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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to communicate to you, for the information of the members of the Security Council, the text of the following message dated 25 December 1968 from Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State of Cambodia, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"Sir,

"I have the honour, and regret, to inform Your Excellency that Cambodia has just been the victim of a new and bloody act of aggression by the United States - South Viet-Nameese armed forces.

"On 17 December, at about 9.30 a.m., a lorry transporting wood, which was proceeding along the Khsim-Sen Monorom (Mondulkiri) road, was attacked by a helicopter-borne unit lying in ambush eighteen kilometres inside Khmer territory. The vehicle was halted by an explosion and captured under heavy fire by grenade launchers and automatic weapons. Of the twelve people on the lorry, all of Cambodian nationality, seven were killed, two were seriously wounded, and one is missing. The aggressors killed the wounded who were unable to escape and plundered the lorry and then left the scene on board five United States helicopters which had been summoned by radio. The International Control Commission carried out an investigation on the spot, collected material evidence (grenade launchers, grenades, cartridge cases) concerning the origin of the assailants, and interrogated the two survivors on the circumstances of the massacre.

"I should like to draw Your Excellency's attention to the seriousness of this new act of terrorist aggression which indicates a deliberate decision by the United States command to prohibit the use of the only road providing access to Mondulkiri and to isolate that province of Cambodia. A comparison might be made between Cambodia's humanitarian gesture in releasing its twelve United States prisoners at Christmas and the increase in crimes committed by the United States forces against the civilian population of my country. We are convinced that the United Nations cannot remain for ever indifferent to acts which defy its Charter and all

international law. I should therefore be extremely grateful if Your Excellency would inform all the Members of the United Nations of this latest act of aggression and help us to compel the United States to respect our national rights and the lives of our peaceful population.

"Highest consideration.

"Signed: Norodom Sihanouk."

I should also like to inform you that on 19 December 1968 the International Control Commission (ICC), composed of Mr. H.C. Chandry (India), Chairman, Mr. R.V. Gorham (Canada) and Mr. Edward Zdsojow (Poland), members, accompanied by Cambodian civilian and military officials, visited the place at which the act of aggression occurred in order to investigate the aforementioned attack by the United States - South Viet-Nameese armed forces.

Major Balakirev, Military Attaché of the Embassy of the USSR, Lieutenant-Colonel Sonolet, Military Attaché of the Embassy of France, and Colonel Given, Military Attaché of the Embassy of Australia, also accompanied them as observers.

The members of the International Control Commission were able to see the seven decomposing corpses of the peaceful Cambodian inhabitants, which had been left in their original position. The names of the victims were as follows:

1. Mr. Nhek Chhèn, aged 33
2. Mr. Eal Khon, aged 35
3. Mr. Lim Voeung, aged 33
4. Mr. Prak Long, aged 39
5. Mr. Yong Yi
6. Mr. Meas Lonn, aged 48
7. Mrs. Neang Neou, wife of Meas Lonn.

It should be noted that, apart from these seven persons who were killed, one wounded man is missing, Yong Ngout, aged 48, and two wounded men are in hospital at Kompong Cham, Kong Dum, aged 45, who is in a serious condition, and Pol Hell.

The ICC was also able to see the lorry riddled with bullets and the damaged bicycle as well as three 60 mm. grenade launchers, two of which were loaded, two tear-gas grenades, two hand grenades, one napalm bomb, and cartridge cases,

left behind by the assailants and all bearing an indication of their United States origin. It also noted a paper with an inscription in Viet-Nameese which was stuck on one of the corpses.

In addition, the ICC interrogated the two survivors, Kong Dy, aged 21, and Uk Sâh, aged 33, as well as the owner of the lorry, Pol Soun Hieng known as Var, a lumber dealer, aged 36. According to their testimony, the lorry was ambushed at about 9.30 a.m. A violent explosion forced it to halt and firing from grenade launchers and automatic weapons ensued. After the shooting, the assailants took the bananas and cigarettes which were on the lorry and gave the coup de grâce to all the wounded. They then communicated by radio and a few moments later five helicopters appeared, flying at low altitude, to carry off the assailants, who, the survivors were able to note, included Whites speaking in loud voices.

It should be pointed out that this act of aggression committed by the United States - South Viet-Nameese armed forces took place inside Cambodian territory, about eighteen kilometres from the frontier.

You will find attached photographs taken at the place of the aggression during the investigation carried out by the ICC.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the attached photographs circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) HUOT SAMBATH  
Permanent Representative of Cambodia

/...



