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SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-second year

Letter dated 17 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my earlier correspondence, in particular my letter dated 24 November 1987 concerning the occupation and aggression by Thai troops against certain points in Lao territory (A/42/800-S/19299), I have the honour to draw to your attention below the latest developments in this situation.

On 15 December 1987, at about 11.30 a.m., three fighter aircraft of the Thai Army violated Lao air space and dropped several 250-kg bombs on hills 1428, 1370, 1146 and Phou Vieng (not Phou Vieng Lay, as stated erroneously in my letter of 24 November) to the west of the district of Botène in the Lao Province of Sayaboury. At the same time, these various positions were subjected to heavy 105-mm and 155-mm artillery fire by Thai troops, which lasted from noon on 15 December to 6 a.m. the next day. About one infantry battalion of the Thai Army was thus mobilized for the attack and occupation of the above-mentioned Lao positions within the district of Botène (Sayaboury Province), which are located about seven or eight kilometres from the Lao-Thai frontier. These hostile Thai actions were considered by the Lao side to be the most serious ever committed since the creation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic 12 years ago today. There are three reasons for this:

1. It is the first time in 12 years that, during the incidents along the frontier between the two countries, Thailand has ordered its Air Force to bomb Lao territory;

2. The serious incident occurred at a time when the international climate is favourable to the search for a political solution, through dialogue and negotiation, to both international and regional problems;

3. The Lao side has never engaged in acts of provocation. The fact that the Thai side has so far rejected the Lao proposal to start the third round of negotiations in order to settle the problems outstanding between the two countries clearly shows its desire to opt for a military solution, as demonstrated by its quite recent hostile actions against Laos.

Consequently, the Thai side must alone bear the full responsibility for the extremely serious situation thus created.

The Lao Government considers that the wisest course of action in order to defuse the situation existing in relations between the two countries would be to persuade and encourage the Thai side to resume the negotiations as soon as possible with the Lao side in order to ensure peace in the region concerned.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 24, 42, 72, 129 and 138, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kithong VONGSAY
Permanent Representative of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic
