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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-seventh session  
Items 9 and 12 of the provisional agenda

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND  
ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR  
ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD,  
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND  
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

- (a) QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYPRUS
- (b) STUDY OF SITUATIONS WHICH APPEAR TO REVEAL A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS PROVIDED IN COMMISSION RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII) AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Letter dated 4 December 1980 from the Deputy Permanent  
Representative of Democratic Kampuchea addressed to  
the Director of the Division of Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, a text entitled "Crimes perpetrated by the Vietnamese authorities", circulated by the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea during the period 17 January - 28 March 1980.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights, under items 9 and 13 of the agenda for its forthcoming thirty-seventh session.

(Signed) TE SUN HOA  
Deputy Permanent Representative

## CRIMES PERPETRATED BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES

### I. COLONIZATION, PLUNDER, CONFISCATION AND FRAUD

Since December 1979, in the district of Chantrea, Svay Rieng Province, which borders Viet Nam, several thousand Vietnamese settlers have arrived in the villages under the so-called free passage agreement which formally abolished the frontier. The occupiers have set about establishing a purely Vietnamese authority which is taking over the administrative, economic, cultural and "political education" committees and "the defence guard corps". Vietnamese currency has been brought into circulation.

Concurrently with the influx of settlers, the Vietnamese authorities have been striving to modify the landscape of the frontier zone. Sugar palms, trees typical of Kampuchea have been felled and the most typical Kampuchean houses have been knocked down and razed.

Early in January 1980 in the commune of Pong Chik, Svay Rieng Province, on the pretext of helping with the harvest, Vietnamese soldiers seized some 500 hectares of rice.

On 18 January 1980 in the district of Phnom Sampeou, Battambang Province, all able-bodied men and their carts were requisitioned, supposedly to transport munitions and supplies to the Vietnamese troops. However, once assembled at the headquarters of the army of occupation, these men were dispossessed of their carts and their animals and forcibly enlisted as soldiers.

On 15 January 1980, a group of Vietnamese claiming to be qualified electricians arrived by boat at Phnom Penh. By way of assistance, they filled their vessel with a large consignment of electrical equipment removed from various administrative buildings in Phnom Penh, including air conditioners, electric generators, cables, etc.

On 12 January 1980 a group of 60 Vietnamese women arrived in Phnom Penh, also by boat, supposedly to teach cooking. In fact, just like the other Vietnamese experts sent to Kampuchea, they returned to Viet Nam a few days later, their boats laden with sewing machines, domestic appliances, electric boiling plates, matting, beds, chairs, tables, and so on taken from various districts of Phnom Penh.

Early in January 1980, new Vietnamese settlers arrived in the Provinces of Kampot, Takeo, Kandal and Kompong Chhnang, driving the local people out of their houses and seizing their property and their crops. In Takeo Province, each family was compelled to billet three Vietnamese soldiers. The Vietnamese soldiers and settlers plundered crops and fished on a predatory scale in the Great Lakes and the Tolé Sap. The local people are not allowed to fish.

For over a year, the Vietnamese settlers have behaved like lords and masters in the provinces where they have established themselves. Thus:

In the large hevea plantations in Chup, Krek, Memot and Snuol, Kompong Cham Province, the local people have been forbidden to move about and between 29 December 1979 and 17 January 1980 a total of 10 inhabitants were shot for gathering firewood in the Chup and Memot plantations;

In Kratié Province, fishing in the Prek Chhlong river is forbidden and on 10 January 1980 five inhabitants were arrested and tortured to death for fishing;

In the district of Kang Meas on the banks of the Mekong, in Kompong Cham Province, all five members of the Khonm Son family, consisting of the parents, their daughter and two sons, were taken away and tortured because they had resisted Vietnamese settlers who were plundering their crops. The mother and daughter were raped, and then tortured to death with the other members of the family.

Since the period from November to January is the peak fishing season in Kampuchea, the Vietnamese army of occupation confiscated fishing tackle and boats in the Great Lakes and Mekong regions. Thus, on 16 January 1980 in the district of Stung Trang, Kompong Cham Province, two inhabitants named Chan and Kong were arrested and executed, and several others tortured, for resisting the confiscation of their fishing equipment. The Vietnamese settlers and soldiers seized 10 boats and a large amount of fishing tackle.

Late in 1979 in the district of Kompong Tralach, Kompong Chhnang Province, the army of occupation established a concentration camp to which have been sent many inhabitants who resisted the plundering and confiscation of their crops and fishing equipment by Vietnamese settlers and soldiers.

On 21 January 1980, in the commune of Chhrach Tong, district of Oudong, Kandal Province, three inhabitants died and several others became seriously ill after taking bogus medicines sold in exchange for gold by Vietnamese claiming to be doctors.

As and when Vietnamese settlements were established, in several provinces the occupying Vietnamese set up various committees purporting to be for "the gathering of the rice harvest" and so-called "economic committees" or "Vietnam-Kampuchea federal economic committees" with the object of concealing confiscation and embezzlement from the Kampuchean economy.

In Kompong Speu Province, several hundred tons of rice, beans, manioc, etc. were extorted from the local population through the "Vietnamese economic committee" between 11 and 15 January 1980 for consumption by the army of occupation.

On 18 January 1980 in the district of Kandieng, Pursat Province, eight inhabitants were shot because they had objected to the seizure of their crops and implements by Vietnamese soldiers and settlers.

Early in January 1980 in Prey Veng Province, the "Vietnamese federal economic committee" decreed that each family was entitled to only 50 kilograms from its yearly rice harvest. The remainder was confiscated. This entitlement was reduced to 20 kilograms in the district of Kirivong, Takeo Province, where the young people were also forcibly mobilized to grow dry-season rice for the army of occupation.

Early in February 1980 in the district of Pearaing, Prey Veng Province, the new Vietnamese settlers used diverted humanitarian relief supplies in order to extort gold from the population by demanding as much as one gram of gold for 10 tins or approximately 3 kilograms of rice.

Since the beginning of 1980, in Prey Veng Province, which is on the border with Viet Nam, the harvests have been confiscated and crops plundered by Vietnamese soldiers and settlers. Access to neighbouring forests has been mined to prevent fruit-picking.

## II. USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

On 15, 17 and 20 January 1980, aerial spraying of chemicals at Leach, Pursat Province: 17 fatalities, including 5 children and 4 pregnant women; 60 persons poisoned, 25 of them seriously; products, yellow in colour, causing dryness of the throat, coughing, stiffening of the jaws, paralysis, fever and eventually death.

On 29 January 1980, gas shells fired on Taing Sou, Au Lak, Vat Tatoung and Païlin, Battambang Province: 4 fatalities, including 1 pregnant woman, and 20 persons seriously ill, including 7 children: gas causing suffocation, impaired eyesight, dizziness, fainting, profuse haemorrhages, and eventually death some 10 hours later.

On 1, 2 and 3 February 1980 gas shells fired on Taing Sou and Au Taëm, and on 3 February aerial spraying of chemicals over Kamrieng, Battambang Province: in all 10 people killed and 25 seriously ill.

On 25 January 1980, gas shells fired on the village of Sdao, Samlaut district, Battambang Province: 10 people killed and several dozen seriously ill.

On 20 January 1980 in the same village of Sdao, distribution by Vietnamese soldiers of contaminated red maize which poisoned 50 families and caused the death of several people.

On 6 and 7 February 1980, gas shells fired on Païlin and Kamrieng, Battambang Province: 13 people killed and 34 seriously ill; also on Leach, Pursat Province: 35 people killed or seriously ill.

On 8 February 1980, gas shells fired in the Kamrieng-Païlin region, Battambang Province: 8 people killed and 38 seriously ill.

On 17 January 1980, gas shells fired in the district of Thmar Baing, Koh Kong Province: 4 people killed and 30 seriously ill.

On 27 February 1980, gas shells fired in Taing Sou and the surrounding area, Battambang Province: 8 people killed and 17 seriously ill.

On 3 March 1980, gas shells fired at Sala Krao, Païlin district, Battambang Province: 10 fatalities, including several women and children; 5 persons wounded and seriously ill.

On 7 and 9 March 1980, gas shells fired in the upper Koh Kong region, Koh Kong Province: 1 person killed and 13 seriously ill.

On 14 January 1980, gas shells fired in the Sen Monorom region, Mondulhiri Province: 16 people killed and 21 seriously ill.

On 15 and 16 March 1980, gas shells fired and aerial spraying of chemicals in the Mont Melay region, district of Sisophon, Battambang Province: 7 people killed and 27 seriously ill.

### III. ARREST, TORTURE AND MASSACRE

In October 1979, at Aur Chbar, Mondulakiri Province, the Vietnamese army set up a concentration camp adjoining its position in the region. Over 200 men, women and children are incarcerated in the camp without food and in unhygienic conditions, and are subjected to torture. Dead bodies are removed regularly.

