

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/62
11 January 1980
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda item 123

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Letter dated 10 January 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith to you the text of the statement made by His Excellency Mr. Heng Samrin, President of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and President of the People's Revolutionary Council at the meeting held in Phnom Penh on 7 January 1980 in commemoration of the liberation of Phnom Penh.

I request you kindly to have this statement and this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "The situation in Kampuchea".

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam to the United
Nations

ANNEX

Statement of President Heng Samrin at the meeting
in Phnom Penh

SPK (Phnom Penh, 7 January)

At a meeting held today in Phnom Penh to commemorate the victory of 7 January, Mr. Heng Samrin, President of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and President of the People's Revolutionary Council reviewed the action taken by the Government and people of Kampuchea since the overthrow of the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime.

The President reported on the progress of the heroic struggle of Kampuchea and its armed forces which have been able to take advantage of the crushing counter-offensive launched by the People's Army of Viet Nam, and to co-ordinate their action with this counter-offensive by combining uprisings with military attacks in order to speedily put an end to the barbaric rule of the régime in the pay of the Peking expansionists.

Emphasizing the importance of this victory, the President stressed:

"The aggression, provoked by the reactionary authorities in Peking who wished to use the blood of Kampuchean and their territory to attack the revolution and progressively annex the countries of Indo-China and South-East Asia, has been decisively repulsed.

"This victory has laid a solid foundation for durable peace and security in the region. The disagreements and the antagonism created by the adventurers of Peking and the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique in the Indochinese peninsula have disappeared. The solidarity which has long united the Kampuchean people and their neighbours, especially the fraternal peoples of Viet Nam and Laos, has been restored and has grown stronger. How great would the genocide practised against our people have been without the victory of 7 January 1979? What forms of extortion would the Peking expansionists have committed against the peoples of South-East Asia? Nevertheless, international forces which are hostile to us and which have not accepted this event today are still persisting in their arrogance and condemning our cause of liberation. They are continuing to maintain them through their acts of banditry in the hope of re-establishing their genocidal regime in our country."

Reviewing the successes achieved last year in all fields, the President stated:

"Let us recall the desolation which until recently prevailed in our country: during its almost four years of bloody rule, the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique ruined the foundations of the national economy and decimated our

people. The entire country was engulfed in extreme poverty, the work force was exhausted, rice fields were devastated and families were scattered. The People's Revolutionary Council, the State power which managed all the affairs of the country which was left in a state of utter destitution, vigorously implemented the political programme of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and immediately undertook the most urgent tasks: to help millions of our countrymen to return to their places of origin, to find work and to relocate their relatives. The fascist mandatory work régime imposed by the new slave masters in the so-called communes was abolished. On the one hand, we urgently called upon the Governments and the peoples of Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to supply us with food, seeds, medicine and means of transportation. On the other hand, our countrymen, having suffered the same misfortunes, helped one another enthusiastically. For that reason, our people were able to resume their normal life as soon as possible. During 1979 our people actively and with great initiative sought to remedy the lack of seeds and tools; they set up more than 45,000 solidarity groups which co-operated with one another in the cultivation of more than 1 million hectares of rice and other food crops and which are now bringing in the first harvest since the liberation. Many enterprises have been re-established and have resumed their activities. In Phnom Penh alone 40 of them are functioning again and the roads are once again filled with traffic. The Phnom Penh-Kompong Som railroad has been restored to service. The port of Kompong Som has received ships of up to 8,000 tons. The port of Phnom Penh has been able to accommodate ships of 4,000 tons, and aircraft from several international airlines have landed at the airport of Pochentong.

"However, the most urgent task was to combat the famine left in the wake of the genocidal régime, which affected millions of people. Displaying profound sympathy towards our people, Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries sent us more than 200,000 tons of food and medicines, just when they were needed. A number of international organizations, such as the International Red Cross, UNICEF and various charities, have also made substantial contributions. Overcoming countless difficulties from the beginning, the authorities of all the organizations involved have mobilized every available means in an effort to keep these supplies moving, day and night, in order for them to be distributed to the population as quickly as possible. In this connexion, the People's Revolutionary Council has frequently expressed its sincere gratitude for all such charitable international aid to our people. We have been obliged to overcome a great many transportation problems in order to receive international aid in a satisfactory manner. Almost all international organizations and foreign observers have praised the efforts our State and our people have made in this connexion. We categorically condemn any attempt to slander or to engage in strident propaganda about our struggle against famine, as well as any attempt to paint a gloomy picture of social realities in Kampuchea or to put malevolent pressure on our people; we categorically condemn any attempt

to provide supplies to the remnants of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary troops or to other reactionaries, or to provide refuge for their activities aimed at undermining the Kampuchean revolution.

"From this rostrum, I wish solemnly to state that, since the liberation, the volume of the timely, disinterested, substantial and effective humanitarian aid provided by the Soviet Union, Viet Nam and other fraternal socialist countries far exceeds that provided by other countries. We categorically reject the persistent and cynical allegations of hostile forces, slandering the assistance provided in a lofty spirit of internationalism by the fraternal socialist countries, and we strongly denounce the slander levelled against our production capacity and our ability to combat the famine, both of which are showing increasing promise."

