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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 22 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL Thirty-sixth year

Note verbale dated 10 July 1981 from the Permanent Mission of the Congo addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of the Congo to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, acting on the instructions of its Government, has the honour to inform him of the position of the Congo regarding the International Conference on Kampuchea.

The Government of the People's Republic of the Congo will not participate in that Conference which it considers untimely and whose procedures it considers inappropriate.

It also confirms the vote which the delegation of the Congo cast against General Assembly resolution 35/6, on 22 October 1980, and the position which was clearly set forth by its representative when explaining his vote, when he explained why the Congo was opposed to the very principle and purpose of the discussion of the item entitled "The situation in Kampuchea" as envisaged by the General Assembly.

It should be recalled that when the People's Republic of the Congo recognized the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, very soon after the collapse of the Pol Pot dictatorship, it was merely acting in accordance with custom and international law, which states that only States, and not régimes, can claim to have monopoly of representativity and sovereignty.

It therefore follows that the power effectively exercised by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea alone had force of law. Since it came to power it has distinguished itself only by the tremendous effort it has made to rebuild the country on the ashc of the crimes of genocide perpetrated by the Pol Pot régime, which today is supported by all who oppose the advent of real peace in South-East Asia.

^{*} A/36/50.

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Although the specialized agencies of the United Nations system themselves acknowledge that these efforts are having positive results, and although this view is shared by many neutral observers, including Western observers, these efforts are being hindered by the behaviour of certain Member States of the United Nations which, not content with putting shockingly great pressures on certain aid-giving agencies, are going so far as to arm the Pol Pot clique even though it is spurned by the entire people of Kampuchea.

In the view of the People's Republic of the Congo, the so-called International Conference on Kampuchea constitutes intolerable interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State, in violation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter.

It is for this reason that the People's Republic of the Congo will not participate in this so-called conference which looks like a plot, for it believes that the United Nations should confine its role - at the very most - to supporting the efforts of the lawful Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to bring about the country's recovery.

The Permanent Missicn of the People's Republic of the Congo kindly requests the Secretary-General to arrange for this note to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, under item 22 of the preliminary list.