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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Items 22 and 76 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 12 March 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 text of a communiqué issued by the Ligue vietnamienne des droits de l'homme (Vietnamese League for Human Rights) dated 4 March 1980.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22 and 76 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN PRASITH
Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea

* A/35/50.

ANNEX

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE LIGUE VIETNAMIENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

NOTE ON THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE HANOI AUTHORITIES
IN THEIR WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST KAMPUCHEA

On the basis of the following reliable and consistent information:

1. Accounts given by Khmer refugees who have been victims of the crimes committed by the Hanoi authorities in Kampuchea;
2. Reports by numerous journalists representing a broad cross-section of world opinion;
3. Investigations carried out by various political figures and representatives of different schools of thought and the arts;
4. Reports drawn up by the representatives of humanitarian agencies and international organizations;

It has been determined that:

Since its aggression against Kampuchea in December 1978, the Government of Hanoi has been pursuing a systematic policy of racial extermination of the Khmer people with the aim of turning the country into a colony for settlement. This war of aggression, which is increasingly becoming a war of genocide, is both a crime against peace and the greatest crime against humanity.

I. FROM WAR OF AGGRESSION TO WAR OF GENOCIDE:

In their fiendish military enterprise, the Hanoi authorities are resorting to the weapon of famine, to military and economic terrorism and to other criminal acts.

A. The weapon of famine, supreme weapon for the elimination of the Khmer race:

In this new hellish war, Hanoi's troops of occupation, on explicit orders from the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, are systematically destroying and pillaging the economy and agriculture of Kampuchea, right down to the most rudimentary tools of production. In order to prevent the people from producing needed supplies and harvesting their rice, the Vietnamese troops have gone as far as to seize sickles and other farm implements, destroy crops or confiscate the harvest.

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B. Terrorism against the worn out and starving civilian population

In an organized and sustained campaign of terror, ranging from search-and-destroy operations to massacres, the occupation forces are provoking movements of panic among the people and mass movements along the endless death routes. They are causing the mass exodus of starving and worn out people who are doomed to certain death.

C. Misappropriation of humanitarian assistance intended for the Khmer people:

The food aid and other assistance provided by humanitarian organizations are not reaching the needy and hungry. They are misappropriated for the use of the occupation forces, which resell them on the spot for exorbitant prices or send them on to Hanoi. The occupation authorities, with the help of their puppets, are creating countless obstacles to the direct distribution of assistance to the people. Thus, children are dying of hunger in Kampuchea in the very shadow of tons of rice which have been confiscated. In the space of a few months, a half million Kampucheans have had to flee Hanoi's occupation and take refuge in Thai territory.

D. The establishment of Vietnamese settlers:

Following their invasion of Kampuchea, the Hanoi authorities initiated a programme of establishing Vietnamese settlers on the lands abandoned by Khmers fleeing from the invading army. The first settlements were established in the areas east of the Mekong River and especially in the Great Lake region of Tonlé Sap. Settlement has also been extended westward.

This special war waged by the Vietnamese Communist Party under the leadership of Le Duan has all the markings of a genuine war of genocide since the aim is gradually and completely to remove the Khmer race from the territory of Kampuchea and to replace it with settlers from North Viet Nam. In this special war, famine is not only a means of enforcing imperialist domination, but also a fiendish weapon for the extermination of the Khmer race.

II. FROM CRIME AGAINST PEACE TO CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY:

Obviously the invasion of Kampuchea by Hanoi's army constitutes a gross violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. It is a crime against peace.

In accordance with the provisions of chapter VII of the Paris Agreement of 27 January 1973 concerning Viet Nam and the provisions of the Geneva Agreements of 21 July 1954 on Indo-China, the Government of Hanoi must respect the fundamental national rights and neutrality of Kampuchea. It must withdraw all its occupation forces and other military and administrative personnel from the territory of Kampuchea unconditionally and without delay. It must desist from intervening in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and from supporting the puppet régime of Heng Samrin.

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The protection of innocent civilian populations in armed conflicts is a basic and inviolable principle of humanitarian law. By resorting to strategic terrorism against the defenceless and starving Khmer people, the Hanoi authorities are behaving like true war criminals, committing gross violations of the imprescriptible rules of humanitarian law, in particular, the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

By pursuing a strategy of exterminating the Khmer people in Kampuchea by means of the fiendish weapon of famine, the Hanoi authorities are behaving like war criminals and are committing the most unspeakable crime against humanity - genocide. They have made themselves outlaws in the eyes of human society, according to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 260 A (III) of 9 December 1948.

The peoples of Kampuchea and Viet Nam want nothing more than to live in peace, independence and harmony. The war of aggression and genocide waged by the Hanoi authorities against the people of Kampuchea is at variance with the profound aspirations for peace and good-neighbourly relations of the Vietnamese peoples, who themselves are the victims of the Gulag system created by the Hanoi authorities within the country. It is the height of hypocrisy for the Hanoi authorities to claim that they are bringing freedom to a neighbouring people, while abridging freedom at home. In order to escape from this régime of terror, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have braved the sea to seek refuge abroad.

International opinion and peace- and justice-loving peoples must be urgently mobilized with a view to convening a tribunal to judge the Hanoi authorities for their crimes against peace and humanity.

Paris, 4 March 1980

LIGUE VIETNAMIENNE DES
DROITS DE L'HOMME
