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Items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the
preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 12 February 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 9 February 1988 regarding Thailand's latest attacks against Lao territory (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if you could have the text of this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) NGUYEN BINH THANH
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement made on 9 February 1988 by the spokesman of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam

As pointed out in a statement by Laos' Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 February 1988, the situation along the Lao-Thai border in Nabonoi village of Sayaboury Province remained tense in recent days. Regardless of well-intentioned proposals of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and protests of world public opinion, some responsible men in the Thai ruling circles openly encouraged land-grabbing attacks and threatened to use armed forces to "push back the Lao troops out of the disputed area". Thailand has sent a large number of troops in two army regions and its special force, under artillery and air support, to launch massive attacks on Lao positions in the province. More serious still, Thai air force discriminately dropped bombs, including pellet bombs, to kill many Lao civilians. At the same time, Thailand imposed a ban on trade between the people along the border of the two countries, and increased its propaganda and hostile acts against the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The above-mentioned dangerous escalation of violations has been prompted by the Thai ultra-rightists' systematic attempts to invade Lao territory. Since the signing of the Franco-Siam treaties in 1904 and 1907, they have never given up their intention to encroach upon parts of Lao territory. In the 1941-1946 period, relying on the Japanese fascists in the Second World War, they occupied Lao territory in Sayaboury Province. In 1984, Thailand openly sent its troops to invade three Lao hamlets, which has not yet been resolved. Thailand's impudent statement about using force to solve the disputes over Nabonoi village indicates that the Thai ruling circles have not given up their ambition to annex Lao territory. Their military adventure supported by international reactionary forces is also aimed at causing tension in the region in a bid to justify their policy of confrontation condemned by public opinion at home and abroad.

The Thai authorities have repeated their accusation of Viet Nam relating to the Lao-Thai border dispute in order to divert public opinion and serve foreign reactionaries' attempts to block the developing trend for dialogue now prevailing in the region. The Thai authorities' acts will surely end in failure because they run completely counter to the interests of the Lao and Thai peoples as well as to the aspiration for peace and stability of other peoples in South-East Asia.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam strongly condemns the Thai ultra-rightists for their land-grabbing attacks against Laos and their sabotage of regional peace and stability and demands that they immediately put an end to all these acts. The Vietnamese Government and people absolutely support the just stance and good will attitude of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which is persistently calling upon Thailand to sit down for negotiations to solve problems in their bilateral relations in the spirit of good-neighbourliness and on the principles expounded in the two Lao-Thai joint statements in 1979. Viet Nam voices full support for the Lao People's Democratic Republic in its struggle to defend sovereignty and territorial integrity.