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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 14 May 1981 from the Permanent Representative of  
Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the text of a document dated 10 April 1981 issued by the Ministry of Public Health of Democratic Kampuchea on the use of chemical weapons by the Vietnamese aggressors against the Kampuchean people.

I should be grateful if you would transmit this document to the Group of Experts to Investigate Reports on the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons and have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 22 and 24 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Democratic Kampuchea

\* A/36/50.

ANNEX

កម្ពុជាប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ

DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS  
BY THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS  
AGAINST THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE

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For more than two years the troops of the Hanoi authorities have been invading and occupying Democratic Kampuchea. Not only sophisticated weapons of all kinds and famine, but also chemical weapons which are proscribed by mankind, have been used by the Hanoi authorities to exterminate the Kampuchean people and to overcome the latter's resistance being waged under the leadership of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Those chemical weapons can be divided into 3 groups :

I- Toxic gas: spread out from shells of cannons give the following effects:

a- people who are near the point of impact die immediately

b- those who are far from the point of impact, within about a 500 meters-radius present the following signs:

- breathing syndrome characterized by an acute dyspnoea and a sensation of an intra-thoracic heat

- general bleeding syndrome causing blood vomiting through respiratory and digestive tracts (mouth, noses and rectum). This bleeding syndrome determined an acute anaemia.

- blackish urine

/...

- the patient is in an extreme asthenic state with a sensation of an imminent death and sometimes even of a loss of consciousness.

2- Chemical powders determining extensive skin lesions with a strong hypertherm and the patient may die if not treated in time.

3- Poisoning of drinking water: 6 hours after absorbing it, the victim gives out bilious vomittings abundantly and frequently.

- throwing of blood through mouth and nose
- fetid breathing
- the patient is unconscious with repeated convulsions
- a blackish and strongly fetid slimy liquid comes out of the anus
- intense asthenia

So far we have been able to save nearly all the victims who were arriving alive in our hospitals, by a quite simple therapy :

- Atropin to facilitate breathing
- Reanimation with a glucose serum or lactate Ringer, hydrocortisone, vitamin C
- Antibiotic by general and local tract in case of spreading skin lesions
- haemostatics

The very nature and the composition of those toxic chemical are still unidentified for lack of laboratory of toxicology.

Here below a few examples among many others where the Vietnamese enemy has recently spread toxic chemicals:

- April 2, 1981, West of Leach and Pursat, 17 people were seriously intoxicated

- March 11, 1981, in our rivers at Samlaut and Sisophon 6 people died, 15 others seriously intoxicated and many others slightly intoxicated

- March 14, 1981, on Sras Chaev Kay Yo, in Phnom Malai area, 10 people had died, 36 were seriously intoxicated

- on March 10, 13 and 21, for these 3 days, at Pailin, the Vietnamese enemy was shelling toxic gas killing 8 people among the 124 victims of which 65 were seriously wounded and 51 slightly intoxicated.

From April 1980 up to now in Kampuchea, more than 2,900 of the population have been victims of those chemical weapons. More than 1,100 persons out of those 2,900 victims have died. Most of those victims were found in Koh Kong, in Ratanakiri, in the West Pailin and South Bavel (in the province of Battambang). At present the Hanoi authorities are intensifying their chemical warfare against the Kampuchean population before our ever growing national resistance.

We launch an urgent appeal to the international community to halt the criminal hand of those authorities so as the Kampuchean people can survive.

Democratic Kampuchea,  
April 10, 1981.

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