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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 21 April 1980 from the Permanent Representative  
of 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 the statement dated 17 April 1980 by Mr. Khieu Samphan, President of the State Presidium and Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the founding 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) THIOUNN Prasith  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Democratic  
Kampuchea

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\* A/35/50.

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY  
MR. KHIEU SAMPHAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE PRESIDUM AND  
PRIME MINISTER OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING  
OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

17 April 1980

Dear Compatriots,  
Dear Comrades-at-arms,

This year, like last year, we are celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Democratic Kampuchea at a time when we are engaged in a bitter struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors, expansionists, swallows of territory and racial exterminators. It is to pay homage to our nation, our people, our army and our guerrilla fighters that we are commemorating this event.

The fact that Democratic Kampuchea still stands firm is already a resounding defeat of strategic concern for the Vietnamese aggressors and represents for us all a deep source of pride.

How many times already has the Lê Duan clique arrogantly declared that it will crush the resistance of the people and the nation of Democratic Kampuchea? All our people, our army and our guerrilla fighters from all units gathered today to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the founding of Democratic Kampuchea have deflated the arrogance of the Lê Duan clique.

Scarcely 13 days remain before the end of the 1980 dry season. We may already state that the Lê Duan clique has utterly failed to achieve the objectives it set for the 1980 dry season: it has been unable either to destroy Democratic Kampuchea or to stifle the heroic struggle of the people and the nation of Kampuchea, much less to annihilate their soul and national pride.

The 250,000 men of the Vietnamese forces of aggression are deeply bogged down at the Kampuchean front, from which they will be unable to extricate themselves. The situation during the 1979/80 dry season is different from the situation in the previous year, when the Vietnamese aggressors were able to penetrate our successive lines of defence, both in the dry and the rainy seasons. During the 1979/80 dry season, especially since December 1979, whenever the Lê Duan clique has launched a search-and-destroy operation, its troops have inevitably been ensnared in the nets stretched out by our guerrilla fighters. Unceasingly harassed, exhausted and decimated, they ultimately beat a retreat.

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Our guerrilla fighters, for their part, have redoubled their initiative and stepped up their attacks against the Vietnamese troops, by using the three methods of combat. When the Vietnamese soldiers retrench themselves in their camps, our guerrilla fighters approach them and, as if on a firing range, pick them off one or two at a time. Our fighters also flatten the camps. They launch commando raids against the enemy positions or take them by assault when the occasion presents itself. On all fronts, our national army, our guerrilla fighters and our people are relentlessly attacking the Vietnamese troops of aggression and are daily inflicting upon them heavy losses amounting on average to 300 killed and wounded, not to mention the deserters and those incapacitated by malaria, colic and other diseases. Thus, the Lê Duan clique loses 9,000 to 10,000 men in Kampuchea every month. It is having difficulty in replacing those losses, despite the successive reinforcements sent by Viet Nam.

Since it is so bogged down in this dry season, the Lê Duan clique will find itself in an even graver situation during the coming rainy season, when the supply of arms and ammunition and the movement of its troops will become more difficult. Our army, our guerrilla fighters and our people will have more opportunities of eliminating an even greater number of enemy troops, cutting their lines of communication and destroying more of their positions, especially in the most remote regions. We shall have more opportunities of expanding the areas under our control, the guerrilla areas and bases, and of further reducing the regions under temporary enemy control. Hence, the coming rainy season will represent a major turning point both for us and for the enemy.

No doubt we shall still have many obstacles to overcome, since the Vietnamese aggressors, despite their difficulties, will try to cling to their positions and will persist in their efforts to exterminate the people of Kampuchea, using three kinds of weapons, the principal one being hunger. However, the most difficult times are already behind us. Our forces have been reorganized and have been developed at the political, ideological and organizational levels. Our army and our guerrilla fighters have better absorbed the principles of guerrilla warfare and particularly the three methods of combat which they are applying with increased mastery, ingenuity and effectiveness. Our guerrilla war is now testifying to their power.

As to the Lê Duan clique, while it is already crumbling from the military standpoint, the serious difficulties which it is encountering in other fields will plunge it during the approaching rainy season into a critical situation from which it will be unable to recover. The Lê Duan clique will then encounter greater obstacles, both objectively and subjectively, on the Kampuchean front, in Viet Nam and in Laos, as well as in the international arena, especially since the Soviet Union, its major economic and military supplier, is bogged down in Afghanistan and finds itself isolated in the world.