Le camion et deux corps des victimes.

The truck and bodies of two victims.

Грузовик и тела двух убитых .

El camión y los cadáveres de dos víctimas.

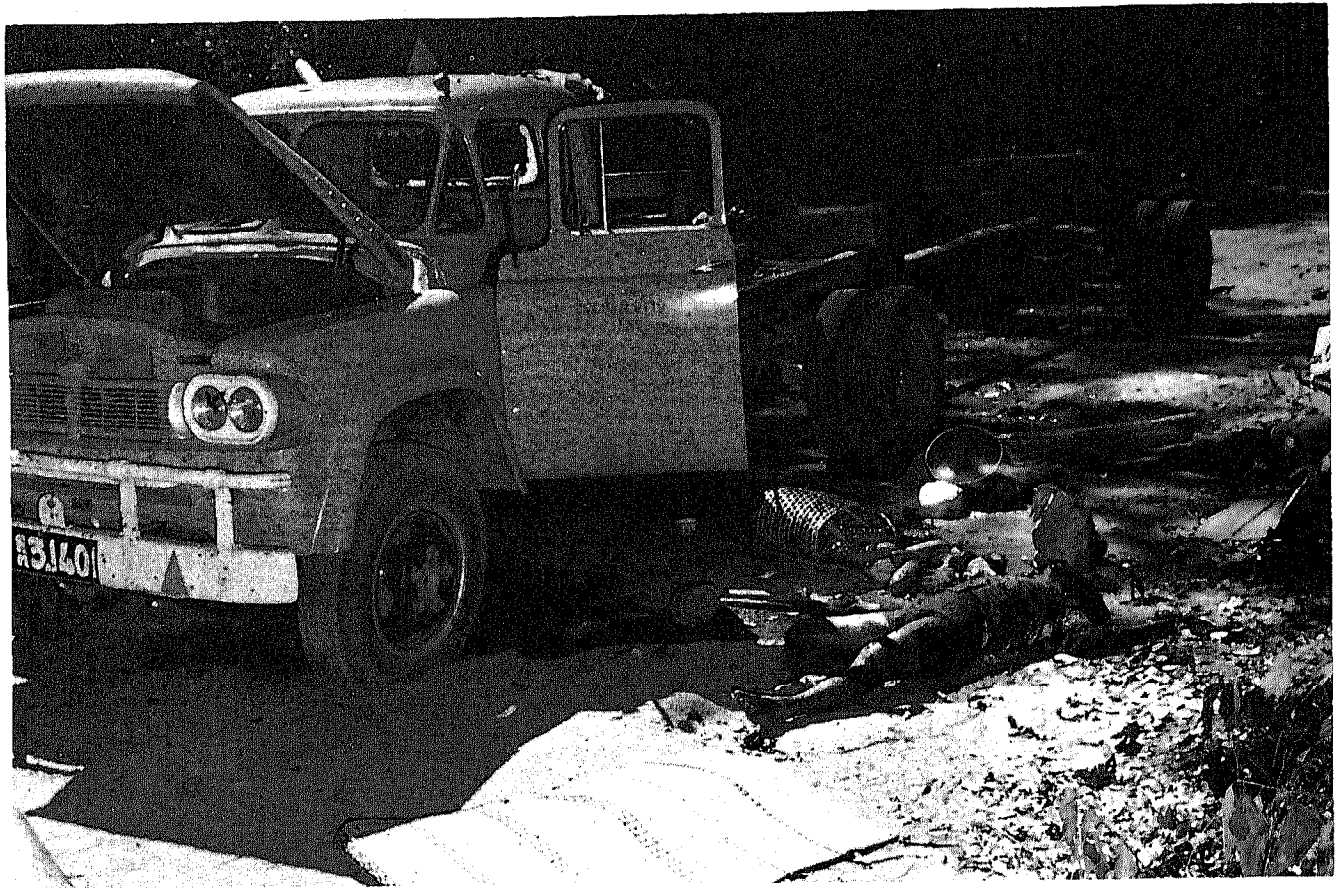


Un des trois lance-grenades abandonné sur le lieu de l'agression.

One of three grenade-throwers abandoned at the scene of attack.

Один из трех гранатометов, оставленных на месте нападения.

Uno de los tres lanzagranadas abandonados en el lugar de la agresión.



Le camion et deux corps des victimes.

The truck and bodies of two victims.

Грузовик и тела двух убитых.

