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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report on the situation in Kampuchea is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 34/22 of 14 November 1979.
2. In paragraphs 1 to 5 of that resolution, the General Assembly strongly appealed to all States and national and international humanitarian organizations to render, on an urgent and non-discriminatory basis, humanitarian relief to the civilian population of Kampuchea, including those who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries; called upon all States to take urgent measures to resettle from those countries the displaced Kampucheans; welcomed the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to co-ordinate relief assistance and to ensure its distribution to those for whom it was intended; urged all parties to the conflict to co-operate in every possible way to facilitate the humanitarian relief efforts; and called upon all parties to the conflict to observe fully the fundamental principles of human rights.
3. In paragraphs 6 to 10 of the same resolution, the General Assembly further called upon all parties to the conflict to cease all hostilities; called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea and called upon all States to refrain from all acts or threats of aggression and all forms of interference in the internal affairs of States in South-East Asia; urged all parties to the conflict to settle their disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; appealed to all States to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea in order to enable its people to decide their own future and destiny free from outside interference, subversion or coercion, and to respect scrupulously the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Kampuchea; and resolved that the people of Kampuchea should be enabled to choose democratically their own Government, without outside interference, subversion or coercion.
4. In paragraphs 11 to 13 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested me to follow the situation closely and to exercise my good offices in order to contribute

to a peaceful solution of the problem; I was also requested to explore the possibility of holding an international conference on Kampuchea as one of the means for implementing the resolution, and to submit a report to Member States at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

5. Both prior to and during the period since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 34/22, the situation in Kampuchea and along the border of that country with Thailand has remained of the deepest concern to me. Concurrently with the debate in the Assembly in November 1979 and following a request of the Prime Minister of Thailand, I asked Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, to proceed to Bangkok on my behalf in order to examine the situation in consultation with the Government of Thailand. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar visited Thailand between 14 and 29 November 1979. His report to me confirmed the gravity of the problems in the area, particularly along the Thai-Kampuchean border, and the seriousness of the political and military factors that had compounded the appalling human suffering being endured by the Kampuchean people.

6. Faced with these problems, I considered it imperative, despite the serious limits imposed by the prevailing situation, that the United Nations system should intensify in every possible way its humanitarian efforts to alleviate the plight of the afflicted civilian population of Kampuchea, including those who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries. To this end, in January 1980, I designated Sir Robert Jackson as Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian Operations in Kampuchea. These relief operations, for which I convened a Pledging Conference in New York on 5 November 1979, have been among the most massive and complex humanitarian undertakings in United Nations experience. A large number of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system have participated in them, as have the International Committee of the Red Cross and many non-governmental organizations. Here I should like to recall that all aspects of the relief programme were considered in depth in a meeting that I convened at Geneva on 26 and 27 May 1980, at the request of the Economic and Social Council. Details of these efforts and of the considerable response of the international community, the difficulties encountered and the outlook for the future, are reported upon separately to the General Assembly under item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council) (A/35/303 and A/35/502) 1/ and item 78 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). 2/ I should like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the countries that have provided, multilaterally or bilaterally, humanitarian assistance to alleviate the plight of the Kampuchean people. I should also like to pay tribute to the many non-governmental organizations which have so generously participated in this great humanitarian effort. I am determined that, until solutions are found to resolve the political and military issues that underlie the crisis in the area, the humanitarian operations of the United Nations system should continue as effectively as possible.

1/ See also A/35/3/Add.34, to be incorporated subsequently in Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/35/3/Rev.1).

2/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12).

7. In my effort to contribute to a peaceful solution to the problems of the area, I have followed the situation most closely and have maintained constant contact with the representatives of all the interested parties. On 25 June 1980, following a dangerous escalation of tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border, I issued a statement in which I expressed my great concern and appealed to all parties concerned to restore conditions of peace and security. In a letter addressed to me on 1 July 1980 (A/35/318-S/14046), the Government of Thailand indicated that the situation along the border still remained tense and reiterated its request for the stationing of a United Nations observer team on the Thai side of the Thai-Kampuchean border. In my reply, dated 7 July 1980 (A/35/326-S/14058), I pointed out, as I had during earlier discussions on that subject, that any such action would normally have to be carried out under the authority of the Security Council.

8. In an effort to find a practical basis for moving forward towards a political solution, and after consultations with the parties, I travelled in August 1980 to Hanoi and Bangkok. In the course of extensive discussions in both capitals, views were exchanged on General Assembly resolution 34/22, on a statement issued at Vientiane on 18 July 1980 (A/35/347-S/14071, annex I), and on a statement issued at Manila on 1 August 1980 and a letter addressed to me on the same date by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines transmitting the statement (A/35/374-S/14085). During the talks, I reiterated that my good offices continued to be available to the countries of the region for any purpose that they might find useful. Despite conflicting views, it was agreed that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and of Viet Nam would meet, with my assistance, when they were in New York to attend the thirty-fifth session of the Assembly.

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9. While the humanitarian operations of the United Nations system have served to alleviate the intense suffering of the Kampuchean people, renewed efforts are required to move towards political settlements that will allow the agonized population of the area to look to a future of peace. In spite of the efforts made at various levels, little progress has as yet been achieved in the implementation of certain provisions of General Assembly resolution 34/22, including those relating to the withdrawal of foreign forces and the search for a political solution. Notwithstanding my contacts with the parties and interested Governments, it has not yet been possible to arrive at a basis for an agreed solution. Persistent political and military problems have also rendered extremely difficult the vast humanitarian relief operation being undertaken by the United Nations system on behalf of the people of Kampuchea. For my part, I am determined to continue my efforts, in the exercise of my good offices, to assist in the search for a peaceful solution. I would hope that the process of discussion being undertaken between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and of Viet Nam in New York during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly will bring progress towards such a solution.