Consequently, the repeated assertions of the Lê Duan clique and its Soviet masters concerning the "irreversibility" of the situation in Kampuchea, are merely a bluff aimed at encouraging and putting pressure on various countries to force them to recognize their puppet, Hêng Samrin.

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But the Lê Duan clique is already experiencing many tribulations, since in a situation where it faces many difficulties in all fields, it does not know which way to turn.

Within the country, the last illusions concerning the future of Vietnamese aggression in Kampuchea have been dispersed, the dissensions are deepening and, in particular, the Vietnamese troops of aggression in Kampuchea, harassed and exhausted, are becoming ever more firmly opposed to the policy of aggression of the Lê Duan clique and increasing numbers of them are deserting.

At the international level, the Lê Duan clique can no longer "sell" Héng Samrin, since the whole world can clearly see that the latter is nothing less than a puppet of the Vietnamese aggressors.

We are therefore celebrating the national day of Democratic Kampuchea in a situation in which our nation, our people, our army and our guerrilla fighters in their struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors, expansionists, swallows of territory and racial exterminators, are winning major victories in the 1980 dry season, and in which changes are taking place which are increasingly favourable to us. That is a powerful encouragement for our entire people and nation, both within the country and abroad, whether in the areas controlled by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea or in those temporarily controlled by the enemy, where our compatriots, while continuing to suffer from the hunger created by the Lê Duan clique, are encouraged by the echoes reaching them of the attacks launched by the army and guerrilla fighters of Democratic Kampuchea, and, above all, they clearly see that the nation and race of Kampuchea will never disappear, come what may.

This excellent situation in the struggle of our people is also a powerful source of encouragement for all our friends, near and far, on the five continents, who now join us in celebrating the fifth anniversary of the founding of Democratic Kampuchea.

What are the factors which have enabled our army, our guerrilla fighters and our people to resist the Vietnamese aggressors? Having a larger country with a population of over 50 million inhabitants and an army of nearly one and a half million soldiers, and enjoying the considerable support and assistance of the Soviet international expansionists, the Lê Duan clique has dispatched hundreds of thousands of troops to commit aggression against our beloved Democratic Kampuchea, a small, thinly populated country.

The fact that we have been able to resist the Vietnamese aggressors, to overcome the most difficult initial period and, through our struggle, progressively to change the situation in our favour, is because:

1. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea is inspired by an ardent patriotism and an unshakable faith in the people, is genuinely born of the nation and people of Kampuchea and is determined to defend in all circumstances the

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independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, honour and dignity of the nation. That is why the Government of Democratic Kampuchea enjoys the support of the people. If it were otherwise, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea would have been unable to deploy any forces to combat the Lê Duan clique, let alone to pin down more than 250,000 Vietnamese soldiers, equipped with sophisticated Soviet weapons and supported by many tanks and artillery, and directly commanded by Soviet and Cuban advisers, while the Lê Duan clique wages a special war of racial extermination, the barbarity and cruelty of which is unprecedented in the history of mankind.

2. The army and guerrilla fighters of Democratic Kampuchea are imbued with an ardent patriotism and sublime heroism. When the storm clouds obscured the skies of Kampuchea and hundreds of thousands of troops of the Lê Duan clique surged into Kampuchea, reducing it to ashes, the army and guerrilla fighters of Democratic Kampuchea steadfastly maintained their deep love of the people and the motherland, and held firmly aloft the banner of the struggle. They fought with a sublime heroism, not flinching at any sacrifice, and showed themselves to be worthy sons of the people of Kampuchea.

At the beginning, when the Vietnamese troops of aggression, profiting from their numerical superiority, dislocated and dismembered them, our units regrouped and continued the struggle despite countless difficulties and obstacles. When the ammunition ran short, our fighters resorted to traditional weapons, setting traps and snares, felling trees to block the roads, and so on.

