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REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 June 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic
Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

In a statement dated 16 June 1979 transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and circulated to all Members of the Organization (A/34/327-S/13407), the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China deliberately referred in a highly tendentious manner to persons who have left Laos since 1975, the time at which the Lao People's Democratic Republic was founded.

On instructions from my Government, I am authorized to provide the following clarification, which should make it possible to view the problem in its proper context and, in particular, to unmask the malevolent intentions of the reactionary ruling circles of Peking with regard to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which is applying with respect to all countries and particularly the neighbouring countries a policy of friendship, peace, independence and strict equality.

Like all the Governments of the region, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is not indifferent to the problems posed by the flow of refugees in South-East Asia, among whom there are some tens of thousands from Laos. With regard to the latter, the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic considers that international opinion should be well informed as to their identity in order to determine in all fairness responsibility for their exodus.

* A/34/50.

I. Identification of Lao refugees

Lao refugees who are to be found exclusively in Thailand can be defined according to the following seven categories.

1. The first category is composed of persons who held power under the former régime and have been sentenced in absentia by the people's tribunals, persons found guilty by those same tribunals but released under an amnesty, bullies and agents of imperialism who, having accomplished their evil missions of undermining and sabotage against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, are seeking refuge abroad in order to escape their just punishment;

2. The second category is composed of profiteers and parasites belonging to the bourgeois "comprador" milieu, big and small local bureaucrats, war lords, unscrupulous foreign businessmen, and people who ran brothels, opium dens and import-export companies,

3. The third category is composed of foreigners of Sino-Vietnamese origin or from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand; these people, who came in large numbers (more than 100,000) to settle in Laos under the former régime in order to take advantage of the manna of "American aid" by cornering the retail, wholesale and import-export trade and dominating industrial activities, are leaving the country because they realize that they can no longer make these scandalous profits;

4. The fourth category is composed of former "clients" of the feudal, colonial and neo-colonial régimes, Meo mercenaries of the Vangpao soldiery;

5. The fifth category is composed of persons having either a superficial or a real French or Anglo-Saxon culture who feel that they cannot give up the French or American "way of life" imported under the former régime by colonialism and later by neo-colonialism, and who have always felt themselves to be foreigners in their own country, under both the former and the new régimes;

6. The sixth category is composed of people who live from day to day, taking the line of least resistance, these retrograde elements, some of them without any education, who have not wanted and do not want to adapt to the new conditions of a hard-working socialist society and who have been frightened by the post-war economic difficulties (30 years of devastating war, 3 million tons of bombs dropped all over the country, some of which are continuing to explode and to cause many casualties, 700,000 people to be reclassified, natural disasters during two consecutive years, 1977-1978, an economic blockade from November 1975 to March 1976, backward agriculture and cottage industries ruined by colonial and neo-colonial practices, factories sabotaged during the change of régime etc.) are leaving the country, lured by lying propaganda about possibilities of settlement abroad, particularly in France and the United States;

7. Finally, the seventh category is composed of young people from the towns and from the Meo ethnic minorities; they are fleeing abroad for fear of being enlisted in the army following an intensive campaign of deception

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concerning the Chinese invasion which agents of the reactionary leading circles in Peking have been waging throughout the country for some time.

II. Responsibility for the exodus

From the foregoing it is clear that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which has done everything it could to retain citizens who could be so useful in the reconstruction of the country, Laos being one of the countries which have a severe problem of underpopulation (3 million for an area of 236,000 km²), cannot in any way whatever be declared responsible for the difficulties now being encountered by persons who of their own volition have left Laos, or for the manifold problems which they have caused for others.

The socio-geological and demographic conditions in the Lao People's Democratic Republic offer ample opportunities for all its citizens to live a decent life. The sense of humanitarianism of the Lao leaders, together with their policy of clemency which they have adopted with regard to all their citizens, including those who have served in the ranks of colonialism and neo-colonialism, are well known to all, including our detractors. As proof, we need only recall that Laos underwent the change of régime in 1975 without one drop of blood being shed, in other words, in the most peaceful way, which should be an example for our world so shaken by violence to follow.

Nevertheless, despite all that we have just stated, certain elements of the population which have been seduced for 30 years by the colonialist and neo-colonialist ways of life and by the lying propaganda of the agents of imperialism and of the reactionary Chinese ruling circles have fled and are still fleeing ignominiously from their country. Responsibility for this exodus unquestionably lies with the colonialists and neo-colonialists and the reactionary leading circles of Peking, the former of whom are engaged in repeated and brazen attempts to destabilize our new régime and the latter in incitement and deception compounded by military threats and pressures along the Lao-Chinese frontier.

I should be grateful if you would have this clarification circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vithaya SOURINHO
Acting Permanent Representative of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic to the United Nations
