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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 10 June 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, releases dated 31 May and 6 June 1980 by the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea condemning the use of toxic chemicals by the Vietnamese occupation forces.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of these releases 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

RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA
CONDEMNING THE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS BY THE VIETNAMESE
OCCUPATION FORCES

- 31 May 1980 -

From 10 to 20 May 1980, the Vietnamese occupation forces mixed poison with dried milk (diverted from international humanitarian relief supplies) and also poisoned a number of water points along the highways from the Kampuchean-Thai frontier to the Bavel district (north-western Battambang province). According to first reports, 125 persons were killed: 22 old people, 31 women, 45 men and 27 children. In addition to these victims, there are several hundred cases of serious poisoning which will inevitably result in death.

Autopsies disclosed intestinal lesions.

The Vietnamese occupation forces who are poisoning the water in the frontier region are showing even greater cruelty in the more remote areas, where they use the full range of chemical weaponry, from poison gas to the spreading of chemical products, and including such practices as the poisoning of drinking water and the distribution of poisoned food and medicine. Hanoi has been intensifying these murderous crimes in a systematic and planned way throughout Kampuchea since the middle of the dry season, when its military situation began to deteriorate, having realized from its experiences during the dry season that it will not be able to break the people of Kampuchea. Despite the tremendous grief and devastation inflicted on them by the Vietnamese troops, the people of Kampuchea are standing firm in their struggle, ready to face any privation and, in concerted action with the national army and the guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea, are continuing a resolute fight, under the leadership of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the Patriotic and Democratic Front of Great National Union of Kampuchea, against the genocidal expansionist Vietnamese aggressors, in order to defend and perpetuate their nation and their race.

It is because of the increased strength of the nation and people of Kampuchea, who stand solidly united and inspired by a great will for independence, and because of its own ever-increasing military and political difficulties, that the Lê-Duan clique is intensifying the use of chemical weapons, in addition to the weapon of starvation and conventional weapons of all kinds, to exterminate the people of Kampuchea.

On behalf of the victims and of all the people of Kampuchea, the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea most forcefully condemns these crimes of extermination and appeals to the United Nations and all peace- and justice-loving countries to take effective measures to prevent Viet Nam from committing more of them and force it to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea, leaving the Kampuchean people to decide their own destiny without any foreign interference, in accordance with the United Nations resolution of 14 November 1979.

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ANNEX II

RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

-- 6 June 1980 --

For four consecutive days, from 27 to 30 May 1980, the Vietnamese occupation forces poisoned the watercourses up-stream from Kaun Kok, district of Thmar Sar, province of Koh Kong.

The substances used cause abdominal spasms and stiffening of the jaw, followed by loss of consciousness and subsequent death, or attacks of hysteria. According to the first reports there were six dead, including three children, five persons in a hysterical condition, including two pregnant women, and 20 other victims.

In an effort to exterminate the people of Kampuchea, Hanoi used several types of poison gas and toxic substances throughout the last dry season. Some of them cause blurred vision, dizziness, choking and bleeding from the mouth, nostrils and rectum, and death occurs within half a day. Others make the throat dry and cause vomiting, followed by stiffening of the jaw, paralysis and fever. Others again cause burns and fever upon contact, and the victims spit blood. Still others cause oedema and gangrene. These substances are all deadly.

The number of victims of poison gas and toxic substances is already very high, particularly in the forest and mountain regions. Viet Nam is now using chemical weapons in a systematic and planned way throughout Kampuchea, with the aim of exterminating the entire people of Kampuchea and thus eliminating any force capable of resisting it. Regarding such weapons as a component of its war of racial extermination, it is employing them on all fronts, particularly the north-eastern, central, northern, north-western, western and Koh Kong fronts, and is using Kampuchea as a testing-ground. If they are allowed to use chemical weapons in Kampuchea at will, Viet Nam and the USSR will not hesitate to use them against other countries and other peoples.

On behalf of the victims and of all the people of Kampuchea, the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea most forcefully condemns these savage crimes and calls upon the United Nations and peace- and justice-loving countries throughout the world to take strong and effective measures to put an end to them. However, the most effective and just way of protecting the Kampuchean people and preventing Hanoi from violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations is to force Hanoi to withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea and leave the Kampuchean people to settle their problems for themselves without foreign interference, in accordance with the United Nations resolution.