El camión y los cadáveres de dos víctimas.



Le camion criblé de balles avec les corps de deux victimes sur le siège du chauffeur.

The bullet-ridden truck with bodies of two victims on the driver's seat.

Пробитый пулями грузовик с телами двух убитых на сиденье водителя.

El camión acribillado a balazos con los cadáveres de dos víctimas en el asiento del conductor.



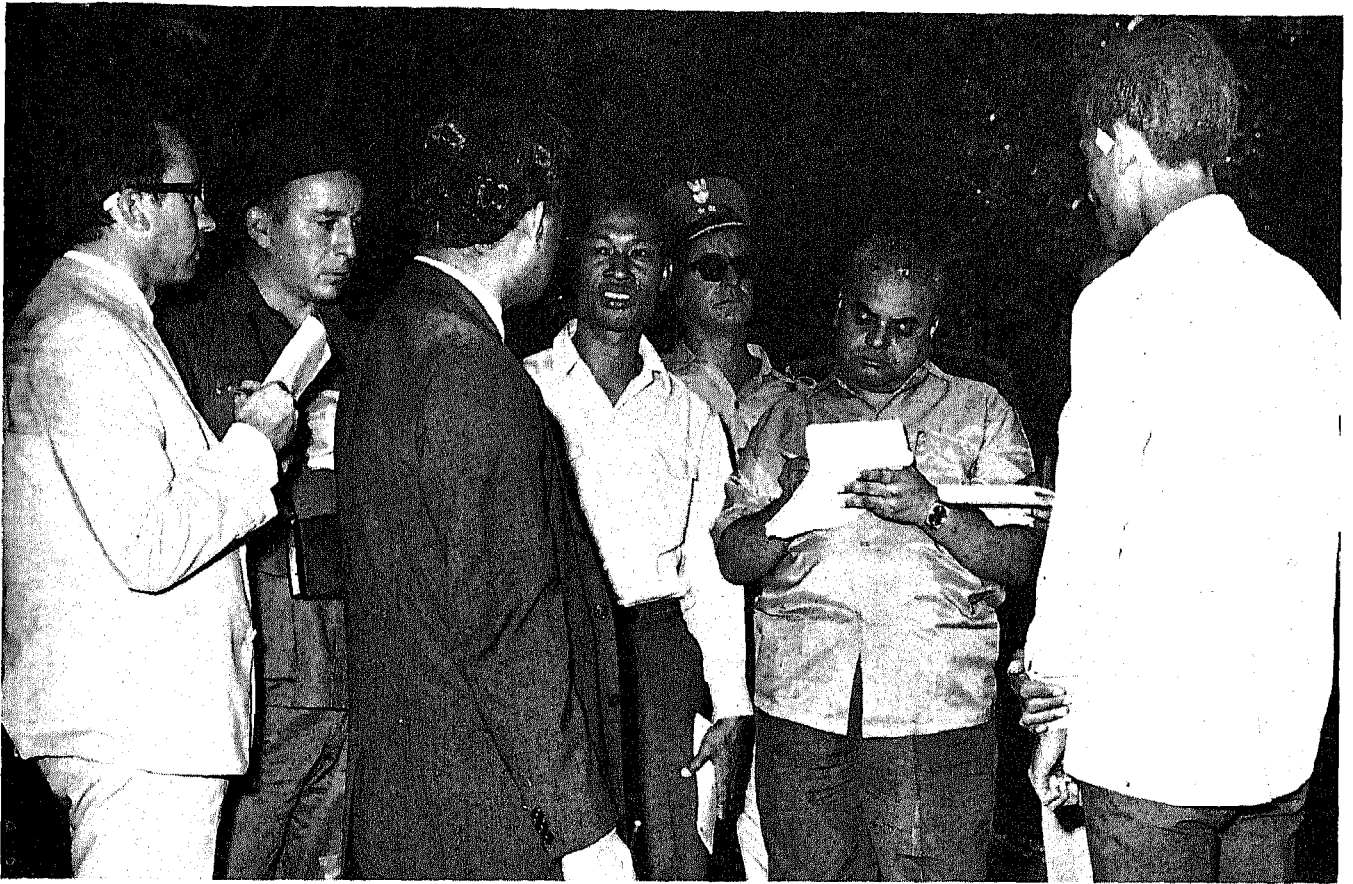
Les membres de la CIC visitent le camion criblé de balles. A côté du camion git le corps d'une des victimes.

