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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-third year

Letter dated 19 January 1988 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 letters concerning the military attack launched by Thailand against Lao territory, I have the honour to bring to your attention, as follows, the latest developments with respect to that situation and to transmit herewith excerpts from a statement issued on 14 January 1988 by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Between 1100 and 1500 hours (see annex) on 15 January, forces of the Thai Third army launched heavy artillery attacks (about 100 shells were fired) against Hills 1428 and 1370 and the other local Lao positions. They dispatched two more infantry battalions and about 37 companies of "Ranger" forces into the area, and a number of F5 fighter aircrafts are currently assigned, on a permanent basis, to the Thai province of Phitsanoulouk.

At about 1530 hours on 16 January, the same forces bombarded the aforesaid hills and various local Lao positions with their artillery (105-mm and 155-mm shells were fired).

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I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed 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) Kithong VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Excerpts from a statement issued on 14 January 1988 by the
spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic

On 14 January 1988, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic delivered a statement in the presence of a number of Lao and Vientiane-based foreign newsmen.

At this press briefing four maps, as well as photographs illustrating casualties suffered by the invading forces and war materials that they used, were shown to the audience.

The press briefing in question said in the main the following:

In the course of history the delimitation of the borderline between Luang Prabang and Siam has been modified several times. On 13 February 1904, a Convention between France and Siam was signed at Paris. Concerning the border of Luang Prabang (Southern border) article 2 of this convention stipulates the following: "The border starts from the Nam Huang river and the Mekong river and instead of following the Tang river the border follows the thalweg of the Nam Huang river whose upper part is called Nam Man and follows the watershed between the Mekong river and the Menam river until the source of the Nam Man river. From there and along the watershed, the border goes up to the north in conformity with the convention of 13 February 1904." The southern portion of Dan Say district is clearly shown on map No. 1 as being part of Lao territory.

On 23 March 1907, a new agreement between France and Siam was signed at Bangkok and the protocol thereto annexed regulates the borderline between Luang Prabang and Siam. Article 2 of the said protocol unequivocally referred to Nam Huang river as constituting a borderline between Laos and Siam.

Map No. 2 is a new one using modern survey techniques and was printed in 1967 on the basis of the map drawn by the Thai military map department. Here the borderline on the western side of Nabonoy Canton, Botene District, as shown on this map, is correct and is in conformity with the Franco-Siamese treaty of 1907 and its protocol, in so far as Nam Huang river and the ridge of Phou Soy Dao are referred to as constituting the borderline between Laos and Thailand in this particular area. Under the map the following is written in Thai language: "Prepared by the Army Map Service, Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. Compiled in 1960 by photogrammetric methods and from Indo China and Thailand. Scale of: 1.250.000, AMA, N.E 47-12 printed in 1956. Color separated by U.S. Army Map Service, far east horizontal and vertical control established by Royal Thai survey department and 29th engineer battalion (base photographic). Names and data by Royal Thai Survey Department". Map No. 3, which was printed by the Soviet map service in 1974, confirms indisputably the borderline defined by the 1907 protocol. Map No. 4 is from the same series 7017 as the one which was published by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok on 28 December 1987. This map, having been modified in a clumsy manner, is not in conformity with the relevant provisions of the 1907 Franco-Siamese treaty and its protocol. Thus the words "Pathet Thai" (Thailand)

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can still be seen at the former borderline location. Being a forged document, this map is devoid of any legal value.

From the foregoing it can be asserted that under the provisions of the Franco-Siamese treaty of 23 March 1907 and its protocol and according to maps Nos. 1, 2 and 3, the border at Nabonoy Canton, Botene District, near Thailand forms an integral part of Lao territory since it traces along the Nam Huang river until the ridge of Phou Soy Dao Mountain and not along the Huang Nga river, which is only the tributary of Nam Huang, as has been claimed unilaterally by the Thai side.