President Heng Samrin drew special attention to the efforts of the people in building up the armed forces and the efforts of the revolutionary power at all levels in restoration activities in other areas. He said:

"The revolutionary armed forces, which began as small, scattered units, have today become large units, specializing in different technical fields and having artillery and tanks. With the rapid training of the three categories of forces - the regular forces, the regional forces and the people's militia - we have trained an appreciable number of cadres in the revolutionary army's foremost military schools. Last year, by destroying enemy places of refuge and persuading enemy troops to capitulate, the revolutionary forces and the people's militia put tens of thousands of enemy soldiers out of commission, thus striking a fatal blow to the remains of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary troops and to the other counter-revolutionary armed groups, destroying and paralysing their forces.

"As a first step, the popular authorities at all levels have been supported and strengthened by these victories, and thousands of workers dedicated to the task of national construction and defence have taken over the revolutionary power and are in charge of organizing the masses. Religion is respected, temples and pagodas have been restored, and reordination ceremonies have been held in several places for monks whom the fascist régime had forced to abandon their religion.

"Another important political event was the convening of the Second Congress of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea. The Congress defined a programme of action with a view to strengthening and enlarging the national united bloc and giving a strong impetus to the task of national construction and defence. The country's prestige has been growing steadily. The foreign policy pursued by the Front has been welcomed favourably. Twenty-nine countries and two national liberation movements have recognized Kampuchea and several of these have established diplomatic relations with it. Fraternal solidarity with the socialist countries has become stronger and has developed in depth,

particularly with Viet Nam and Laos, since the signing of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between Kampuchea and Viet Nam, and following the visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong and of President Souphanouvong. Several high-level delegations from Kampuchea have been invited to visit fraternal countries and to participate in important conferences.

"The judgements handed down by the People's Revolutionary Tribunal against the genocidal criminals, Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, have had a far-reaching impact throughout the world. The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique is becoming increasingly isolated and excluded from the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. In fact, it is nothing more than a political corpse. The situation is steadily improving, and the revolutionary power is growing stronger. A climate of joy, happiness and vitality reigns throughout the entire country.

"The success achieved has exceeded all hopes: one year after the liberation of a society in which there remained only 44 physicians and in which millions of people were emaciated, two million inhabitants have already received medical attention. In addition to the three hospitals at Phnom Penh, every province and town have their own health establishments. Every district has a dispensary. There are medical and health stations and health officials in almost every commune. Two hundred thousand patients have been treated throughout the country. One important fact is that, even after a long, genocidal war, we have been able to prevent the outbreak of any large-scale epidemic.

"From a society in which four fifths of the teachers and intellectuals were put to death, in which nine schools of higher education and thousands of secondary and primary schools were turned into prisons or barracks, the revolutionary power has built a new society in which there are more than 700,000 students and 13,000 classes. The recent reopening of the school of medicine and of the first school of general higher education at Phnom Penh is particularly significant for hundreds of students. The appeal of the revolutionary régime and the benevolent warmth of the school have attracted more than 13,000 people, who now have the task of conveying knowledge to an entire generation which had been deprived of education for several years. A new, revolutionary and healthy culture has emerged: travelling film groups, theatrical companies, and the national choral and dance ensembles have resumed their activities in the service of the people. Historic sites and works of art have been preserved, classified and repaired with the greatest care. The success of the national company's tour to Viet Nam and Laos has had favourable effects. Music and singing are heard throughout the country ... sports activities have gradually been resumed."

Lastly, the President defined the tasks currently before the people and revolutionary armed forces of Kampuchea:

"The current task for the people as a whole is to unite closely together under the banner of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea, to carry out all the directives of the People's Revolutionary Council, the sole authentic representative of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and to redress the national economy with a view to building an independent, peaceful, democratic and non-aligned Kampuchea moving towards prosperous socialism. It is important to understand the situation thoroughly and to grasp the new aspects of the profound changes occurring in the country and in the world; it is important to have confidence in one's own strength, to exercise vigilance at all times and always to be prepared to thwart the enemy's every manoeuvre, however it may be disguised and whenever it may occur. At the present time, the Kampuchean people are being called upon to carry out the following tasks:

In the political field

"Our compatriots and soldiers are being called upon to unite in a single bloc and to take part, as masters, in the consolidation of the revolutionary power. Emanating from the people and for the people, our administration is an organ of power that represents the interests and aspirations of the people as a whole. One of the most important goals at present is to strengthen this power at all levels. Once this task has been accomplished, we will be in a good position to proceed to organize elections for the people's committees at the various levels and for the first National Assembly of our new régime.

Economic and cultural affairs

"In the agricultural sector, we are striving to ensure that farmers have seeds and animals for reproduction and to provide them with farming implements, in so far as possible. We must finish harvesting the crops and distribute the fruits of our labour; we must utilize manpower and draft animals efficiently and scientifically with a view to eliminating most of the effects of the famine. The cultivation of hevea, sugar palms and other tropical industrial crops of considerable economic value should be safeguarded or resumed, and such crops should be grown and processed in accordance with a clearly defined plan.