Members of ICC inspecting the bullet-ridden truck. The body of one of the victims lies at the side of the truck.

Члены МКК осматривают пробитый пулями грузовик. Рядом с грузовиком лежит тело одного из убитых.

Los miembros de la CIC examinan el camión acribillado a balazos. Al lado del camión yace el cadáver de una de las víctimas.





Les membres de la CIC interrogent l'un des rescapés.

Members of ICC interrogating one of the survivors.

Члены МКК опрашивают одного из оставшихся в живых.

Los miembros de la CIC interrogan a uno de los sobrevivientes.



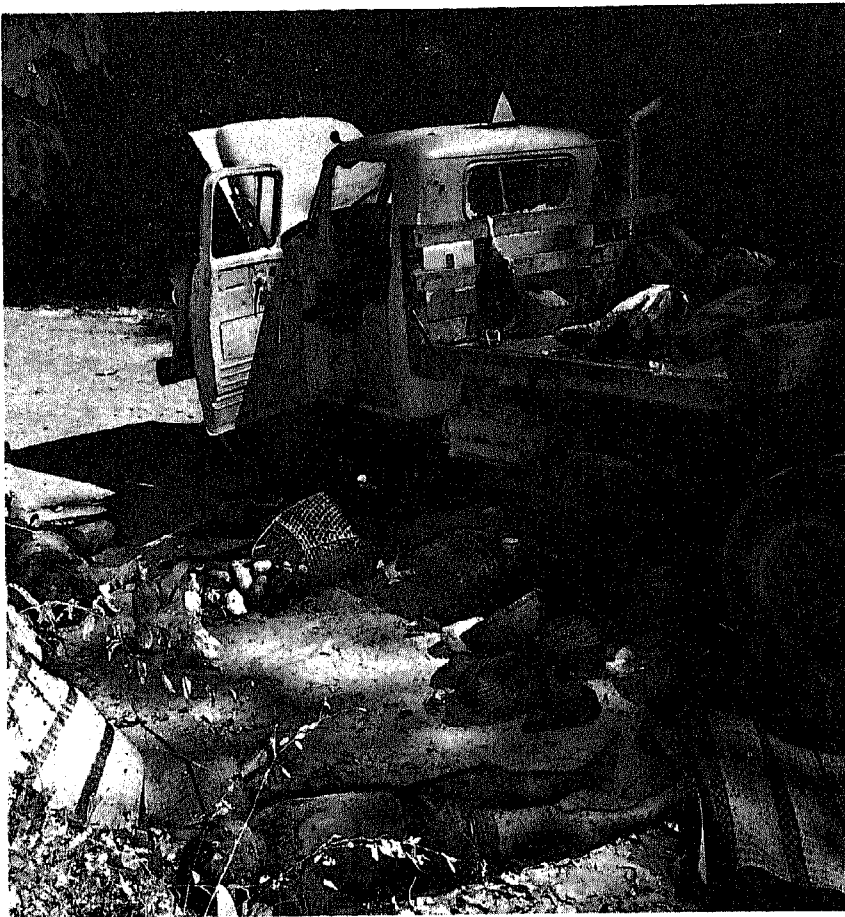
Le corps putréfié d'une victime à côté du camion.

The putrefied body of a victim lying beside the truck.

Разлагающийся труп одного из убитых, лежащий рядом с грузовиком.

El cadáver en descomposición de una víctima al lado del camión.





Deux corps des victimes à terre et deux autres sur le camion.

Bodies of two victims on the ground and two others on the truck.

Тела двух убитых на земле и двух других на грузовике.

Los cadáveres de dos víctimas en el suelo y de otras dos en el camión.

