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INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 3 August 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 a note from the Permanent Mission of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations with reference to Communication No. C.N. 147.1981.TREATIES-1, dated 24 June 1981 from the United Nations Secretariat concerning the accession of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 9 June 1981 to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this note circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 87 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea

* A/36/150.

ANNEX

The Permanent Mission of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Communication from the United Nations Secretariat, No. C.N. 147.TREATIES-1, dated 24 June 1981, concerning the accession of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 9 June 1981 to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1948, wishes to make the following declaration on behalf of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea:

As a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea denounces and condemns indignantly and most strenuously the latest masquerade perpetrated by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam acceding to this Convention.

This cynical and macabre pretence seeks to camouflage the indecent crimes of genocide committed by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Kampuchea and is a hateful insult to the memory of the more than 2,500,000 Kampuchean victims massacred, with entire villages wiped out, by the 250,000 soldiers of the Vietnamese invasion and occupation army, which relied for this purpose on conventional arms, chemical weapons and the weapon of starvation.

It is, moreover, a grave insult to the many hundreds of thousands of Laotians massacred or forced to take refuge abroad after the occupation of Laos by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to the Hmong national minority in Laos exterminated by Vietnamese conventional and chemical weapons, and finally to more than one million Vietnamese "boat people" who died at sea or sought refuge abroad in their flight to escape the repressions in Viet Nam carried out by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

This lawless accession of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam violates and discredits the noble principles and ideals of the United Nations and seriously undermines the prestige and moral authority of our world Organization. It represents an arrogant challenge to the international community, which is fully cognizant of the crimes of genocide committed by the Vietnamese army in Kampuchea and which has never ceased to denounce and condemn them since 25 December 1978, the date on which the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Kampuchea began.

The only way in which the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam can convince the international community that it has ceased to violate the United Nations Charter and international law, thereby escaping from the opprobrium and isolation with which it is currently contending, is not to resort to such a cynical and macabre pretence but to halt its invasion, occupation and crimes of genocide in Kampuchea, to withdraw from Kampuchea all its troops (250,000 men) and all its administrative staff (50,000 men), so that the people of Kampuchea may freely exercise their inalienable right to decide their own fate themselves through general and free

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elections under United Nations supervision: this would be in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 34/22 and 35/6, resolutions 29 (XXXVI) and 11 (XXXVII) of the Commission on Human Rights, decisions 1980/136 and 1981/154 of the Economic and Social Council, and the Declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea unanimously adopted on 17 July 1981.

New York, 3 August 1981
