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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA  
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 19 January 1981 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

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement made on 10 January 1981 by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea concerning the unstable and tense situation in the frontier region between Kampuchea and Thailand.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and the enclosed statement to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "The situation in Kampuchea" and "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bounkeut SANGSOMSAK  
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of  
the Permanent Mission of  
the Lao People's Democratic  
Republic to the United Nations

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

During 1980 the Thai authorities intensified their collusion with the Peking warmongers in the implementation of their hostile policy towards the People's Republic of Kampuchea. In addition to allowing the Pol Pot bandits and other reactionary Khmers to use Thai territory as a sanctuary and base for their acts of sabotage against the Kampuchean people, the Thai authorities themselves directly intensified their acts of armed violence, in flagrant violation of the territorial integrity, air space and territorial waters of Kampuchea, in an attempt to support reactionary Khmer acts of sabotage.

1. Thai armed forces ceaselessly pounded Kampuchean soil with weapons of every kind and calibre, including bazooka shells and recoilless and 105 mm guns, wounding and killing many civilians, and damaging their homes and other property. They bombarded Kampuchean soil on 317 occasions in August 1980, 328 occasions in October, 320 occasions in November and 476 occasions in December. In particular, from 27 to 30 December they fired on Kampuchean territory 107 times, and between 20 and 26 December 241 times, in addition to mounting artillery bombardments to cover infiltrations into Kampuchean territory by Pol Pot bandits and other reactionary Khmers which occurred on 35 occasions in December. Thailand itself sent Thai commando groups over the border to conduct reconnaissance operations and attack Kampuchean border posts. On 18 December 1980 Kampuchean border guards put out of action a group of Thai commandos on Kampuchean soil in the south-western region of Smatdeng (province of Pursat). On 2 October 1980 Thai armed forces, in co-ordination with Pol Pot bandits, attacked hill 172 on Kampuchean soil. But the aggressors were defeated and forced to withdraw to the other side of the border leaving behind several dead.

The Thais also shelled civilian river craft on the Meteuk River in Kampuchean territory, as happened on 9 December 1980, killing one civilian and injuring another.

2. Thai aircraft of all types have daily violated Kampuchean air space, making reconnaissance flights and undertaking guiding operations for artillery fire to massacre the Kampuchean population and to cover armed infiltrations of Khmer reactionaries.

During the second half of 1980 alone, more than 500 overflights by Thai aircraft were noted in Kampuchean air space over the provinces of Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Battambang, Pursat and Koh Kong.

In some places, these aircraft penetrated as far as 15 kilometres within Kampuchean air space in the south-western region of Pailin and the Kon-Rieng and Ta Sen regions. In November 1980 alone, Thai aircraft violated Kampuchean air space 10 times and in December, 92 times.

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3. Thai armed vessels have continually violated Kampuchea's territorial waters, engaging in provocation and intimidation operations against the Kampuchean population, particularly in Koh Kong province. On 18 October 1980, for example, 10 armed Thai vessels penetrated as far as seven nautical miles within Kampuchean territorial waters in the vicinity of Koh Tang island in Koh Kong province.

The hostile activities carried out by the Thai authorities are at the root of the unstable and tense situation in the Kampuchea-Thailand border region. This policy, which can only serve the aims of the Peking warmongers, not only runs counter to the interests of the Thai people and those of other peoples in the region, sabotaging peace and creating a state of instability in South-East Asia, but also places on Thailand itself a burden of responsibility for the serious consequences.

In order to camouflage their criminal acts and their collusion with the Peking warmongers and other reactionary lackeys and to mislead public opinion, the warmongering elements among the Thai authorities have often resorted to allegations of so-called violations of the Thai border by Kampuchean and Vietnamese armed forces. However, no one is deceived by these slanders.

Pursuing its foreign policy of independence, peace, friendship and non-alignment, the People's Republic of Kampuchea sincerely and consistently seeks to establish good relations with neighbouring countries on the basis of complete respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate interests of each party, non-interference in the internal affairs of each party and peaceful coexistence. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea has, on several occasions, made world public opinion aware of the hostile activities of the Thai authorities towards the Kampuchean people and has made several constructive proposals with a view to putting an end to the state of tension prevailing on the border between the two countries such as, in particular, the four-point proposal to the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kampuchea, Laos and Viet Nam, held at Vientiane in July 1980. The just position and attitude of goodwill of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have met with the approval and support of a broad section of world opinion.

In the interests of the Kampuchean people and of the Thai people, and of peace and stability in Indo-China and in South-East Asia, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea demands that the Thai authorities immediately cease their hostile policy and their acts in violation of Kampuchean sovereignty and territorial integrity. The People's Republic of Kampuchea always respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries. At the same time, in the exercise of its right of self-defence, it will ensure that any act endangering the sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and peaceful life of the Kampuchean people is severely punished.

Phnom Penh, 10 January 1981

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