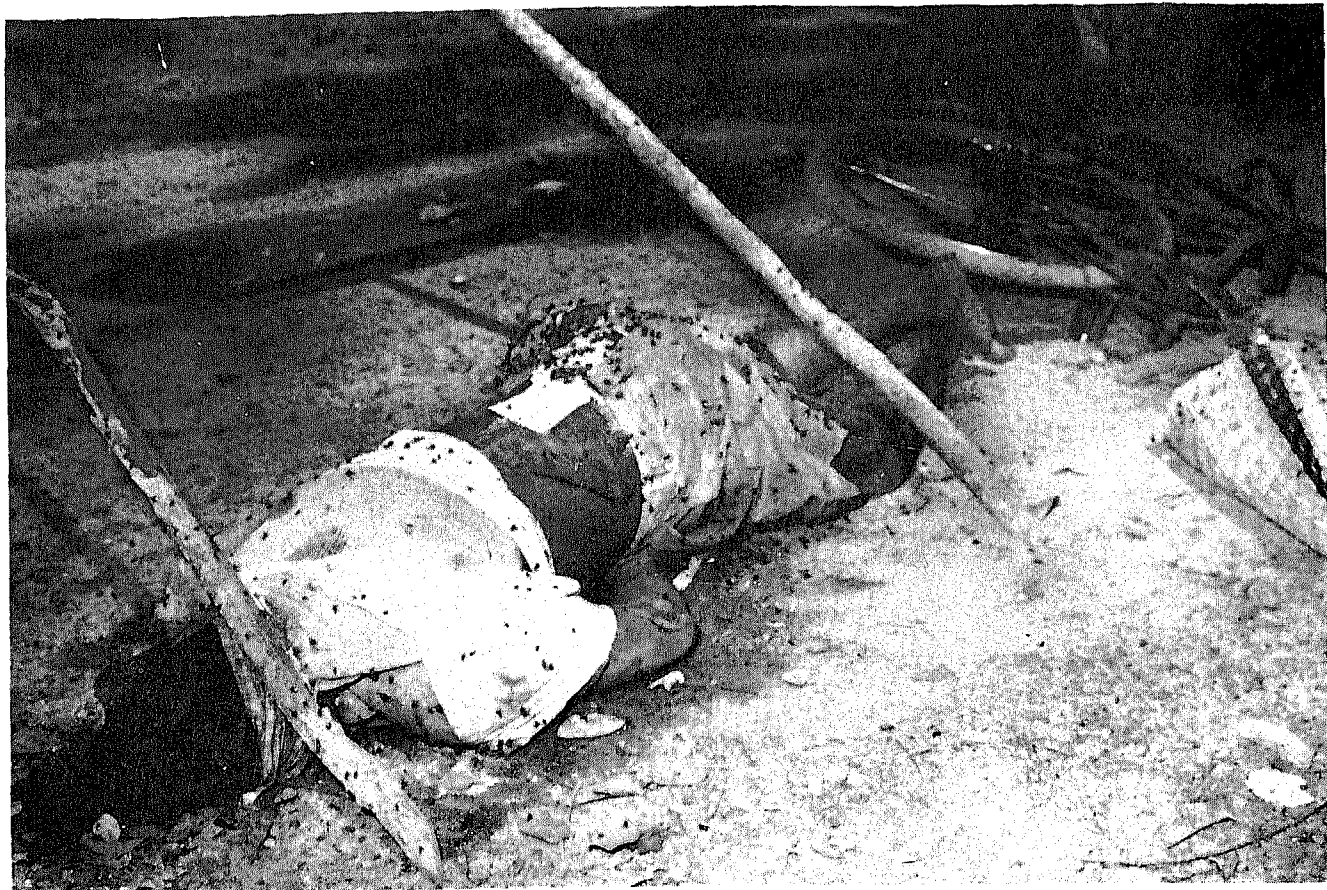


Interrogatoire des rescapés par les membres de la CIC.

Interrogation of survivors by members of ICC.

Опрос оставшихся в живых членами МКК.

Interrogatorio de los sobrevivientes por los miembros de la CIC.



Un corps putrifié d'une des victimes.

The putrefied body of a victim.

Разлагающийся труп одного из убитых.

El cadáver en descomposición de una de las víctimas.

