

policy. Finally, the position and behaviour of multinational enterprises are also examined. In this regard, the aim is to "work out their ambivalent positive as well as negative significance and reach conclusions germane to union strategy". With respect to the first point, this aim was achieved in a remarkable fashion.

The editors have intentionally dispensed with a summation. They indirectly provide a reason for this in the introduction by pointing out that the contributions contained in the book have only just opened the discussion about a union concept of development policy and that up to now, a summation has in no way been fitting. The trade unions' dilemma becomes very clear in this book. Development policy has a set place in the unions' understanding of themselves; until now, however, it has been a marginal political area and this will not change in the foreseeable future. This realization is expressed clearly in the confession of the editors: We stand helpless before the challenge which the underdeveloped world has issued us.

Michael v. Hauff

PETER SCHIER and MANOLA SCHIER-OUM in collaboration with WALDRAUT JARKE: Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia. Interviews and talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. (A publication of the Institute of Asian Affairs. No. 110). Hamburg: 1980, 105 pages.

A small booklet of high value for the reading of the contemporary history of Cambodia and Indochina. It contains ten well-conducted interviews with Prince Sihanouk recorded in July and August 1979, focussing on the fateful last ten years of Cambodian history: from the coup in 1970 that deprived Prince Sihanouk of power in Cambodia, through the last stages of the Second Indochinese War, the years of the Pol Pot terror in Cambodia, the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam, and current efforts to search for a solution to the conflict. Attached to the interviews are twelve documents reflecting Prince Sihanouk's current positions, including the texts of three letters sent in October 1979 to the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Pham Van Dong.

Prince Sihanouk is one of the most colourful personalities of the Indochina scene - intelligent, flexible, independent but also mercurial, and therefore, perhaps, often misunderstood. Yet he has a deep understanding of Asian and

Indochinese subtleties, and is skilled in resisting pressures from all sides of the great power diplomatic market: the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and China. He dominated the Cambodian scene for a whole generation, and throughout the fifties and sixties was one of the leading Third World politicians preaching nonalignment and neutrality.

Nobody seems more competent to tell the tragic story of Cambodia in the past decade. Of course, there are subjective judgements in Sihanouk's version of the story. But there is authenticity in his words. In the years of Pol Pot's cruel regime, Sihanouk lost a great part of his family, including 5 children and 11 grandchildren. His present staunch opposition to the return of the Red Khmers to power in Cambodia is based on strong moral and national grounds: Cambodia has to be saved from ideological perversion and genocide.

Yet Prince Sihanouk would also like to free his country from the Vietnamese occupation. He is searching for a political solution. He well understands that the Vietnamese represent a force in Indochina, and a military confrontation would only add to the suffering of his people. In October 1979, Prince Sihanouk wrote three letters to Pham Van Dong "as one of the very few Khmers who refuse to hate Communist Vietnam and who want at all costs to save the friendship between our two peoples from being shipwrecked". He proposed negotiations to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem, but he received no reply. Hanoi, apparently, reasoned that no answer was necessary because Sihanouk did not command any military force anymore. It may, however, be that Hanoi was mistaken. Prince Sihanouk represents a force - a force of nationalism and an esteem within Cambodia capable of restoring national unity and peace.

The solution proposed by Sihanouk is a neutral Cambodia, a policy which helped Cambodia to survive so many crises in the past. There is political wisdom in such a solution. The problem is to adapt the concept of neutrality to the new situation - with Vietnam the dominant power in Indochina, and the Vietnam-China confrontation being in the long run the most acute danger to peace in the region.

The interviews with Prince Sihanouk recorded by P. Schier and M. Schier-Oum may help us to enhance our understanding of the actual dynamics of the conflict over Cambodia.

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