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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fifth session
Items 22, 34 and 76 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
WEAPONS
INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 11 April 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 document entitled "Toxic chemicals spreadings, poison gas shell firings and other forms of chemical arm used by the Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea (July 1979 to March 1980)" (annex I) and photographs of victims of the poison gas used by the Vietnamese forces of aggression in Kampuchea (annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have this text and the photographs circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22, 34 and 76 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea

* A/35/50.

ANNEX I

**TOXIC CHEMICALS SPREADINGS,
POISON GAS SHELL FIRINGS**

AND OTHER FORMS OF CHEMICAL ARM USED
BY THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN KAMPUCHEA

July 1979 . March 1980

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A. TOXIC CHEMICALS SPREADINGS : (JULY-NOVEMBER 1979)

- July 25 and 26, August 28 and 29, 1979:

- Spreadings of toxic chemical products at Mount Reachtornng, north of Kirirom, province of Kampong Speu.

- 8 persons killed (3 old-aged persons, 2 children of 11 years old and 3 children of 3 years old) and several others poisoned mostly old people, pregnant women and children.

The victims show the following symptoms: burning of skin (to be compared with that caused by fire), vomitings, dizziness, fever and death.

- September 5 and 6, 1979:

- Spreadings of toxic chemical products at Andaung Toek and Thmar Baing, province of Koh Kong.

- 6 persons killed (an old woman, 3 children and 2 pregnant women) and 10 persons severely poisoned.

The effects of the product are as follows : icy feeling on skin followed a short while after by intense heat and brain-fever leading to death.

- October 1, 2 and 3, 1979:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals on the Western region of Battambang province between Pailin and Poipet.

- 15 persons killed (3 old men, 2 old women, 2 adolescents, 3 women and 5 children) while many others are in serious condition.

The used product such as that used against mosquitoes remains stuck on leaves of trees. Any person who breathes it feels immediately dizzy, collapses, bleeds from the mouth, drivels plentifully, falls in agony and subsequently dies. Cultures such as rice, corn, beans, manioc fade away and then are dead.

- October 20, 1979:

- Spreadings carried out by Mig planes on the districts of Chhouk and Koh Sla (province of Kampot), Phnom Sruoch and Kong Pisei (province of Kampong Speu) and Trambak (province of Takeo).

- 3 persons killed, 12 others poisoned.

The used product causes fever, swellings of face, lips and all the body, bleeding from the mouth and then death.

- October 26, 1979:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals along highway No 10, between Paing Roloem and Pailin, province of Battambang.
- 2 children killed, 18 persons poisoned, all cultures destroyed.

The product is the same as that used in the Pailin-Poipet region.

- October 28, 1979:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals on the region stretching from Reaing Khvav (Pursat province) up to Mount Aural.
- 83 persons have been killed. (mostly children, pregnant women and old persons.)

The chemicals look like anti-mosquitoes product. In contact with skin, it causes burning along with high temperature and haemorrhage of blood from the mouth and then death.

- November 5, 1979:

- New spreadings on the districts of Toek Phos, Baribaur (Kampong Chhnang province) and on the district of Leach (Pursat province).
- 35 persons killed, 72 others poisoned.
- 2 spreadings on the same region within one week.

The toxic chemical products, yellow in colour, burn skin, emit an odour which causes dizziness, bleeding from the mouth and ears and subsequently lead to death.

- November 10, 11 and 12, 1979:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals on the Western part of the district of Leach (Pursat province).
- 3 persons killed (2 old people and one child) and 15 others poisoned.

The toxic chemical product has a yellow colour. It causes burnings, bleeding from the mouth, fever, diarrhea and death.

B. DISTRIBUTION OF POISONOUS FOOD AND MEDICINES :

(NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1979)

- Mid-November, 1979:

The Vietnamese occupier has distributed poisonous red corn to the population in the districts of Sisonhon and Mongkolborei, causing the death and poisoning of several hundreds of persons.

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- Mid-November and beginning of December, 1979:

Distributions of poisonous red corn have also taken place in several districts of the Eastern region. Hundreds of persons have also been poisoned.

Meanwhile, in Phnom Penh and in Oudong, poisons have been distributed or sold as medicines by Vietnamese "physicians", killing several dozens of persons.

C. POISON GAS SHELL FIRINGS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS SPREADINGS :

(JANUARY-MARCH 1980)

- January 14, 1980:

- Poison gas shell firings at Sen Honorom (one locality of Mondulkiri province in the North-East).
- 16 persons killed and 21 severely poisoned.

- January 15, 17 and 20, 1980:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals on the Western part of the district of Leach, Pursat province.
- 17 persons killed (8 old persons, 5 children, 4 pregnant women) and 60 poisoned, 25 of them severely.

The chemical product, yellow in colour is more toxic than any of the previous ones. The afflicted persons experience dry throats, coughing fits, stiffening of the jaws and body and subsequently die.

- January 17, 1980:

- More than 100 poison gas shells were fired on the district of Thmar Baing, Koh Kong province.
- 4 persons killed and 30 poisoned.

- January 20, 1980:

The population of Sdao (district of Samlaut, Battambang province) has been victim of a distribution of poisonous corn. 50 families have been severely affected and many persons have been killed.

On January 25, 1980, the population of the same village has been the target of a poison gas shelling which killed 10 people and poisoned many others.

- January 25, 1980:

New poison gas shellings at Thmar Baing (8 persons killed) and spreadings of chemical products at Koh Kong province.