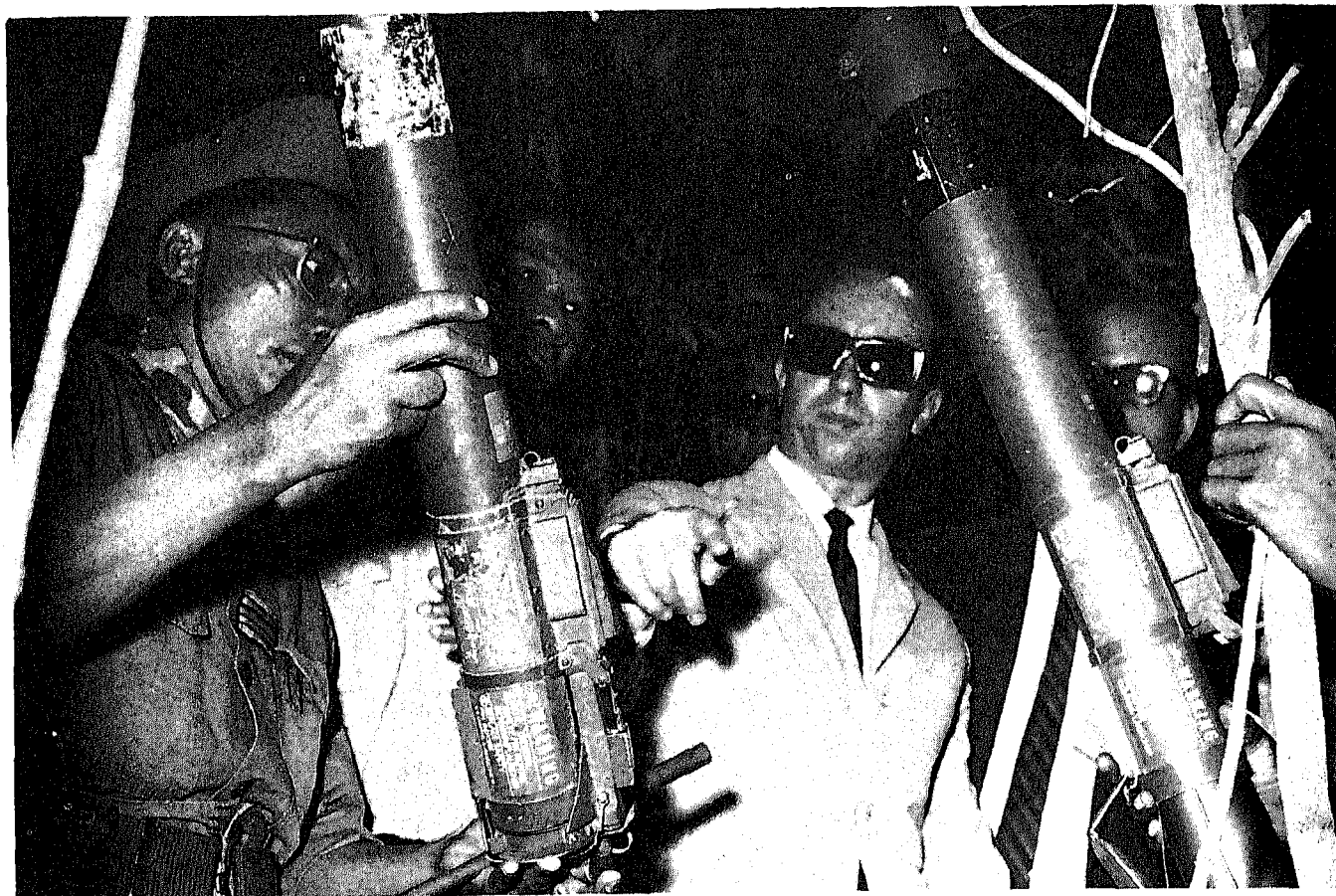


Deux corps putréfiés des victimes sur le camion.

Putrefied bodies of two victims on the truck.

Разлагающиеся трупы двух убитых на грузовике.

Los cadáveres en descomposición de dos víctimas en el camión.



Un officier cambodgien montre aux membres de la CIC deux des trois lance-grenades abandonnés par les assaillants.

A Cambodian officer showing members of ICC two of the three grenade-throwers abandoned by the attackers.

Камбоджийский офицер демонстрирует членам МКК два из трех гранатометов, оставленных нападавшими.

Un oficial camboyano muestra a los miembros de la CIC dos de los tres lanzagranadas abandonados por los atacantes.



