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UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/10115
12 February 1971
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I should be grateful if you would have the attached statement by TASS of
4 February 1971 concerning the situation in Indo-China issued and circulated
as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY TASS

In recent days the situation in Indo-China has become decidedly more complicated. It is reported that large numbers of Saigon ground forces with United States air support have invaded Laos. United States aircraft are daily carrying out mass air raids over Laotian Territory in which B-52 heavy bombers are participating.

In extending the military conflagration to the territory of Laos the United States and its lackeys are committing an act of aggression, a further direct violation of the United Nations Charter and a blatant outrage against the principles of international law. Such acts are likewise a further violation of the Geneva Agreements, to which the United States is a party. They demonstrate once again how highhandedly the United States administration tramples on the sovereignty and independence of other States and how lightly it violates the obligations of the United States under international treaties and agreements.

Having been resolutely rebuffed by the Viet-Nameese people and the patriots of Cambodia and Laos, certain circles in the United States are counting on the widening of the aggression in Laos to change the situation in their favour, to halt and set back the powerful liberation movement in Indo-China and to subject the countries of that area to the neo-colonial order.

The new aggressive actions of the United States will seriously further complicate the situation in Indo-China. They are jeopardizing the contacts between the political forces in Laos which have been instituted with a view to the peaceful settlement of the situation in that country.

In the Soviet Union the armed invasion of Laos by the United States and its Saigon puppet forces is vigorously condemned. It is perfectly obvious that the continuation and expansion by the United States invaders and their Saigon puppets of their aggressive acts in that part of the world will inevitably meet with ever greater resistance on the part of the people of Indo-China, who are fighting for freedom, independence and the right to decide their destiny independently.

There can be no doubt that the efforts of the imperialists to suppress the liberation struggle of the peoples of Indo-China is doomed to failure. If the problem of Indo-China is to be solved it will be necessary to reach a political

settlement which will be in accordance with the national interests of the people of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia and will take into account their indisputable right to be the sovereign masters of their own territory.

The full weight of responsibility for further complicating the situation in Laos, as in the whole of Indo-China, rests on the ruling circles in the United States of America. The Soviet people, like the other freedom-loving peoples, are outraged by the bloody crimes of the aggressors and demand that they should be brought to an end. The just struggle of the peoples of Indo-China has the unswerving support of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, as of all the peace-loving forces of the world.

4 February 1971
