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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

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

Letter dated 11 October from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the request of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, I have the honour to forward herewith the text of an interview granted to the Kampuchean News Agency (SPK) on 30 September 1982 by His Excellency Mr. Bou Thong, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Defence of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, on Kampuchea's policy regarding Thailand.

I should be grateful if you could have this note and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 3, 20 and 35.

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON  
Permanent Representative of the  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

INTERVIEW GRANTED TO SPK BY H.E. Mr. BOU THONG, VICE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON KAMPUCHEA'S  
POLICY REGARDING THAILAND.

QUESTION 1 :

Of late the Thai authorities spread the slander that Viet Nam has increased its troops and munitions along the Thai frontier for an offensive against the Pol Pot remnants. What do you think of this propaganda ?

ANSWER :

Before answering this question, let me recall the attitude of the Thai authorities with regard to the Kampuchean, Vietnamese and Lao peoples.

1. During the U.S. war of aggression in Indochina, the Thai authorities allowed the Americans to use their territory to instal air bases from which bombings were launched daily against the three Indochinese countries. Worse still, Thai soldiers took part in the American aggression in Indochina. These aggressions have left particularly grave sequels to the Kampuchean children. How much have the Kampuchean people suffered at the sight of their fields completely razed by American bombs?

2. Following the liberation of our country on April 17, 1975 and after its debacle, the U.S. imperialists and their valets, the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary - Khieu Samphan traitors, agents of the Beijing expansionists, practised a genocide, massacring more than three million Kampucheans, reducing the whole country into a shambles. They have also committed aggression against Viet Nam and Thailand itself was victim of this aggression.

3. The victory of January 7, 1979 of our people put an end to the genocide and the aggression of the genocidal clique against Viet Nam and Thailand.

Thailand should have welcomed our victory against the Pol Pot clique who had also invaded Thailand. On the contrary, it has given them refuge along the Khmer - Thai border and on its territory, supplied them with arms and ammunitions with a view to carrying out sabotage against the peaceful life of the Kampuchean people. Thailand has itself violated the Kampuchean territory by land, by sea and by air, allowing remnants of the Pol Pot Army and other groups of Khmer reactionaries to foment trouble at the Khmer - Thai frontier.

In the political field, Thailand and its accomplices have rigged up the so-called "Tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" in hopes of reviving the genocidal Pol Pot - Ieng Sary - Khieu Samphan regime, camouflaging it behind a signboard constituted by the feudalist Sihanouk and the bourgeois Son Sann. At the current session of the U.N. General Assembly, Thailand is squandering a lot of money to enlist more support for the Khmer traitors.

Thailand has helped these traitors materially and politically. It has toed the line of the Chinese expansionists in collaboration with the U.S. imperialists and international reactionaries of all colours to carry out China's strategy of expansion. It plays no heed to the interests of its own people. It is stubbornly aligning itself with the Sino-American policy of expansion, fostering the Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer reactionaries in order to cause instability at the frontier, clamouring about a massing of troops along its frontiers with a view to asking for military aid from its masters in Beijing and Washington. Thailand has also threatened to push back Kampuchean refugees and this also with a view to demanding more aid. The calumnies uttered by Thailand at the behest of the Beijing expansionists and the U.S. imperialists aim to provoke tension in this region, profit by the natural resources of the peoples in the region and realize their strategy of expansion.

QUESTION 2 :

What are the measures to cope with Thai provocations by land, sea and air against the People's Republic of Kampuchea and to Thailand's stubbornly giving refuge to the remnants of the Pol Pot army and other Khmer reactionaries ?

ANSWER :

As has been provided for in our Constitution, the People's Republic of Kampuchea always pursues a foreign policy of independence, peace and non-alignment. We wish to live peacefully and establish relations with other countries without distinction of political regime, on the principle of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and respect for mutual interests.

For these reasons, our Government has many times proposed especially at the Vientiane Conference of July 1980 and at the 6th Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Indochinese countries, the creation of a demilitarized zone along the Kampuchean - Thai border. But the Thai authorities have rejected it. They have also rejected our proposal to create a zone of security where there would be only troops of Kampuchea on the Kampuchean territory and Thai troops on the Thai territory.

Prompted by goodwill and to prove our position for peace, we have also decided in conjunction with Viet Nam to withdraw part of the Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea and if Thailand positively responds to this gesture we shall consider further withdrawals. The Thai authorities have not only refused to give a positive response to this proposal but have also rebuffed our goodwill and distorted the nature of the problem. They have brought their support to the remnants of the Pol Pot army and other Khmer reactionaries with a view to provoking insecurity along the frontier, preventing the rebirth of the Kampuchean people, and this in service of Chinese expansionism and U.S. imperialism. We wish to emphasize that it would be easy for us to liquidate the Pol Pot remnants in Thai territory, but we respect Thailand's sovereignty. If we wanted to react to the attitude of Thailand, we could have taken advantage of the April 1st, 1981 coup d'Etat because at that time Thailand had reduced its forces at the frontier to reinforce Bangkok. We did not do that. Thailand must understand the position of Kampuchea and not forget that its arrogant attitude harms the interests of the Thai people. Thailand's policy is a policy of toeing the line of Beijing expansionists in collaboration with the U.S. imperialists and other reactionary forces. Should the Thai authorities not revise their policy, their fate would be one day decided by the Thai people themselves.

September 30, 1982.

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