- January 26, 1980:

- Poison gas shellings between Taing Sou, Aur Lak, Vat Tatouy and Pailin, Battambang province.
- 4 people killed, 20 others severely poisoned.

The poison gas causes disturbances of vision, dizziness, choking, fainting and then bleeding from the mouth, nose and anus. It causes death in 24 to 48 hours if the victim is within a radius of 100 to 200 metres and can cause malaise beyond that distance.

- From January 26 to February 5, 1980:

- Poison gas shellings and toxic chemicals spreadings have taken place in the sector of Pailin-Kamrieng and the Western part of the district of Leach (Pursat province).
- About 100 people were killed and wounded.

- February 1, 2 and 3, 1980:

Poison gas shells were fired by 105mm cannons at Taing Sou, Aur Ta Em and in the forests and mounts located in the South of Pailin.

- February 3, 1980:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals at Kamrieng.
- 10 people killed and 25 poisoned.

- February 6 and 7, 1980:

Spreadings of toxic chemicals and poison gas shellings at Pailin and Kamrieng, bringing to more than 100 the figures of victims within a dozen days. On the same day, toxic chemicals spreadings and poison gas shellings at Leach: 35 people killed and poisoned.

- February 7 and 8, 1980:

- Poison gas shellings at Pailin and Kamrieng.
- 8 people killed and 38 poisoned, 15 of them severely.

- February 20 and 21, 1980:

- Spreadings of toxic chemicals on the Western part of Leach.
- 3 people killed and 13 poisoned.

- February 27, 1980:

- Poison gas shellings in the region of Pailin (Taing Sou, mountains and forests around Pailin).
- 8 people killed and 17 poisoned.

- March 7 and 9, 1980:

- Poison gas shellings at the villages located in the upper part of Koh Kong province.
- 1 person killed and 13 poisoned.

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- March 8, 1980:

- Poison gas shellings and toxic chemicals spreadings at Sala Krao in the north of Pailin.
- 15 people killed and poisoned.

- March 15 and 16, 1980:

- Toxic chemicals spreadings and intensive poison gas shellings at the villages and guerrilla bases located between Mount Malay and Sisophon in the south of highway No 5.
- 7 people killed and 27 poisoned.

D. POISONING OF WATER SPRINGS : (SECOND FORTNIGHT OF FEBRUARY 1980)

During the second fortnight of February, many reports indicate that the Vietnamese have systematically poisoned water springs

- in the commune of Sre Chih, Kratie province.
- 20 people killed and poisoned.
- in Samlaut: the poison is put in the jars belonging to 2 families.
- the 11 members of those 2 families have been killed.
- in the district of Sandan, Kampong Thom province.
- in the district of Angkor Borei, Takeo province.
- 7 people killed (without taking into account the cattle which has suffered heavy losses).

(Worked out according to reports issued by
the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea)

APPENDIX

EFFECTS CAUSED BY POISON GAS USED BY THE VIETNAMESE IN KAMPUCHEA

On the victims situated 500 metres far from the chemical substances, the effects of the poison gas are as follows:

a) If the victims have good physical conditions, their survival do not exceed 48 hours.

Symptoms:

1- Dry throat with sensation of burning throughout oesophagus, thick salivation.

2- Difficult respiration, thoracic pain with sensation of heat, high temperature of the body with cooling of hands and feet. Worsening of the general condition, the respiration becomes dyspeptic, haemorrhage of blood from the mouth, nose and anus and subsequently death.

b) On the victims who have been brought alive to the hospital, the effects are as follows:

After a while of poisoning, the victim dies with the following symptoms:

1- Thick salivation, abdominal pain, sensation of thoracic heat, difficult respiration.

2- All these symptoms worsen. The victim becomes agitated. Cooling of hands and feet, haemorrhage of blood from the mouth, nose and then death.

The autopsy of the victims revealed the following results:

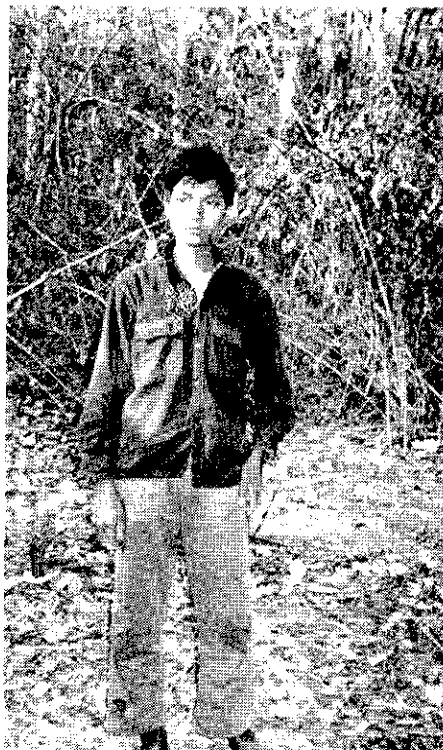
- Traces of hematoma in the lungs.
- Liver presents also traces of hematoma.
- Presence of bile in the abdomen.
- Presence of a serous liquid in the pericarp.

ANNEX II

VICTIMS OF POISON GAS SHELLS FIRED BY THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS
IN THE REGION OF PAILIN (BATTAMBANG PROVINCE) ON 26 JANUARY 1980



SAM RDEUN, 20 years old



AM SE, 36 years old