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THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS
APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN
DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Letter dated 2 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative
of the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

"Telegram of 25 January 1983 from His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights."

(Signed) Nguyen Thuong
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA
Independence, Peace, Freedom, Happiness

Phnom Penh, 25 January 1983

On the eve of the thirty-ninth annual session of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the right of peoples to self-determination, I have the honour to transmit the following views of my Government:

1. The people of the People's Republic of Kampuchea celebrated the fourth anniversary of its revival on 7 January 1983, thus reaffirming, for the fourth time, its independence, its sovereignty and its right to self-determination.

As an innocent victim, it has never forgotten, and continues to condemn, the systematic violation of its most fundamental rights by the genocidal regime of Democratic Kampuchea, which massacred more than 3 million persons, destroyed the country's entire economic, social and cultural infrastructure and caused the survivors indescribable suffering by subjecting them to widespread famine and to death-dealing forced labour. Religious beliefs were prohibited, the expression of any human feeling was eradicated and forced and group marriage was compulsory. No social class was spared. Intellectuals, town dwellers and Kampuchean Muslims of the Islamic faith were most directly affected and massacred in the most systematic way: the mass graves which were gradually discovered and those which have recently been found bear witness to the savageness of the crimes committed by the bloodthirsty Pol Pot - Ieng Sary - Khieu Samphan clique.

2. Four years after its liberation from the bloodthirsty regime, the Kampuchean people can be proud of having made spectacular progress as a result of its own efforts, its will to survive and the effective and timely assistance provided by brother countries and the international community.

Schools and hospitals throughout the country, agricultural and industrial production, the national currency, markets, religious beliefs and public institutions at all levels have been restored in order to satisfy the growing needs of the people. Under the just and clear-sighted guidance of the Party and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, its sole, authentic and legal representative in all international bodies, the Kampuchean people as a whole is taking an active part in the reconstruction of the country and enjoying all the rights of citizens, freedom and national independence.

3. The Kampuchean people therefore condemns the usurpatory presence in international forums of the disguised representatives of the criminals and rejects any decision taken by such forums on Kampuchea as unlawful, unjust and void, as massive interference in its internal affairs and as a flagrant violation of its right to self-determination. It is indignant that the "apostles" of non-interference and of respect for its right to self-determination are doing their utmost to bring

Chairman
Commission on Human Rights
GENEVA

discredit on the true facts in Kampuchea, are determined to destabilize the situation and have claimed the right to impose on it leaders who are in their pay, such as Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan, the arch-traitor and genocidal criminal condemned by the entire world. At present, the same criminals continue to violate the human rights of the Kampuchean people and those of the Kampuchean refugees in camps in the territory of Thailand. In order to restore justice and human rights in general to the Kampuchean people, the genocidal criminals must be condemned and duly punished.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) HUN SEN
Vice-President of the Council of Ministers
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of Kampuchea