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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thirty-fifth session

Items 22, 34, 74, 76 and 78 of the  
provisional agenda\*

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)

WEAPONS

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL

DISCRIMINATION

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH

COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

## SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 September 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 memorandum dated 8 September 1980 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea concerning the crimes of genocide committed by the Vietnamese aggressors against the people of Kampuchea.

I should be grateful if you would have this text distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22, 34, 74, 76 and 78 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Democratic  
Kampuchea to the United Nations

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\* A/35/150.

ANNEX

MEMORANDUM OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA  
ON THE CRIMES OF GENOCIDE COMMITTED BY THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS  
AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA

History has never recorded an instance of genocide so monstrous as that committed by the Vietnamese aggressors against the people of Kampuchea. From 25 December 1978, when they were unleashed against Democratic Kampuchea, until today the Vietnamese hordes, systematically and frenziedly obeying, with unparalleled cruelty and savagery, the slogan "kill everything, burn everything, destroy everything", have been putting all Kampuchea to fire and sword, sowing immeasurable death and destruction. Over 2 million deaths in little more than a year, hundreds, if not thousands, of victims every day, that is the disastrous toll of the crimes of genocide of the Vietnamese. This planned genocide is being committed by an army of occupation of over 250,000 very well-equipped troops. The methods utilized are diabolical. They combine the use of conventional weapons, the famine weapon and chemical weapons. Anything that is conducive to the speedy elimination of the population of Kampuchea is utilized. And to cover up this, the most monstrous extermination campaign in the history of mankind, the Hanoi authorities, with a helping hand from their masters in the Kremlin, have conducted a world-wide propaganda campaign of calumny and lies, Goebbels-style, in order to have the Government of Democratic Kampuchea held responsible for the innumerable crimes they themselves have deliberately committed directly or through their agents who have long since infiltrated the State apparatus of Democratic Kampuchea.

I. GENOCIDE BY CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

1. The first Vietnamese war of aggression in December 1977

It was during the month of December 1977, after the repeated failure of many attempted coups d'état and assassinations against the leaders of Democratic Kampuchea, that Hanoi unleashed 100,000 of its elite troops in an overt attack on Kampuchea. The aggressors were repelled on 6 January 1978, but given the extremely barbarous nature of that aggression, the losses of lives and property were very heavy. In the invaded regions villages were burnt down and completely destroyed, stocks of food-stuffs were looted, and crops and rice-growing infrastructures completely destroyed by fire and tank tracks. The latex processing factory at Mémot and several thousands of hectares of rubber trees were devastated and plundered. Women and girls were raped and then killed. The population was decimated. When people were not massacred on the spot, they were deported to concentration camps in South Viet Nam where they were tortured, starved and then murdered.

The same lament went up from all the martyred villages and throughout the country: "when the Vietnamese were in difficulties we willingly offered them

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asylum, food and care at the cost of all kinds of sacrifices. We were not asking for anything in return, but those ungrateful people are now turning on us like crocodiles".

Throughout 1978 the Hanoi authorities, devoured by ambition, feverishly continued their attacks, pillage and sabotage against the frontier regions, plotting coups d'état and repeatedly calling - in vain - for an insurrection while surreptitiously conducting a host of diplomatic activities in the international arena, smiling hypocritically all the while.

## 2. The second Vietnamese war of aggression in December 1978

Finally, on 25 December 1978, with the blessing of Moscow, with which they had signed what was in fact a military pact, called for the purposes of their cause "treaty of friendship and co-operation", on 3 November 1978, the Hanoi authorities again launched a large-scale attack, with the powerful support of a substantial quantity of heavy artillery and a host of tanks and aircraft.

In the space of only a few months the invading Vietnamese troops had transformed Kampuchea, which was expecting an unusually abundant rice harvest, into scorched earth, devastated, bled white, haunted by death which mowed down thousands of victims every day. On the invasion route at Kien Svay (South-East Region) the Vietnamese hordes stormed the district maternity hospital, raped all the women and massacred them all with their babies by crushing their bodies under tractors. On entering Phnom Penh they crushed the thousands of sick and wounded who could not be evacuated in time under their tank tracks and machine-gunned a train which was about to evacuate about 10,000 people. They decimated entire villages either by pushing the inhabitants off cliffs into the sea or by shooting them after they had strung them together by holes pierced in their ears and the palms of their hands with their bayonets. From Svay Rieng to Takeo, from Preah Vihear to Thmar Puok, from Phnom Penh to Battambang, Vietnamese tanks and aircraft machine-gunned and crushed crowds of refugees, disabled people, women, children and the sick. It is important to mention the mass killing, of unparalleled atrocity and barbarity, perpetrated in May 1979 at Leach, Pursat province, where Vietnamese aircraft, artillery and tanks machine-gunned and bombed several refugee columns that were converging from all directions. Several tens of thousands were killed. In September 1979, in the province of Preah Vihear, Vietnamese troops conducted a large-scale movement to block the route being used by refugees heading towards Thailand and turn them back south of Stung Trêng in order to massacre them. Over 10,000 were killed.

