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LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF  
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO  
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the duty to apprise the United Nations of the new crimes committed by the Vietnamese aggressors and invaders against the nation and people of Kampuchea. The Vietnamese army of aggression, in addition to its genocidal crimes of destroying everything, burning everything and massacring everyone, is stealing art objects which are part of Kampuchea's national heritage. It has already carried away to Viet Nam the following treasures and art objects:

- Solid gold and solid silver statues of Buddha from the Silver Pagoda (situated near the Royal Palace) and from various pagodas at Phnom Penh;
- Stone statues, sculptures and bas-reliefs from the Phnom Penh National Museum, from the Phnom Penh School of Fine Arts and from the monuments of Angkor in the province of Siem Reap;
- Ancient paintings and porcelains.

Thus the Vietnamese army of aggression is committing against the nation and people of Kampuchea crimes which are worse than those perpetrated by the Hitlerian hordes during the Second World War. Viet Nam's objective is to destroy the nation and people of Kampuchea, the civilization and entity of the people of Kampuchea, with a view to swallowing Kampuchea and making it an integral part of Viet Nam. By these criminal acts, Viet Nam, which calls itself "revolutionary", "socialist" or "non-aligned", has placed itself beyond the pale of civilized countries and exposed itself as the most fascistic and most barbarous country in the world, the most fervent devotee of the law of the jungle in international relations.

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea calls upon the United Nations and all Governments of peace-loving and justice-loving countries to denounce, condemn and put a stop to these new crimes of Viet Nam against the nation and people of Kampuchea and to demand that Viet Nam should restore all stolen art objects to Democratic Kampuchea and should respect Kampuchea's national heritage.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

For the Delegation of Democratic Kampuchea

(Signed) Thiounn PRASITH  
Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary