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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
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 10 February 1988 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

On instructions from my Government and further to my earlier letters concerning the Thai military attack against Lao territory near Na Bo Noy commune, Botène district, Sayaboury Province, I have the honour to draw your attention to the latest developments in the situation.

On 5 February 1988, in support of their violent infantry attacks, Thai military troops pounded Lao positions with heavy artillery. Exercising their right of self-defence, the local Lao forces responded forcefully, inflicting heavy losses on the Thai side. On 6 February, a remote-controlled Thai aircraft made reconnaissance flights 10 kilometres inside Lao territory and was shot down there by the Lao forces.

* A/43/50.

On 8 February 1988, the Thai newspaper Siamrath reported that several members of the Thai Parliament, criticizing the Thai Government's policy of using force to settle the problem, expressed support for a negotiated solution. Some went so far as to doubt the validity of the Thai Government's legal argument alleging Thai sovereignty over the contested region. Despite the opinion in favour of a peaceful settlement of the problem, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand again stated on 9 February 1988 that the Thai Government would not negotiate so long as the Lao troops had not withdrawn from the region - in other words, from Lao territory. Even worse - the Thai Minister of Defence stated on the same day that he would be readjusting military tactics with the aim of launching still more violent attacks against the positions of the Lao forces. These two statements demonstrate beyond doubt the desire of the Thai Government to resort to force in order to settle the problem. Consequently, new large-scale attacks are imminent, which may jeopardize good-neighbourliness between the two Lao and Thai peoples as well as peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia.

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 items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alounkeo KITTIKHOUN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
