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LETTER DATED 17 APRIL 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the following note from the Royal Government of Cambodia concerning an article by Mr. Joseph Fried, a United States Press correspondent, on the presence of special United States military teams in Cambodia:

"Mr. Joseph Fried, a United States Press correspondent, recently published in the newspaper Daily News an article which disclosed that 'The United States has been secretly slipping special military teams into Cambodia on a regular basis to keep tabs on widespread communist troop and supply movements.... The teams, whose main task is gathering intelligence data, are taken in and out of Cambodia by helicopter. So tightly controlled are these operations that a quota has been placed on the number which may be undertaken per month and each mission requires separate clearance from Washington. Strict guidelines also control the depth to which the patrols may penetrate the border and the areas in which they may operate'.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia notes that this report clearly proves that the United States has been deliberately violating the frontiers and territory of the Kingdom. These repeated infringements of the fundamental rights of a sovereign country and Member of the United Nations are clear violations of the Charter of the United Nations, which was signed by the United States of America.

"It is particularly significant that Mr. Melvin Laird, the Secretary of Defense, commented that the purpose of all these frontier crossings was to ensure the security of United States troops, thus opening the door to the invasion of any country by another country on the mere pretext of maintaining security. If this assertion of the *fait accompli* as a rule of international law should fail to provoke any reaction by the United Nations, there would be no reason for that organization even to exist.

"Accordingly, the Royal Government of Cambodia calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to recognize the gravity of the

situation created by the United States in South-East Asia. If the United States Army is permitted to cross the frontiers of any independent country with impunity, international relations will soon be governed by military force. Under those circumstances, it will be possible for the independence of peaceful States to be violated at any time and on any pretext whatever by foreign armies enjoying the advantage of overwhelming superiority.

"The Royal Government still hopes that the United Nations will have the courage to take an unequivocal stand on the problem posed by the official armed intervention of the United States in Cambodia, i.e. on the question whether or not every country is required to observe the basic principles of the Charter and the rules of international law. The obvious lack of interest of the United Nations in the trend of events in South-East Asia and the developing United States aggression in that area represents an increasing threat to the maintenance of world peace and the future of mankind. Cambodia, which has always rejected the hegemony of blocs and defended the right of every nation to enjoy peace in conditions of complete independence, feels that the United Nations must play the role which it set for itself at the time of its founding by demanding, in the present instance, that the United States should immediately halt its military operations in Khmer territory."

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) HUOT SAMBATH
Permanent Representative of Cambodia
