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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 24 February 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address to you a note from the Permanent Mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations containing my Government's response to the United Nations Secretariat communications Nos. 296 and 297 dated 27 October 1980 concerning the signature on 17 October 1980, on behalf of the so-called "Government of Democratic Kampuchea", of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

I would appreciate it if you would circulate the note as an official document of the General Assembly under item 87 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ilja HULINSKY
Permanent Representative

* A/36/50.

ANNEX

Note verbale dated 24 February 1981 from the Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to United Nations Secretariat communications Nos. 296 and 297, dated 27 October 1980, informing that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were signed on 17 October on behalf of the so-called Government of Democratic Kampuchea, wishes to state the following on behalf of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic:

As a party to the above-mentioned instruments, the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic cannot recognize the legal validity of the signature of the above-mentioned international agreements on behalf of the so-called "Government of Democratic Kampuchea", since that infamous regime of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary has been overthrown by the Kampuchean people and no longer exists. It is an established fact that the only existing Kampuchean State is the People's Republic of Kampuchea. All power in that State is exercised by the People's Revolutionary Council - the sole legitimate Government of Kampuchea that has the right to represent the Kampuchean people in international affairs, including the signing of international agreements elaborated within the framework of the United Nations.

/...

The horrendous crimes including the crime of genocide, committed by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique against the Kampuchean people have long been exposed and have been condemned by the entire international community. The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic deplores therefore that a representative of that no longer existing regime could engage in the farcical act of signing the above-mentioned international agreements on behalf of a people he does not represent mocking thus not only tze rules of international law but also those of morality and decency. It is the view of the Czechoslovak Government that this act gravely impairs and compromises the prestige and authority of the United Nations.