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LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1966 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THAILAND ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 17 and 24 May 1966 addressed to the President of the Security Council by the Cambodian Representative.

The two letters accused the Thai armed forces of having made large-scale warlike operations at Phra Viharn between 14 April and 5 May 1966.

On the instruction of my Government and further to my letter No. 356/2509 dated 29 April 1966, I have the honour to inform you that, upon receipt of Cambodian accusations, the Thai competent authorities have conducted careful and thorough investigations into the matter but found no evidence to show that any member of the Thai armed forces had crossed the border into Cambodia at or around the alleged time and place so as to be in a position to attack the Cambodian guard post of Phra Viharn or to occupy that temple.

On the contrary, the Thai Government has received the following confirmed reports from the border authorities of Srisakes Province concerning the continuation of aggressive and provocative activities coming from Cambodian armed personnel situated in the Phra Viharn area:

On 18 April 1966

At about 06.05 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post fired with rifles at a section of Thai border policemen on observation duty well within Thai territory.

On 19 April 1966

At about 16.25-17.00 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post fired about 100 rounds of machine-guns and automatic rifles together with 60 rounds of heavy mortar into Thai territory.

At about 18.05-18.20 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post again fired 6 rounds of heavy mortar at a section of Thai border policemen on observation duty well within Thai territory.

On 21 April 1966

At about 07.20 hours, Cambodian soldiers from various positions at the foot and on the gradient of Phra Viharn promontary fired about 8 rounds of heavy mortar into Thai territory.

On 23 April 1966

At about 14.55 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post fired 3 rounds of mortar into Thai territory.

On 25 April 1966

At about 11.45 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post fired 2 rounds of mortar into Thai territory.

On 5 May 1966

At about 05.00 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post again fired 2 rounds of mortar into Thai territory.

At about 17.30 hours, Cambodian soldiers from Phra Viharn post fired 80 rounds of mortar into Thai territory.

The above reports clearly confirmed that Cambodian personnel at Phra Viharn post opened fire with heavy weapons into Thai territory to provoke the Thai border policemen into taking drastic action. Having failed to gain any substantial advantage from such provocation, the Cambodian Representative to the United Nations was then ordered to make the false accusations against Thailand.

Once again the Government of Cambodia resorted to the usual tactic of falsifying the fact to mislead world public opinion. Not one member of the Thai border police nor any member of the Thai armed forces suffered casualties as claimed by the Cambodian authorities through the series of wild attacks by the Cambodians on 19 April and 5 May 1966. The Thai Government is, therefore, confident that the States Members will recognize the contents of the two Cambodian letters under reference as false and malicious inventions.

I should be obliged if you would have the text of this communication
circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Anand PANYARACHUN
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

