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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 28 April 1982 from the Permanent Representative
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, concerning the attacks launched by the Thai authorities against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter with its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 20 and 54 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Soubanh SRITHIRATH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/37/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

On 12 February 1982, the Thai artillery fired several 105 mm toxic chemical shells in the southern region of Phnom Melai, Province of Battambang.

On 14 February 1982, the Thai artillery again fired nine 105 mm toxic chemical shells on the same region.

This shelling claimed twenty victims among the local civilian population, who were seized with severe vomiting.

Following the recent deliberate attack by the Thai navy against a Kampuchean patrol boat in Kampuchean territorial waters, these premeditated acts of war on the part of the Thai authorities constitute an extremely serious violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and present a grave threat to peace and stability in the region of South East Asia. The Thai authorities have thus escalated their acts of hostility against the renascent Kampuchean people, thus placing themselves at the service of the Chinese expansionists-hegemonists in collusion with the American imperialists and other reactionary forces.

It should be noted that these criminal acts on the part of the Thai authorities coincided with the decision of the Reagan Administration to launch large-scale production of chemical weapons and to resume calumnies against the Soviet Union in connexion with the so-called "use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan and in Indochina".

The Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea wishes to lodge a vigorous protest against these extremely dangerous acts of war perpetrated by the Thai authorities and condemns them in the strongest terms. It demands that the Thai authorities cease such acts forthwith and maintain strict respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea. The Thai Government must assume full responsibility for any consequences of its acts of aggression against the Kampuchean people.

Phnom Penh, 19 February 1982