In the plains, the forests and the mountains, and even in the most far-flung regions throughout the territory of our Kampuchea, from the "Naga's tail", Rattanakiri and Mondulkiri to the Cardamom Mountains, from Mount Kamchay, Koh Kong to the Dangrêk range, the Kampuchean soil is everywhere bathed in the crimson blood of the heroic men and women of the army and guerrilla units of Democratic Kampuchea. At a time when our nation and our people, facing a grave peril from the special war of racial extermination waged by the Lê Duan clique, is passing through one of the most painful periods of their history, the army and guerrilla fighters of Democratic Kampuchea have again shown proof that they are truly the firmest pillars of the nation and people of Kampuchea.

3. The people of Kampuchea of all nationalities are resolutely opposed to the Vietnamese aggressors. Even when the latter carry out arrests and massacres, our people continue to support our army and our guerrilla fighters, depriving themselves in order to provide them with supplies, and wage the struggle in all its forms against the Vietnamese aggressors, expansionists, swallows of territory and racial exterminators.

All those factors contributed to the failure of the Lê Duan clique in its attempts to bring about the "Khmerization" of the military, political, administrative and economic segments of the population and forced it to continue its campaign of "Vietnamization". Thus, the Lê Duan clique was unsuccessful in organizing a puppet army which would proceed to slaughter the people of Kampuchea

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or in installing a puppet government. All business, from the lowest to the highest levels, is entirely in the hands of Vietnamese. H ng Samrin and the handful of other puppets are nothing but marionettes kept alive by the Vietnamese aggressors so that they can exhibit them to foreigners from time to time. Moreover, the Vietnamese r gime in Phnom Penh is crumbling as its Vietnamese officials, having lost all hope of subjugating the people of Kampuchea, continue to flee abroad.

4. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the Patriotic and Democratic Front of Great National Union of Kampuchea are correctly applying the new political strategy and programme of the Front by rallying and unifying increasingly large numbers of national and popular forces both inside the country and abroad and waging a war on all fronts against the Vietnamese aggressors and their expansionist and genocidal policies. The united Front's new political strategy and programme are well understood by all classes of the society in the areas controlled by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea as well as in those temporarily occupied by the Vietnamese aggressors. Consequently, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the united Front are more and more confident of the strength of the Great National Union and of the people as a whole in the struggle against Vietnamese aggression. We live in a time when the Soviet, Vietnamese and Cuban expansionists are baring their claws with the utmost ruthlessness. Therefore, once the enemy has been driven from our soil, the problem of the defence of our nation, our race, our independence and our territorial integrity will continue to be with us for a long time yet, and for a small country like ours, it will be essential to master the new line of the Front's political strategy and programme and to continue to unify the entire nation and people of Kampuchea in order to succeed in the major task of resolving that problem in the generations to come.

5. More and more of our friends in the region and throughout the world and more and more peace- and justice-loving countries are actively supporting us and collectively bringing pressure to bear against the L  Duan clique to compel it to comply with the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session by withdrawing all its aggressive forces from Kampuchea and letting the people of Kampuchea solve their own problems without outside interference.

Recent events, and particularly the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, have shown the world the danger of the aggressive and expansionist strategy of the Soviet Union, Viet Nam and Cuba. All countries in the world dedicated to independence, peace and justice should unite, without regard for their political systems, to stave off that danger before it is too late. What is more, the world is becoming aware of the magnitude of the courageous struggle being waged by the Kampuchean and Afghan peoples. They are prepared to make so many sacrifices not only to defend their nation, their race, their independence and their sovereignty, but as part of the struggle waged on the battlefields to smash the aggressive and expansionist strategy of Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and Cuba. That is why the Kampuchean and Afghan peoples must be given every assistance in their struggle and why collective pressure must be intensified against Hanoi and Moscow.

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Dear compatriots and comrades-in-arms,

There is no denying that the situation is developing in our favour and to the detriment of the Vietnamese enemy. We are advancing step by step in all fields whereas the enemy is becoming exhausted and bogged down. During the coming rainy season, the enemy will inevitably begin to collapse on the battlefield and the serious general crisis it confronts will precipitate its demise. Nevertheless and despite those enormous difficulties, the Lê Duan clique is feverishly striving to continue its special genocidal war because, for it, it is a matter of life or death.