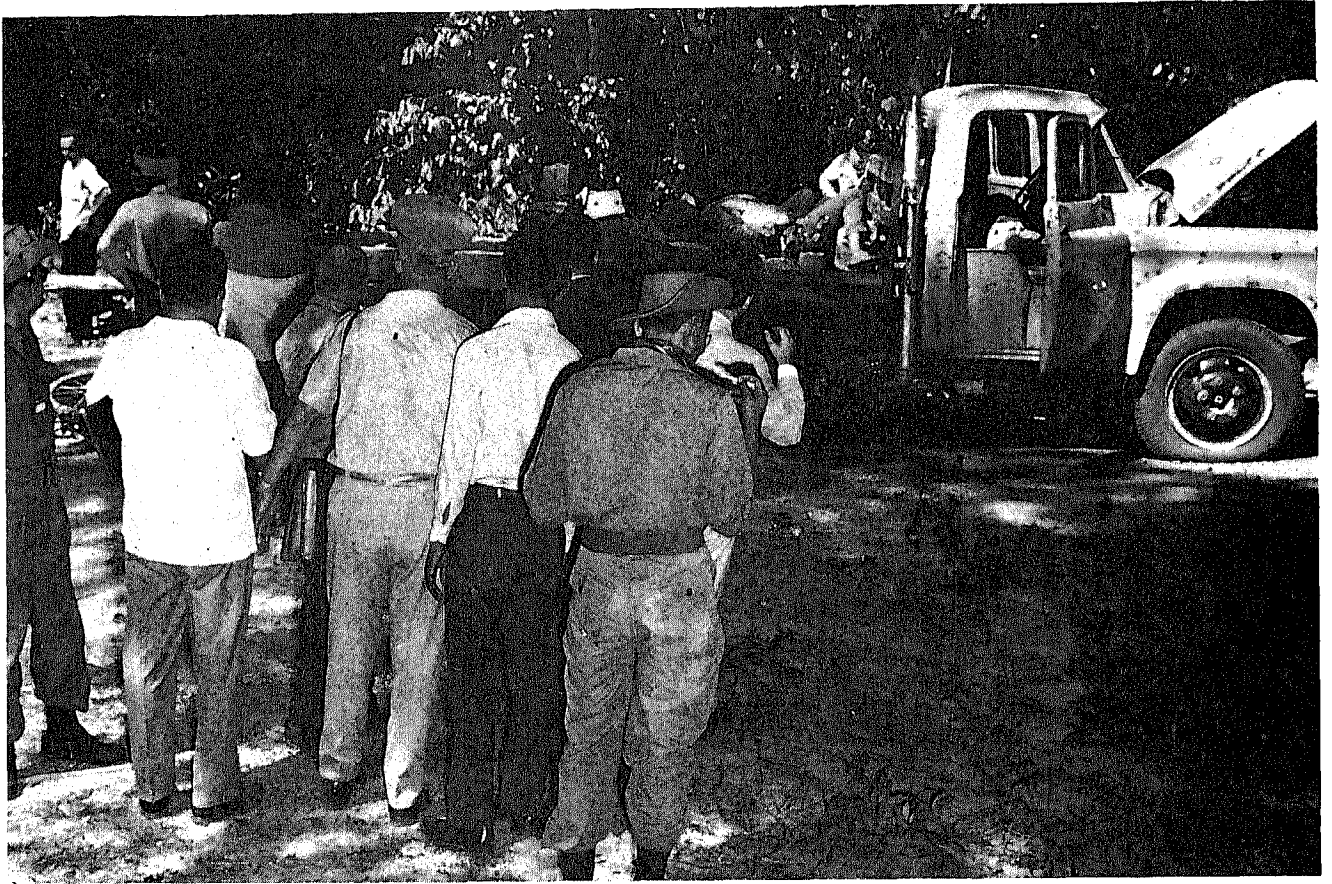


Un des trois lance-grenades abandonnés par les assaillants.

One of the three grenade-throwers abandoned by the attackers.

Один из трех гранатометов, оставленных нападавшими.

Uno de los tres lanzagranadas abandonados por los atacantes.



Les membres de la CIC visitent le camion sur le lieu de l'agression.

Members of ICC inspecting the truck at the scene of attack.

Члены МКК осматривают грузовик на месте нападения.

Los miembros de la CIC examinan el camión en el lugar de la agresión.



Un membre de la CIC examine de près un des trois lance-grenades abandonnés par les assaillants.

A member of ICC scrutinizing one of the three grenade-throwers abandoned by the attackers.

Член МКК осматривает один из трех гранатометов, оставленных нападавшими.

Un miembro de la CIC examina de cerca uno de los tres lanzagranadas abandonados por los atacantes.



Présentation du croquis de l'attaque par un officier cambodgien.

A Cambodian officer sketching the diagram of the attack.

Камбоджийский офицер поясняет схему нападения.

Presentación del croquis del ataque por un oficial camboyano.

