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Fortieth year

Letter dated 29 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, the text of a statement dated 25 January 1985, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, denouncing and condemning the policy of famine pursued by the Hanoi authorities in Kampuchea.

I should be most grateful if you would arrange for this text to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "The situation in Kampuchea" and "Development and international economic co-operation: food problems", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIONN Prasith  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative  
of Democratic Kampuchea

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Coalition Government  
of Democratic Kampuchea denouncing and condemning the policy of famine  
pursued by the Hanoi authorities in Kampuchea

This year, the people of Kampuchea face a serious food shortage due to the deliberate policy systematically pursued by the Hanoi authorities to starve them. To this end, the Vietnamese aggressors put their barbarous policy into practice through the following measures:

1. With their weapons, they force the population to live in concentration villages along the roads, far from their lands and rice-fields. These villages are enclosed and watched over to prevent the population from leaving to engage in production activities. Anyone who dares to do so is shot or arrested and imprisoned, charged with being in contact with the Democratic Kampuchea guerrillas.
2. They round up all the population - men, women, children and old people - to make them clear the forest along the national roads, railways and waterways, forcing them to abandon their lands and rice-fields. Even when the ploughing season starts, the Vietnamese aggressors do not allow them to return to their villages or districts. In the villages where the population manages to grow some food, the Vietnamese aggressors prevent them from harvesting it and loot the paddy in the fields to supply their armed forces.

The population living in the eastern part of Kampuchea, in the provinces of Siemreap, Prey Veng, Kratie, Kompong Speu, Takeo, etc., have been rounded up and brought by the Vietnamese aggressors to clear the forest along national roads Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 and along the railway up to the western border of Kampuchea, along road No. 12 from Kompong Thom to Preah Vihear, from Kralanh to Samrong-Oddar Meanchey, along road No. 10, from Battambang to Pailin, including the forest surrounding the monuments of Angkor, etc.

3. Concurrently with these measures, the Vietnamese aggressors have forced the population of all the provinces to supply them an average of 10 kilograms of rice per house per month. Failure to do so is penalized by the destruction and looting of houses and villages.

Such is the barbarous policy of the Vietnamese aggressors who do everything to starve and loot our people so as to supply their forces in Kampuchea. This is the policy of genocide pursued by the Vietnamese enemy in Kampuchea with the aim of swallowing and annexing Kampuchea.

The serious food shortage which our people are now facing does not stem from climatic calamities, drought or flood, as is fallaciously claimed by the Vietnamese aggressors.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea denounces and condemns with the utmost vigour and indignation this barbarous policy of the Vietnamese enemy towards the people of Kampuchea. It calls on world public opinion, and in particular the international humanitarian organizations, to take duly into account the Vietnamese aggressors' crimes and to stop providing humanitarian aid to the Vietnamese aggressors, who will not fail to use it to supply their army and continue their genocidal war in Kampuchea.

Democratic Kampuchea,  
25 January 1985.

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