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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 19 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

Further to my earlier letters concerning incidents along the Lao-Thai border in the region of Nabonoi commune, Botène district, Sayaboury Province, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of the message dated 3 February 1988 that His Excellency Mr. Phoun Sipaseuth, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Vernon A. Walters, President of the Security Council (annex I), of my letter dated 11 February 1988 addressed to the President of the Security Council and the other members of the Council (annex II), of the message dated 11 February 1988 that His Excellency Mr. Phoun Sipaseuth sent to the President of the Security Council (annex III), and of the message dated 11 February 1988 that His Excellency Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, President of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Prem Tinsulanonda, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand (annex IV).

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes distributed as official documents 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.

ANNEX I

Message dated 3 February 1988 from the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic addressed to the President of the United Nations Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, since early 1987, those in power in Thailand have dispatched armed troops to encroach upon the territory of the Nabonoi commune, Botène district, Sayaboury Province. However, since 15 December 1987, these invasions have grown in intensity, ranging from the use of heavy artillery to the use of aircraft and shells filled with phosphorous and chemical agents; this has occurred even though the problem of the three Lao villages located in the Paklay district of that province has not yet been settled and the United Nations Security Council, by virtue of its decision of 9 October 1984, remains seized of this question.

This dangerous situation is now growing even worse following statements by the Commander-in-Chief of the Thai Army and his Minister of Defence in which they threatened to use their military superiority to drive Lao troops out of the region, i.e., from Lao territory. In view of this serious situation which threatens good-neighbourliness between the two peoples as well as peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia, I should be grateful if you would use your influence to convince Thailand to begin negotiations with the Lao side immediately and unconditionally with a view to settling this problem by peaceful means.

(Signed) Phoun SIPASEUTH
Vice-President of the Council
of Ministers and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

ANNEX II

Letter dated 11 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 President of
the Security Council

Further to my earlier letters, I have the honour to provide you with more information on the Thai attack against Lao territory.

As I understood, His Excellency Mr. Siddhi Savetsila, the Thai Foreign Minister, has again very recently stated that he is ready to meet with His Excellency Mr. Phoun Sipaseuth, the Lao Foreign Minister at Bangkok, if the latter so wishes. The Thai Foreign Minister has also added that "there has yet to be a positive response from the Lao Foreign Minister". To be honest, such a statement was merely of a propagandistic nature. It was clearly designed to hoodwink both the Thai public opinion as well as the world community. To set the record straight, I take the liberty to share with Your Excellency the following facts:

On 28 January 1988, the Thai Chargé d'affaires a.i. at Vientiane has informed the Lao Foreign Ministry that "the Thai Foreign Minister expressed the desire to meet with the Lao Foreign Minister at Bangkok".

On 29 January 1988, the Thai Ambassador, returning from Bangkok, made clear, in a Press Conference held at Vientiane, that there will be no negotiations as long as the Lao troops are not withdrawn from the Thai territory.

On 1 February 1988, a Counsellor of the Thai Embassy at Vientiane handed over a memorandum to the Lao Ministry, in which the Thai Government again has insisted that the "Lao Government must withdraw its troops from the Thai territory before talks".

With these facts, my Government has concluded that the Thai Government persists in advancing the withdrawal of the Lao troops from the area, that is, from our own territory, as a pre-condition for talks (the Lao Government has also demanded that Thailand withdraw its troops from this area, but has not posed such a withdrawal as a pre-condition for negotiation, as we had already accepted to negotiate with Thailand in 1984, although the Thai troops at that time still occupied our three villages). The so-called readiness of the Thai Foreign Minister to meet with the Lao Foreign Minister has therefore no meaning. To this day, the Lao Government has received no more official Thai response to our consistent proposal for negotiation.

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I hope that this supplementary information would be useful for you in the coming days during the informal consultations you may plan to hold on this matter.

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

ANNEX III

Message dated 11 February 1988 from the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council of the United Nations

Given the extreme seriousness of the situation that is currently obtaining in the region of Nabonoi, and in order to end this useless bloodshed between the Lao and Thai peoples, to maintain peace, security and stability in this region and to create a propitious atmosphere for dialogue, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, true to its position of peace, friendship and good-neighbourliness and aspiring to entertain stable friendly relations and co-operation with the Kingdom of Thailand, following the principles contained in the two Lao-Thai joint declarations of 1979, has forwarded new proposals, as mentioned in the message of our Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane, dated 11 February 1988, addressed to H.E. Mr. Prem Tinasulanond, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand. By the terms of the said message, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic stands ready to send a military delegation to Bangkok or to receive the Thai military delegation at Vientiane, with a view to holding consultation over these proposals as follows:

- (1) Both sides should cease fire instantly and should move their troops away from each other and establish a joint military commission aimed at supervising the cease-fire and the troop removal.
- (2) Both sides should nominate a technical survey team to inspect the field, to search for a solution of the border problem in this region and to submit it to their respective Governments.
- (3) Both sides should appeal to the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the implementation of agreements reached by both sides.

Looking forward to receiving your kind comprehension and active co-operation in the matter, I request Your Excellency to accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Phoun SIPASEUTH
Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

ANNEX IV

Message dated 11 February 1988 from the Chairman of the Council
of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the
Prime Minister of Thailand

As Your Excellency is well aware, the incidents that have occurred in the region of Nabonoi, Botene district, Sayaboury Province, have lasted for a long time, causing heavy damages in properties and undesirable losses of lives of the peoples of our two countries. These incidents are a transgression of the Lao-Thai joint declarations of 1979, seriously undermining the relations of good-neighbourliness between the two countries, Laos and Thailand. They have extended in a worrisome manner, threatening peace and stability in this region of South-East Asia. This grave situation calls for the immediate settlement of the problem by negotiations.

Inspired by its constant policy maintaining the traditional relations of friendship and legitimate interests of the peoples of the two countries for peace and stability in South-East Asia, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has proposed several times that both sides should together start solving the issue of confrontation in the region of Nabonoi on the basis of equality and without pre-conditions. But it is regrettable that the proposals forwarded by the Lao side, namely, the one expressed in the declaration of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 25 January 1988, has not met with a favourable response. On the contrary, the situation in this region is becoming increasingly strained.

In order to put an end immediately to the useless bloodshed of the Lao and Thai brother peoples, I deem it necessary to entrust the armed forces from both sides to organize a meeting in view of an immediate settlement of the problem. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic stands ready to send its military delegation to Bangkok or to receive the Thai military delegation to Vientiane for a consultation over the following proposals:

- (1) Both sides should cease fire instantly and should move their troops away from each other and establish a joint military commission aimed at supervising the cease-fire and the troop removal.
- (2) Both sides should nominate a technical survey team to inspect the field, to search for a solution of the border problem in this region and to submit it to their respective Governments.
- (3) Both sides should appeal to the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the implementation of agreements approved by both sides.

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I hope to receive from Your Excellency a favourable response to our goodwill proposals in order to put a term to this bloody confrontation as soon as possible.

(Signed) Kaysone PHOMVIHANE
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