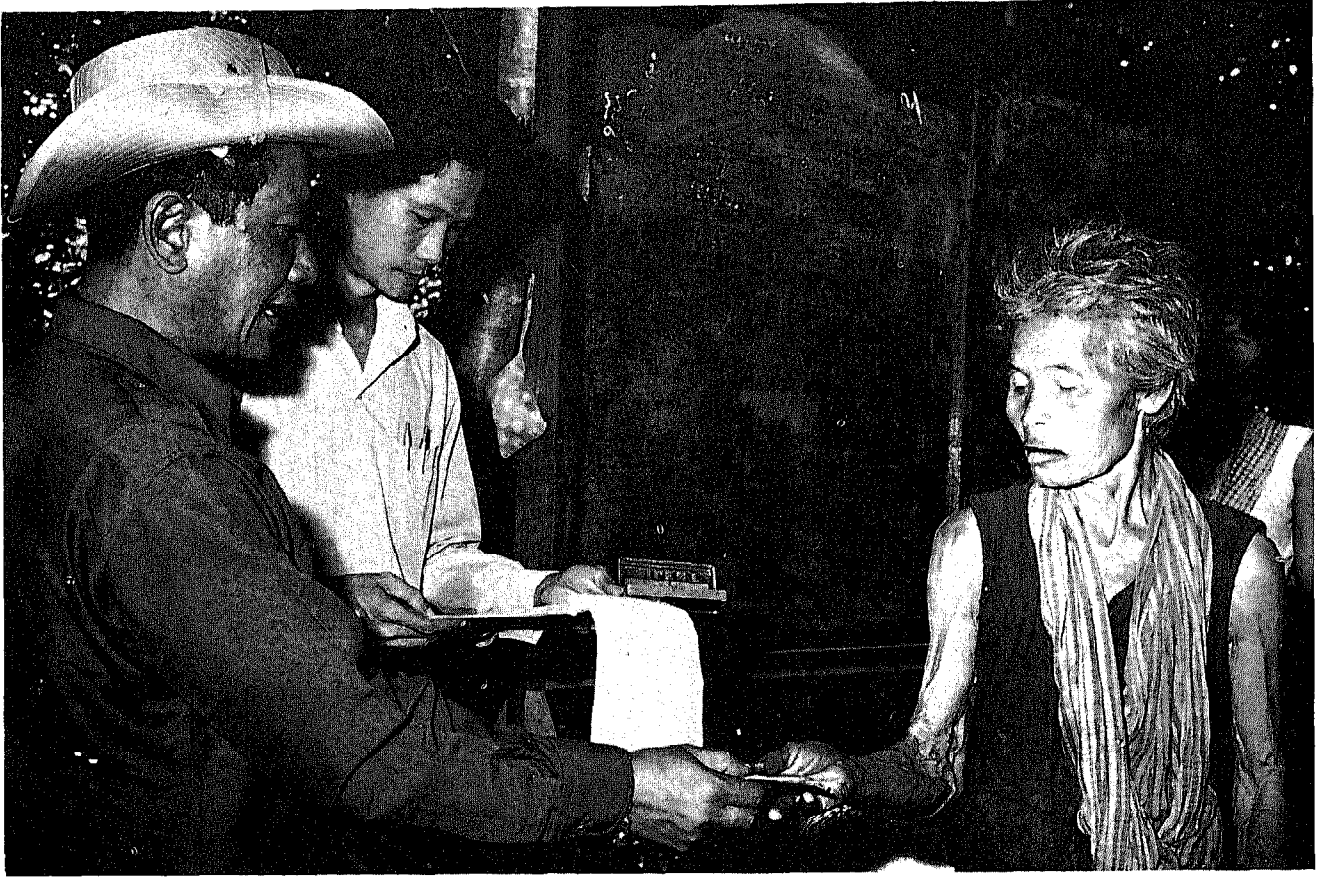


Le Vice-Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre de l'intérieur distribue des secours aux familles des victimes.

The Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior distributing aid to the victims' families.

Заместитель Председателя Совета министров и Министр внутренних дел распределяют помощь среди семей погибших.

El Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros y Ministro del Interior da socorro a las familias de las víctimas.



Le Vice-Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre de l'intérieur distribue des secours aux familles des victimes.

The Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior distributing aid to the victims' families.

Заместитель Председателя Совета министров и Министр внутренних дел распределяют помощь среди семей погибших.

El Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros y Ministro del Interior da socorro a las familias de las víctimas.



Le Vice-Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre de l'intérieur, accompagné du Gouverneur de la province Kratié, distribue des secours aux familles des victimes.

The Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior, accompanied by the Governor of Kratié province, distributing aid to the victims' families.

Заместитель Председателя Совета министров и Министр внутренних дел в сопровождении губернатора провинции Кратие распределяет помощь среди семей погибших.

El Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros y Ministro del Interior, acompañado por el Gobernador de la provincia de Kratié, da socorro a las familias de las víctimas.