"In industry, the objective is to do our utmost to put large enterprises back in operation and to initiate competition in the production of those consumer goods most needed by the population. Currently there is an urgent need to train executives in economic management. Transportation services, especially at the provincial level, must be reinforced and reorganized.

"It is important to pay close attention to cultural life, education and health, and to increase artistic activities for the masses with a view to raising the intellectual standard of living of the people.

"It is also important to adopt the attitude of relying primarily on one's own strength, of working in order to receive additional international assistance, particularly from Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, and of drawing up a plan to supplement this extremely valuable source of aid in order to rebuild our beloved homeland.

Defence and security

"The people, through their solid support, and the soldiers and officers of the revolutionary armed forces are all being asked to redouble their vigilance, enthusiastically to vie with each other for training, to stand ready for combat, and to carry out all the tasks entrusted to them by the revolution. The foremost task of the revolutionary armed forces is to shatter every act of sabotage and infiltration committed by reactionary forces of whatever description, to ensure political order, to defend the revolutionary power and to protect production and the life and property of the population.

Foreign affairs

"Our people persist in following a foreign policy based on peace and friendship among nations in accordance with the principles of respect for national sovereignty and independence, of equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. They are striving to deepen their fraternal solidarity with the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos, the Soviet Union and of other fraternal socialist countries, and with nationally independent countries within the Non-Aligned Movement; they are struggling alongside the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America against old and new forms of colonialism and against racism, and in favour of national and social liberation; the Kampuchean people warmly welcome the new peace initiative of the Soviet Government and the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on hegemonism.

"We warmly welcome the joint communiqué issued at the close of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Laos held recently in Phnom Penh; we attach great importance to this event and consider it to be an exemplary gesture stemming from the particularly close solidarity and from the spirit of peace, friendship and co-operation among the three fraternal peoples in the face of manoeuvres and activities directed against the task of national construction in which the three peoples are engaged.

"On the basis of this position, we have resolved to thwart, step by step, the evil designs of the Beijing expansionists, of American imperialism and of other reactionary forces which maintain and encourage the remains of straggling troops and reactionaries opposed to the revolution. As the People's Revolutionary Council has said, it welcomes all the efforts and acts of goodwill which countries and international

organizations have made on behalf of the Kampuchean people. However, it categorically rejects and considers to be null and void any resolution adopted and any discussion held by whatever conference, if they run counter to the sovereignty and interests of Kampuchea."

Denouncing the treacherous manoeuvres of Beijing expansionism and of imperialism, President Heng Samrin stressed, as follows:

"At the present time, the Beijing expansionists, in close collusion with American imperialism and other reactionary circles, are seeking to interfere in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, to unite, inter alia, the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary, Lon Nol, In Tam, Sihanouk and Sonn Sann cliques, to form a so-called 'neutral' Government which, however, is favourable towards Beijing and imperialism and which is used as a tool to restore the genocidal régime and to transform Kampuchea into a base from which to launch aggression against the independence and freedom of the three countries of the Indo-Chinese peninsula. With a view to the survival of the nation and in the interest of these three peoples, we are constantly cultivating and strengthening the active solidarity between these three peoples. In accordance with the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between Kampuchea and Viet Nam, we have asked the troops of the People's Army of Viet Nam to remain a little longer in order to fight alongside the people and army of Kampuchea against enemy sabotage and aggression. This effort concerns only these two countries and does not threaten any other country. The threat in the frontier region, if such a threat exists, clearly comes from Thailand. Starting from areas beyond the frontier, reactionaries of every description - especially those headed by Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, recognized by Thailand and the ASEAN countries, and supplied by Beijing and the imperialists - are steadily infiltrating into Kampuchean territory, sabotaging security, order and the work of national reconstruction, and threatening the independence and sovereignty of Kampuchea as well as peace and stability of this part of the world. The tension along the frontier with Thailand is being provoked by Thailand and is contrary to the interests and aspirations of both peoples. Once again, we wish to reaffirm our policy of peace, friendship and co-operation with neighbouring countries. Once again, we wish to appeal to Thailand to respond positively to our sincere desire to build, with Thailand, a frontier of lasting friendship in keeping with tradition and with the interests and aspirations of both countries."

In conclusion, President Heng Samrin stated:

"Last year, the world revolutionary movement, which is growing steadily, strongly encouraged the Kampuchean people to move forward. The vile acts of aggression initiated by the Beijing authorities against Viet Nam have been a complete failure. Nor is it by chance that eight bloodthirsty dictatorships were toppled in 1979: Pol Pot in Kampuchea, Pahlavi in Iran, Idi Amin in Uganda, Somoza in Nicaragua, Macias Nguema in Equatorial Guinea, Bokassa in the Central African Republic, Carlos Romero in El Salvador and Park Chung Hee in South Korea.

"It should be noted that one of the most brutal régimes and one of the most brutal henchmen were toppled in Kampuchea in the first few days of 1979.

"With these comments and inspired by the lively enthusiasm created by our grand celebration, we are entering the new year with fervour and confidence."
