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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION  
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 22 January 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government and further to my letter of 27 November 1981 (A/36/735-S/14775), I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. On 28 December 1981 at 3.20 p.m., a Thai fishing trawler "Netsuwan 8" was fired upon by an armed trawler while fishing in Thai territorial waters in the vicinity of Kud Island, Trat Province. Two Thai navy patrol ships, which were dispatched to the scene to assist the fishing trawler, fired warning shots into the air to give the intruding armed trawler a chance to cease and desist. The armed trawler, however, opened fire on the Thai patrol ships. The patrol ships, in an act of self-defence, were compelled to return fire, sinking the armed trawler in Thai territorial waters at latitude 11 degree 28 libda north and longitude 102 degree 41 libda east, which is 8 miles south of Kud Island, Trat Province.

2. Interrogation of the five surviving crewmen revealed the following:

(a) The armed trawler was formerly a Thai fishing trawler which had been illegally seized from the Thai territorial waters two years ago. Subsequently, it was modified and armed with heavy weapons including 75 mm recoilless gun, 12.7 anti-aircraft machine gun, M 79 machine guns, etc. Its mission was to seize innocent Thai fishing boats.

(b) The trawler had a crew of 13, 6 of whom were Vietnamese, all killed when the trawler was hit. The 7 survivors who were rescued are Kampuchean nationals, two of whom had suffered severe injuries and could not be saved. They had been forcibly recruited from various parts of Kampuchea by Vietnamese occupation forces to serve aboard the trawler.

A/37/76  
S/14846  
English  
Page 2

The above-mentioned incident is not the first of its kind. Several Thai fishing trawlers have been attacked and seized in Thai territorial waters by the Vietnamese-controlled armed boats.

The Thai Government condemns this and other similar acts of hostility and reaffirms its legitimate right to take measures to defend and to protect Thailand's sovereignty, territorial integrity and to safeguard the life and property of the Thai nationals.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "The situation in Kampuchea" and "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI  
Permanent Representative

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