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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Letter dated 13 January 1982 from the Permanent  
Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith extracts from a speech made by His Excellency Mr. Heng Samrin, President of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, during a meeting held on the occasion of the third anniversary of the Liberation of Kampuchea.

I would request you to have this note and the extracts circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "The Situation in Kampuchea".

(Signed) HA VAN LAU  
Permanent Representative of the  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
to the United Nations

EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH

MADE BY MR. HENG SAMRIN, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA, DURING THE MEETING  
HELD ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
LIBERATION OF KAMPUCHEA (7 JANUARY 1982)

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Three years ago, with the unconditional help of the people's army of fraternal Viet Nam, the Kampuchean people rose up and overthrew the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique, thus completely liberating our beloved territory. We thus destroyed the cruel and barbarous régime of genocide, the work of the Maoists and the most savage and bloody heritage in the history of humanity. This day of victory for the Kampuchean people may be considered as the day of the resurrection of our whole people. This is an absolute truth: on 7 January 1979, we escaped from death and we returned in peace to our native villages.

We have escaped from the threats and tyrannies of the executioners who treated us like animals and who held our lives in their hands. We are now vigorously engaged in our recovery and are in the strong position of being masters of our destiny and of our nation. We have emerged from the darkness and we are now advancing towards the brilliant light of socialism which is the best régime in the world. On 7 January 1979, a new and glorious era opened up and became inscribed in the golden book of our national history.

The three years which have elapsed represent a very short period in the history of our nation-building which has been carried out with the help of fraternal peoples throughout the world. However, in a country that was completely destroyed, the Kampuchean people have achieved remarkable all-round progress which formerly seemed to be impossible.

In 1979, we scored remarkable victories in the military field. We have destroyed the genocidal régime of Pol Pot - Ieng Sary - Khieu Samphan, the unconditional lackeys of Peking, and we have frustrated all their manoeuvres to return and tyrannize and massacre us again. They have fled and have sought refuge in the territory of Thailand. This genocidal régime is a demented, barbarous and savage régime without precedent in human history. They sacrifice the flesh and blood of the Kampuchean people in order to carry out experiments in Maoist doctrine. If it had not been for the victory of 7 January 1979, with the assistance of Viet Nam, our nation by now would have been obliterated from the great human society.

The destruction of the genocidal régime has partly resulted in the elimination of the base for the expansionism and hegemonism of the great Chinese nation in South-East Asia. It has constituted a strategic setback for the Peking clique and has contributed to the peace and stability of South-East Asia.

With the help of this great victory in the military field, we achieved in the following year, 1980, other brilliant successes in the economic field. The danger

of a terrible famine bequeathed to us by the Pol Pot régime which threatened the life of the Kampuchean people has been averted. Agricultural production has been restored. In 1980, we grew twice as many crops as in 1979. A number of factories, enterprises and artisan activities have resumed production of goods necessary for the life of the people. Bank notes (the riel) have been circulated throughout the country. State trading has been restored. Markets are working again. The life of the people, although still difficult, is gradually being stabilized and we expect to achieve new victories in the third year of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

In 1979, we achieved victory in the military field. In 1980, in the economic field, and in 1981, in all fields and especially the political field, we have been victorious. This is also the year in which we can perceive the dynamic force of our people, master of its destiny, and this is the year when our political identity and the spirit of our people and of all ethnic groups and social strata are being strengthened in our beloved homeland.

The Fourth Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea has been crowned with remarkable successes. It has formulated a clear policy of the Party and of the whole people. It has determined the objective and the strategy for the Kampuchean revolution which is advancing step by step towards socialism through this transitional period.

The Congress defined a number of immediate and essential tasks for the construction and defence of our homeland. In pursuance of its right to be master of its own affairs, our people participated joyfully in the elections of the local People's Revolutionary Committees and of the members of the National Assembly, which is the supreme organ of our country. Our National Assembly has adopted the most democratic and progressive Constitution in the history of the nation. It has elected the Council of State, and the Council of Ministers, which is the sole authentic and legal representative of our people.

At the end of 1981 the United Front for the Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Homeland held its third congress. This proves that our whole people is more solidly united than ever before. This is one of the factors in the victory of our Kampuchean revolution.

In 1981, under the guidance of the Party and the Council of Ministers and, as a result of enormous efforts by all solidarity production groups and by the whole people, we were able to remedy the damage caused by flooding and drought. The conditions of life of the people are being gradually stabilized. The health care network has been extended to the most remote regions. The health of the people is gradually improving and visible progress has been made in the eradication of disease. About one million and a half children are going back to school in the year 1981-1982.

The campaign against illiteracy is in full swing. More than 400,000 students are following literacy and refresher courses. Everywhere groups are being organized to learn popular songs and dances.

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On this glorious day, 7 January 1982, we express our gratitude to the Communist Party, the Government, the people and the Army of Viet Nam who have saved us from the danger of genocide and who now are bending all their efforts, both physical and moral, to help us in the defence and reconstruction of our country. We wish to thank the Vietnamese experts who are helping in the fulfilment of our tasks and who are co-operating closely with Kampuchean workers in all fields of our activities. Also, on this occasion, we all address cordial greetings to the families, staff, soldiers and experts from Viet Nam who are fulfilling their international obligations towards Kampuchea and we wish to convey to them the profound gratitude of our people.

We wish to convey our thanks to the fraternal Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which is the defender of peace and revolutions throughout the world and which has given and is giving to our people immense help and devoted support.

We wish to express our friendly and warm feelings to the Party, Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to other fraternal socialist countries who have exerted and are exerting every effort to provide support and assistance for the cause of the revolution of the Kampuchean people.

We wish to thank the Government and people of the Republic of India and all the other non-aligned States which have supported and are still actively supporting our people.

We wish to thank all the international organizations which have given and are giving humanitarian aid to our people.

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Although Pol Pot and his lackeys have been expelled from our territory, the Chinese expansionists, in collusion with the United States imperialists and other reactionaries, have not abandoned their plans of destroying the Kampuchean revolution. They are trying to rally the "Khmers rouges" and the other Khmer reactionaries and to step up provocations along the Thailand-Kampuchean frontier. At the same time, they have organized the secret infiltration of their lackeys into our country to carry out acts of sabotage. They are conducting the most poisonous psychological warfare aimed at shaking our confidence and dividing and destroying our national unity and our solidarity with Viet Nam and with all the socialist countries of the world.

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We are determined to defend and maintain order and security within our country and to foil the psychological warfare and espionage of the enemy. We must intensify our efforts to rehabilitate the national economy, particularly agriculture.

The State plans to rehabilitate the key industries and to develop light industry and manual crafts connected with agriculture in order to meet the needs of the population.

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Trade, finance, telecommunications, transport, education, health and social culture must be effectively developed and strengthened.

While eliminating our enemies and increasing production, we must also endeavour to build up real revolutionary forces, strengthen the power of the State from the highest echelon to the foundations, and to build up all the revolutionary mass organizations that provide solid support for the mass revolutionary movements.

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As the resolution of the Fourth Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea states, the Kampuchean revolution must always bear aloft two banners: the banner of national independence and the banner of international solidarity. Solidarity with Viet Nam, which is essential to the Kampuchean revolution, constitutes the latter's strategic line.

History has linked the peoples of Kampuchea and Viet Nam and the peoples of Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Laos in the struggle against their common enemies for the independence and freedom of each nation. Viet Nam and Kampuchea have assisted each other three times and have achieved success. Lofty internationalism and pure and faithful feelings have emerged from the flesh and blood of the two nations.

The Kampuchean people are determined to defend and cherish these links of solidarity and friendship. So long as sugar palms grow in Kampuchean territory and so long as the Mekong flows, the ties of friendship between Kampuchea and Viet Nam will remain as steadfast as the proud and unchanging summit of Mount Aural. The Kampuchean people wish to develop their relations and in particular their relations with the fraternal people of Laos. Kampuchea and Laos are two sister nations living side-by-side on good terms, sharing good fortune and misfortune. They join forces to combat their common enemies and win joint victories. Today, they are united in order to advance towards socialism and remain forever close to one another.

The firm alliance of solidarity between Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Laos is the basic factor guaranteeing peace and stability in South-East Asia.

We welcome the results of the meeting of the Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of Indo-China and other socialist countries, and sincerely thank the representatives of the socialist countries which participated for their support of the Kampuchean revolution.

We intend to establish friendly relations with Thailand and the other countries of South-East Asia. We intend to organize talks between the countries of Indo-China and the ASEAN countries with a view to solving all the problems of the region among ourselves without foreign interference. That is very important for peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia and for the development of each country in the region.

We salute and support the very important peace policy adopted by the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the

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far-sighted spirit of Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, who recently took up the question of that policy in Bonn. We wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Soviet Union to abolish medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe and to reduce current tensions in the world.

We fully support the important proposals made by the Mongolian People's Republic concerning the conclusion of a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of force in relations between the States of Asia and the Pacific.

We fully support the just, timely and effective measures taken by the Polish People's Republic to prevent reactionaries from destroying the revolutionary achievements of the Polish people and divert that people from the course of socialism.

We resolutely side with the heroic Cuban people with a view to foiling all manoeuvres involving interference and aggression by United States imperialism.

We categorically condemn the decision of the Israeli Knesset to annex the Golan Heights, which belong to Syria; we are determined to side always with the Syrian people in their struggle to protect their independence, freedom and territorial integrity.

We are determined to support the struggle of the peoples of Asia; Africa and Latin America against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism and for national independence, democracy and social progress.

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Our Kampuchean revolution is advancing towards a radiant future. The great successes achieved in all fields during the past three years constitute a substantial contribution by our people, who are eliminating all difficulties in order to achieve further successes.

Basic conditions are favourable to us. Our Party is following the right line. Our people, inspired by ardent patriotism, feel deep hatred for their enemies and believe in the revolution. We can rely on strong ties of militant solidarity with Viet Nam and a strategic alliance between Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Laos. We derive great benefit from the efficient assistance of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries. We also receive assistance and support from progressive peoples throughout the world.

No difficulty and no noxious manoeuvre by the enemy can impede our progress.

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