On 24 December 1979, in the commune of Kandal, district of Thmar Puok, Battambang Province, 60 inhabitants were forcibly mobilized with their ox-carts supposedly in order to remove the bodies of Vietnamese soldiers to Krala, a neighbouring village. On leaving the Kandal, however, the convoy was intercepted by Vietnamese soldiers who machine-gunned the drivers in cold blood and seized the carts and oxen.

On the pretext of anti-Vietnamese activities and opposition to the "Indo-Chinese federation", the army of occupation carried out arrests, tortures and massacres as follows:

On 14 January 1980, 5 inhabitants in the district of Chantréa and 3 in the district of Prek Koki, Svay Rieng Province;

On 4 January 1980, a group of 15 inhabitants digging for wild tubers in a wood and 13 others in Samlaut, Battambang Province;

On 12 January 1980, 3 fishermen on the Siemreap river, Siemreap Province;

On 16 January 1980, 5 members of the "administrative committee", 5 soldiers and 8 forcibly enlisted members of the defence guard;

Between the beginning of the dry season and the end of January 1980, over 30,000 persons in Preah Vihear and Stung Treng Provinces, in the course of blocking operations organized by the army of occupation to prevent refugees from fleeing to Thailand;

On 20 January 1980, about 100 former officials and teachers in the district of Baribaur, Kompong Chhnang Province;

In early January 1980, 8 inhabitants of Toum, district of Maung Russey, Battambang Province;

On 21 January 1980, 12 people including children and elderly persons tied together and drowned in the Russey Chrum river, Pursat Province;

On 30 January 1980, several inhabitants, one of whom was burned alive, in Talay, Mondulakiri Province;

On 1 February 1980, 16 inhabitants drowned at Aur Reaing, Mondulakiri Province;

On 2 February 1980, 15 persons, including 5 children in Sre Sangkum, Mondulakiri Province;

On 29 January 1980, 5 inhabitants guillotined and their heads displayed in the village of Choam Khsan, Preah Vihear Province; 1 inhabitant had his eyes gouged out in Paillin district, Battambang Province;

On 30 January 1980, several people tied together by means of a cord passed through the palms of their pierced hands, in the district of Haung, Battambang Province;

On 31 January 1980, 65 inhabitants, 8 of them burned alive, in the district of Sithor Kandal, and 12 inhabitants, 8 of them drowned, at Lové, Kandal Province;

At the end of January 1980, 18 people, including 5 Lao and 5 Chinese nationals, at Koh Sralay, district of Stung Trang, Kompong Cham Province;

On 2 February 1980, 8 inhabitants, 6 of them officials and soldiers recently forcibly enlisted, at Siempang in the north-east region;

On 11 February 1980, 16 inhabitants, in addition to 4 girls who had been savagely raped during a raid in the district of Baray, Kompong Thom Province;

On 10 February 1980, 6 inhabitants who were picking fruit at Taprok, Kompong Thom Province;

At the end of February, several persons, including women and children, at Thalabarivat, Stung Treng Province;

On 27 February 1980, 10 families whose houses were burned in Anlong Veng district, Oddar Meanchey Province;

At the end of February, 10 inhabitants burned alive in Bakan district, Pursat Province.

On 13 December 1979 in the commune of Prey Khmau, district of Chhouk, Kampot Province, Vietnamese soldiers forced a child of the Chak Sam family to climb a coconut tree and gather coconuts for them. As soon as they had been given the coconuts, they amused themselves by shooting the child and killed him.

On 9 January 1980, in Peam Chikang district, Kompong Cham Province, Vietnamese soldiers seized the rice harvest and other crops, and machine-gunned the local inhabitants when they resisted. Ten people were killed, including a pregnant woman and her two children, and several wounded.

On 12 January 1980, in Sisophon district, Battambang Province, 15 inhabitants were forcibly mobilized with their ox-carts to transport munitions to Vietnamese troops on the Makhoeun front. After a few miles because they were overloaded several oxen collapsed, unable to move. They were then machine-gunned pitilessly. Those which arrived at their destination were subjected to the same fate.

On 12 February 1980, in the commune of Pramé in the north-east region, the Vietnamese army machine-gunned a group of inhabitants working in the village, having accused them of anti-Vietnamese activities. Seven people were killed and several wounded. The houses were burned down and several children and elderly persons were thrown into the flames.

On 25 February 1980, between Samnang Tau and Say Saman, in Mongkolborei district, Battambang Province, 27 inhabitants, including women and children, were massacred on their way home after collecting relief supplies at the border. The 10 carts loaded with supplies were seized by the Vietnamese army.

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