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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-third year

Letter dated 7 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, particularly my letter of 30 December 1987 concerning the military attack launched by Thailand against Lao territory (A/43/74-S/19395), I have the honour to draw your attention to the following.

From 29 December 1987 to 5 January 1988, the Thai Third Army forces launched a number of artillery attacks (105 and 155 mm shells) against hills 1428 and 1370 and the other local Lao positions. On 6 January 1988 at approximately 1100 hours, Thai Air Force F-5 fighter aircraft dropped a number of bombs on the hills in question, which were simultaneously subjected to heavy artillery fire by the invading troops. A number of Thai infantry battalions have been mobilized on the ground for the purpose of launching imminent large-scale attacks on the Lao territory in question. These invading troops have also set about constructing and developing feeder roads in the vicinity. The situation there therefore remains extremely tense. The Lao Government has just informed the Thai Government that one of the conditions set by the Thai Government for commencing negotiations between the two parties - namely, that the Lao troops should withdraw from the positions in question - is absolutely unacceptable to it because that piece of territory is

unquestionably Lao, for legal, historical and other reasons. The Lao Government remains absolutely convinced that only the immediate commencement, without pre-conditions, of negotiations between the two parties involved can bring about a satisfactory political solution to the current conflict, as well as to the two countries' other pending problems. The legitimate interests of the Lao and Thai peoples, who have always ardently aspired to live in peace and fraternal friendship with one another, are at stake.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter 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) Kithong WONGSAY
Permanent Representative of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic
