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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION
ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 18 July 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the statement made on 17 July 1979 by the spokesman of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea on the refugee problem.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHAN Youran
Acting Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Statement made on 17 July 1979 by the spokesman of the Government
of Democratic Kampuchea on the refugee problem

The entire world is at the present time deeply concerned at the fate of the millions of refugees from Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea who are experiencing dreadful suffering and are every day in danger of meeting a particularly horrible death. The refugee problem is now reaching a critical point where it seriously threatens the political, social and economic stability and the security of the countries belonging to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). An international conference on the refugee problem will be held at Geneva on 20 and 21 July 1979 under the auspices of the United Nations. The spokesman of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has been authorized to make the following statement on this occasion:

The people of Kampuchea and the Government of Democratic Kampuchea welcome the holding of this international conference on the refugee problem and express the hope that it will adopt appropriate measures to bring an effective and speedy solution to this particularly alarming and distressing problem. In this regard the Government of Democratic Kampuchea shares the opinion expressed by the Governments of many countries, including those of South-East Asia, that it is important to identify the basic causes of the problem and take measures to deal with it at its very roots.

The policy of exploitation, oppression and genocide practised by the Hanoi authorities against their own people, and their policy of aggression and expansion against neighbouring countries, are what lie at the origin of the exodus of millions of Vietnamese refugees, hundreds of thousands of Laotian refugees and tens of thousands of refugees from Kampuchea.

The fate of the tens of thousands of inhabitants of Kampuchea who have been forced to seek refuge temporarily in Thailand is still more tragic and distressing than that of the "boat people". The fact is that all these innocent people are direct victims of the war of destruction and genocide perpetrated by the Vietnamese aggressors. Wherever they go, the Vietnamese aggressors abandon themselves to massacres and brigandage, looting and destroying everything - harvests, rice, livestock and dwellings. Those refugees who have escaped being massacred the first time must again flee before the Vietnamese troops in order to seek temporary refuge in Thai territory, not once but many times, without any end in sight. All these Kampuchean refugees will certainly return to their country when the Vietnamese troops end their aggression against Kampuchea and withdraw from it completely.

However, there is another aspect of the refugee problem which has no precedent in history and to which world opinion has not yet given sufficient

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attention. This is the systematic dispatch of Vietnamese nationals by the Hanoi authorities to Kampuchean territory and their settlement there to replace the Kampuchean inhabitants whom those authorities have previously massacred or forced to flee the country.

Thus, by the latter part of May 1979 the Hanoi authorities had settled almost two hundred thousand (200,000) Vietnamese nationals in Kampuchean territory, dividing them up among the coastal provinces and those of the east. Now, while they continue to practise genocide against the people of Kampuchea and force them to leave the country, the Hanoi authorities are systematically introducing and establishing Vietnamese nationals in Kampuchean territory. The Kampuchean people are therefore currently facing a mortal danger in the form of the Hanoi authorities, who are practising a systematic policy of extermination against the Kampuchean race and trying to wipe Kampuchea off the world map.

This, then, is another aspect of the policy of exporting refugees which not only is repugnant to but indeed defies the conscience of all mankind.

The people of Kampuchea and the Government of Democratic Kampuchea express the hope of seeing the international conference in Geneva give greater attention to this other aspect of the refugee problem, consider and debate the problem of the Hanoi authorities' systematic dispatch of several hundred thousand Vietnamese nationals to settle in Kampuchean territory, and adopt measures to prevent them from doing so and oblige them to put an end to the practice.

This tragic refugee problem cannot be dissociated from Viet Nam's and the Soviet Union's policy of aggression and expansion in general and the Vietnamese war of aggression in Kampuchea in particular. For this reason many countries throughout the world have expressed their sympathy and given support to the just struggle of the people of Kampuchea to defend independent and sovereign Democratic Kampuchea in its territorial integrity and assure the continued existence of the Kampuchean race.

The people of Kampuchea and the Government of Democratic Kampuchea wish to take this occasion to renew to all Governments, peoples, political parties, mass organizations and individuals friendly to them their heartfelt expressions of deep gratitude. The people of Kampuchea and the Government of Democratic Kampuchea are convinced that they will continue to make their voices heard and will adopt a policy, both during the international conference and thereafter, which will make the Hanoi authorities put an end to their policy of exporting Vietnamese nationals into Kampuchean territory, cease committing genocide against the Kampuchean people, and withdraw all their forces of aggression from Kampuchea in order to allow the people of Kampuchea to settle their affairs for themselves without external interference and bring the enormous suffering of the Kampuchean people to an end.