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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
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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-second year

Letter dated 28 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my earlier correspondence, in particular my letter dated 17 December 1987 (A/42/900-S/19358), a talk you granted me on 22 December, as well as the letter of the Permanent Representative of Thailand of 22 December (A/43/64-S/19378), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 27 December 1987 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the Thai military attack against Lao territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "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", and "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Kithong WONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued at Vientiane on 27 December 1987 by the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the
Thai military attack against Lao territory

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, since its foundation on 2 December 1975, has consistently pursued a policy of peace, friendship and good-neighbourliness with the Kingdom of Thailand, for the two peoples share similarities as to race, language, traditions and customs, enabling them to create better relations on a political basis, as stipulated in the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao joint communiqués signed by the two Governments in 1979.

But it is regrettable that this policy of the Lao side has always been obstructed by the very serious frontier incidents between the two countries, particularly those of the three Lao hamlets in 1984, which are still far from being solved. This year, the Thai side, once again, has created a new grave incident: the Thai third army region forces have dispatched their paramilitary units to assure the protection of Thai private merchants engaged in the illegal felling of fine wood in Lao territory on the west side of Na Bo Noi canton, Botène district, Sayaboury province. And between 14 and 18 August 1987, the Thai side sent several infantry battalions to occupy this area, repeatedly attacked the Lao local force strongholds which are defending that area and then proclaimed deliberately this area to be part of Thai territory by unilaterally claiming that Nam Huang Nga river constitutes a frontier between the two countries. This arrogant claim runs counter to the 1907 Franco-Siamese treaty, which stipulates the following on the side of Luang-Prabang: "The frontier leaves the Mekong river, in the South, at the Mouth of Nam Huang river and follows the Thalweg of this river up to its source located at Phou Khao Mieng mountain. From there the border follows the watershed between the Mekhong river and the Menam river until it reaches the Mekhong river at the point called Keng Pha Day in conformity with the line which was approved by the previous demarcation commission in January 16, 1906".

On 4, 5 and 6 December 1987, the Thai third army forces launched several attacks against the Lao local forces strongholds located at peaks 1428 and 1370. And from 15 to 24 December 1987, they again launched fierce and successive infantry, 105-mm and 155-mm artillery, air bombing attacks against these localities. These were considered by the Lao side to be the most serious acts of aggression ever committed by the Thai military over the past 12 years of incidents occurring along the border between the two countries since the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Rather than taking urgent measures aimed at immediately putting an end to these attacks and invasion, as has been officially requested by the Lao side, the Thai Government forces are preparing a large-scale military build up with a view to launching new attacks.

This act perpetrated by Thailand struck the international community with surprise since it occurred at a time when the question of the Thai military occupation of the three Lao hamlets in 1984 has not yet been definitely solved because the Thai Government has not completely withdrawn its forces as it was stated, and it also occurred at a time when the Lao side has made several good gestures to create an atmosphere of understanding and to settle peacefully the conflicts by ways of negotiations. It is, therefore, obvious that this act clearly exposes the Thai true intention to invade Lao territory by taking advantage of the drought situation which the Lao People are facing and it not only constitutes a grave violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos, a transgression of the 1979 Lao-Thai joint communiqués, an undermining of the spirit of neighbourliness of the peoples of the Lao-Thai nations but also a flouting of the Charter of the United Nations and usual practices of international relations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly requests the Thai Government to take appropriate measures to immediately end the said act of invasion.

Abiding by its constant policy of always advocating settlement of disputes through peaceful negotiations, the Lao side proposes to hold immediate talks without any pre-conditions between the two sides in order to solve these grave incidents and the other pending problems in the relations between the two countries.

In order to defend our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as has always been done by our people and has become our heroic tradition, now more than ever, we have to heighten our vigilance to resolutely stand in unity, smash and defeat all manoeuvres and acts of aggression carried out by the Thai ultra-rightist reactionaries.

For the well-being of the Lao and Thai peoples and for the security of each country, it is an urgent task for our two brotherly peoples to deploy common efforts to eliminate this unwanted incident and to promote talks and negotiations as soon as possible.

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic appeals to peace and justice-loving peoples over the world to support the efforts made by the Lao side aimed at solving the differences by ways of negotiation, thus contributing to the bringing about of peace, stability and co-operation in this region of South-East Asia.