## 3. After the defeat of the Vietnamese offensive in the 1979-1980 dry season

Much after the defeat of its 1979-1980 dry season offensive, which, according to Hanoi's plan, was to deal the death blow to the struggle of the Kampuchean people, Hanoi no longer enjoys the same position of superiority as before. Nevertheless, it is continuing to exterminate the population of Kampuchea. Applying

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a more Fascist method than Hitler's crematoria, with the slogan "men to serve as fertilizer, women to serve as seed-beds", the Vietnamese are killing all men, whether opposed to or simply indifferent to their policy. They compel those in their service to marry Vietnamese women and force Kampuchean women to become their concubines. During their raids against the Kampuchean refugee camps in Thailand they have killed all the men and taken away the women as captives. Not a day passes without reports of their torturing villagers or citizens to death or of the execution of self-defence guards or other Kampuchean personnel forcibly recruited into the Vietnamese administration in Phnom Penh. There are several death camps, among them one at Banlung, on National Highway No. 19 in the province of Rattanakiri, which is known to be the worst since up to now no one there has survived, and one at Kontuy Kau island, on the Mekong upstream from Stung Trèng. One of the tortures is to keep the prisoners crucified with one hand above their heads and the other beside the body so that when released they can no longer lower their arms and are handicapped for the rest of their lives. At the beginning of May 1979 at Thmar Bang, province of Koh Kong (South-West Region), scores of the inhabitants were impaled alive in the bed of a canal and grilled under the horrified eyes of their parents and friends. At Prek Sandek, province of Takeo (South-West Region), 6,700 inhabitants suspected of sympathizing with Democratic Kampuchea have been held since March 1979 in an open camp, exposed to the elements and kept under strict guard. The prisoners are left without food and water until they die.

## II. GENOCIDE BY CHEMICAL WEAPONS

In conjunction with conventional weapons, the Vietnamese occupiers frequently resort to spraying chemicals and poison gas bombing. They distribute poisoned medicines and foods (notably Soviet red maize); they are poisoning water points, rivers and wells. Every Vietnamese unit at regiment level has the necessary supplies to conduct firing of poison gas shells. The firing is carried out in all regions but especially along the Thai frontier south of National Highway No. 5, causing hundreds of casualties.

## III. GENOCIDE BY THE FEARFUL WEAPON OF FAMINE

But these monstrous crimes are nothing compared with the famine which the Hanoi authorities have systematically created thereafter in order more rapidly to exterminate the people of Kampuchea. Having looted and destroyed stocks and crops, the Vietnamese are starving the population by surrounding them, forbidding them to leave the villages, confiscating and destroying agricultural implements, mining rice fields and the forest borders. What is more, they are banning the distribution of the relief contributed by nations and international humanitarian organizations distressed by the threat of extinction hanging over the Kampuchean people. They want to close the frontier with Thailand and transform Kampuchea into an immense death camp. Hunger is pitilessly killing children, old people, women and men. At the end of the 1979 rainy season hundreds of villages, particularly in the south-west,

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lost on average 60 per cent of their inhabitants, and entire districts are made up entirely of ghost villages. Moreover, when at the beginning of the 1979-1980 dry season, Hanoi launched its troops against the survivors, all that can be seen on the roads are living corpses on whom they wreak violence. The Vietnamese aggressors are also pursuing their famine policy by preventing the starving population from going to seek humanitarian assistance at the Thai frontier and by intercepting returning convoys. Worse still, they carry their cruelty and barbarity so far as deliberately to attack Kampuchean refugee camps on Thai territory, thus brazenly violating all rules of law and international morality. That was the case, for example, with the Nong Chan camp, which was attacked on 23 June 1980 and where all the healthy men, to a total of 40,000, were taken away in lorries to concentration camps in the eastern provinces, where they are being subjected to starvation. Several thousand have already died. In many places Vietnamese troops encircle groups of starving people searching for wild plants in the forest. At the same time the occupiers are installing guillotines everywhere to intensify the repression.

#### IV. GENOCIDE BY ACTS OF VANDALISM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VIETNAMESE SETTLEMENTS

To this macabre series of crimes must be added the looting, sacking and acts of vandalism systematically committed against Kampuchea's national artistic and cultural heritage, of which the Angkor monuments are the most illustrious symbol. Bas-reliefs, sculptures, religious relics, statues of Buddha, everything that testifies to the glorious past of the nation and people of Kampuchea has been mutilated or taken to Viet Nam.

To complete the fearsome picture of their criminal undertakings, the Hanoi authorities are installing everywhere settlements of Vietnamese who expel the local population and appropriate all their land, resources and means of production.

Thus attacked by three kinds of weapons simultaneously - the famine weapon, the chemical weapon and conventional weapons - the Kampuchean population is being bled white and driven out of its lands. Every single family has had one or more of its members killed or missing. Whole families have been decimated.

Vietnamese crimes in Kampuchea far outstrip those of Hitler during the Second World War. Their aim is the elimination of an entire people, an entire nation, and they thus constitute real crimes against all mankind. No propaganda device, however clever, can conceal that truth. The Hanoi authorities should be condemned as the worst criminals of our era and should be banished from human society.

8 September 1980

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Democratic Kampuchea