potential) of the regime. In the latter task it collaborated with the secret police (Nokorbal). It is believed that over a million people were summarily disposed of between April 1975 and December 1978, when the Vietnamese Army invaded Cambodia in support of a coup staged by pro-Soviet Communists of the Cambodian National United Front. The Vietnamese still occupy Cambodia, although some administrative powers have been devolved to politically acceptable Cambodians.

The current situation in the country is still not very clear. It was announced, amidst a great deal of publicity, that the partial withdrawal of the Vietnamese occupation forces began in mid-1983, but that does not necessarily mean that there are no longer any internal security problems. Guerilla activity continues, both by the remnants of the Pol Pot forces and by various anti-Communist Khmer groups. It appears that police as well as counter-insurgency duties are still performed by the Vietnamese military, but the existence of Cambodian security forces (under Vietnamese control) has already been confirmed.

The People's Militia is also in charge of the Fire Brigade.