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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 25 February 1980 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the statement of 20 February 1980 by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 22 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIONN Prasith
Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea

* A/35/50.

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN
FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

20 February 1980

The Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea would like to make the following statement to express the deep concern of the Democratic Kampuchea Government about the fate of the Kampuchean refugees whom the UN High Commissioner for Refugees plans to hand over to the Vietnamese aggressors and occupying forces.

As the world public opinion is aware of, the root of the refugee problem lies with the Hanoi's authorities, either these refugees are Vietnamese, Kampuchean or Laotian. These refugees have been forced to leave their home by hundreds of thousands, or even by millions, so as to escape from the Hanoi's authorities which exploit, pillage and persecute them and threatens their lives.

It was not of their own free will that hundreds of thousands of Kampucheans have left their country. So as to survive, they have simply tried to escape from the war of racial extermination committed by the Hanoi's authorities. The already 2 million Kampuchean deads have not been killed by a classical war, but they have been massacred by an enemy who have used against them military weapons, famine and toxic chemical products following a deliberate policy. Just now, this enemy continue to kill thousands of Kampuchean every day.

Some people think that the Le-Duan clique and its running dogs in Phnom Penh accept that the refugees return in the region under their control. But in actual fact, by carrying out this sneaking manoeuvre, Hanoi wants:

- First, to cover up its criminal hands and legalize its aggression;
- Second, to appropriate to itself humanitarian relief intended for the refugees;
- Third, when the Kampuchean refugees will be under its thumb, it will persecute and massacre them within the framework of its policy of genocide.

/...

Just like the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people, the majority of peoples and countries in the world are well aware of the fact that the problem of the Kampuchean refugees will remain unsolved as long as the Vietnamese troops continue to occupy Kampuchea. To hand the Kampuchean refugees over to the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet in Phnom Penh is to send them into a huge crematorium.

That is why, endowed with national conscience and as the sole legal Government of the Kampuchean people, responsible of the destiny of its nation and people, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea calls upon the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations, all governments and countries that cherish peace and justice the world over to take concrete measures so as to prevent hundreds of thousands of Kampuchean refugees from falling into the Vietnamese executioners' hands.

The Kampucheans have left their beloved land because they have been forced to do so. They will return home only when the enemy have withdrawn, or in places where their security is assured, as some of them have already done, in particular in the region controlled by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea is fully aware of the heavy burden laid on the people and the Royal Government of Thailand for their security as well as in the economic, social and other fields, and it has, as rule of conduct, the task to receive progressively all the Kampucheans refugees. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea hopes that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations and all peace-and justice-loving governments will take its viewpoint into consideration.