First: it plans to continue its extermination of the Kampuchean people by using three kinds of weapons, including hunger, because it knows that if the people were strong enough, they would join forces with the army and the guerrillas to annihilate it and that it would find no escape route and could not flee in time.

Second: the Lê Duan clique plans to continue destroying our crops and our economy, an important strategy in its war of aggression and racial extermination.

That is why we must remain ever vigilant and carry out the following tasks:

1. In the first place, all comrades and comrades-in-arms of all units of the army and the guerrilla forces must continue to carry high the banner of the heroic struggle, thus honouring our glorious tradition, and must continue the struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors as one man, actively and scrupulously while retaining optimal control of the situation.

2. All our comrades-in-arms and compatriots both in the areas which we control and in temporarily occupied territory must join forces and expand production despite all obstacles and must protect, store and hide the food crops from enemy looting and destruction.

3. All Kampucheans must continue to rally around the banner of the Patriotic and Democratic Front of Great National Union of Kampuchea, to form a great union and to fight even more strenuously against the Lê Duan clique.

4. Lastly, we must continue to join with all countries of the world, without distinction as to political system, in order to force Hanoi to withdraw its army of aggression from Kampuchea and stave off the danger of Soviet and Vietnamese expansion.

On this solemn occasion, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and all the people of Kampuchea wish again to express their thanks to all friendly countries, to all their friends on the five continents and to all peace-loving and justice-loving countries throughout the world, particularly to the

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Government and people of Thailand and the other countries of South-East Asia for their active support in the just struggle now being waged by the nation and people of Kampuchea, and for the pressure brought to bear upon Hanoi to persuade it to implement the United Nations resolution.

Now that the Lê Duan clique is enmeshed in inextricable difficulties, it is feverishly engaging, with the connivance of its Soviet masters, in haggling and perfidious manoeuvres, to the detriment of the people of Kampuchea who are pouring out their blood to defend their nation and their race. It is not the objective of the Lê Duan clique and its Soviet masters to solve the problem of Kampuchea or to reduce tension in South-East Asia. They want to neutralize the pressure to which they are subjected and to divide peace- and justice-loving countries, in particular the South-East Asian countries which are putting such pressure on them.

All the Governments of South-East Asian countries see through the vile manoeuvres of Viet Nam and the Soviet Union and have reaffirmed in that regard that the problem of Kampuchea and the tension in South-East Asia can be resolved only by the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops. Otherwise, all their statements are but empty words and deceptions.

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the people of Kampuchea give their full support to the wise position taken by Thailand and the other South-East Asian countries. To solve the problem of Kampuchea and guarantee the peace and stability of the South-East Asian countries, Hanoi must withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea. Any other solution would be the equivalent of allowing the Lê Duan clique to gain time and giving it the opportunity to maintain its forces in Kampuchea, perpetuate its control over Kampuchea, pursue its own and the Soviet Union's expansionist strategy, and thus aggravate tensions.

In this ninth decade of the present century when the danger of Vietnamese and Soviet expansionism has become apparent, an independent and non-aligned Democratic Kampuchea serves as a containment barrier of the first order against Vietnamese expansionism in South-East Asia. For that reason, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the Patriotic and Democratic Front of Great National Union of Kampuchea are convinced that all Governments, all political and popular organizations and all peace- and justice-loving persons throughout the world will continue to give their support to the just struggle of the people of Kampuchea and will compel Viet Nam to conform to the United Nations resolution.

The struggle of our nation and our people still has many obstacles and difficulties to overcome, for the Lê Duan clique will pursue its extermination of our people, particularly by using hunger as a weapon, thereby turning a deaf ear to vehement condemnation by the whole of mankind. Yet thanks to the support and assistance given by all peace- and justice-loving peoples and countries throughout the world, we are firmly convinced that our nation and our people, in

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their just struggle, will score successive victories over the Vietnamese aggressors, expansionists, swallows of territory and racial exterminators. Under pressure from all sides, the Lê Duan clique will finally be forced to respect the resolution of the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly by withdrawing all its troops from Kampuchea.

Long live Democratic Kampuchea!

Long live the heroic people of Kampuchea!

Long live the heroic army and the heroic guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea!

Long live the solidarity among peace-loving and justice-loving countries throughout the world that will ward off the danger of Soviet and Vietnamese expansionism!

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