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LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1969 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of my Government and further to my letter No. 2636 of 1 April 1969, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the attention of the members of the Security Council, the following information:

On 11 March 1969, at about 12.30 a.m., five helicopters guided by a reconnaissance aircraft of the United States - South Viet-Nameese forces, coming from South Viet-Nam violated Cambodian air space and attacked with machine-gun fire and rockets the Cambodian village of Skatum, commune of Cheam Kravien, district of Mimot, in the province of Kompong Cham.

At about 6 p.m. the aircraft returned and again attacked the same village with machine-gun fire and rockets for approximately forty-five minutes, causing the following casualties and damage:

Four inhabitants killed - their names are as follows:

TANN EO, aged 70 years
Néang KLOK TAY, aged 30 years
KLOK ONN, aged 8 years
KLOK YUN, aged 2 years

Ten wounded, five seriously - their names are as follows:

Néang KLOK CAY, aged 33 years
CHHIM CHHUON, aged 9 years
Néang PEL TOUCH, aged 15 years
TITH MOEUNG, aged 46 years
Néang MOEUNG CHHUK, aged 8 years
CHHIM SOPHORN, aged 6 years
Néang MOEUNG SEN, aged 17 years
EA CHEA, aged 30 years
LUK HAS, aged 57 years
SON SOUTH, aged 23 years.

Five oxen and three buffaloes killed and one ox injured.

Four homes seriously damaged.

On 14 March 1969, the International Control Commission comprising Mr. H.C. Chandhary (India), Chairman, a.i., His Excellency Mr. R.V. Gorham (Canada) and Mr. Szynanski (Poland), members, visited the scene of the attack accompanied by representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and of the General Staff of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Using topographic maps of the region and diagrams of the attacks, Colonel Thong Van Fan Moeung, Colonel Commanding the First Military Region, reported the facts and drew the attention of the members of the ICC to the acts of aggression committed by United States forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam since the beginning of 1969.

Statement of facts:

After indicating the geographic position of the village of Skatum with respect to the sangkat of Cheam Kravien, srok of Mimot, of which it is an administrative subdivision, and its position with respect to the Cambodian - Viet-Nameese border, situated at a distance of approximately 1,500 metres, Colonel Thong Van Fan Moeung first reported to the members of the ICC the various acts of aggression committed by United States forces and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam in that region since the beginning of 1969.

On 9 February 1969, the sangkat of Chan Moul (srok of Mimot) came under artillery fire from the post of the United States - Republic of Viet-Nam forces at Katum, approximately 7 km within South Viet-Nameese territory. One villager was wounded during the shelling.

On 20 February 1969, four helicopters and one L-19 aircraft violated our air space and opened fire on Cambodian villagers travelling along the road from Mimot to Skatum very near the village Cheam Kravien. One motorcycle was rendered completely unserviceable.

On 21 February 1969, the village of Leach came under artillery fire from the same United States - Republic of Viet-Nam post at Katum. One Buddhist priest was wounded.

Colonel Thong Van Fan Moeung then described the events of 11 March 1969, the subject of the ICC inquiry.

On that day, at about 12.30 a.m., a reconnaissance aircraft and five helicopters flew over the village of Skatum and fired on it with automatic weapons and rockets for five minutes. This brief attack did not cause any casualties or serious damage.

However, on the same day, at about 6 p.m., the same number of aircraft, i.e., five helicopters and one reconnaissance aircraft, returned and flew over the village of Skatum for forty-five minutes. As they circled the village, the helicopters engaged in heavy machine-gun fire and dropped rockets.

During that deliberate act of aggression, four villagers were killed.

Villager Tann Bo, aged 70 years, had his head blown off by a rocket just as he was about to take shelter, and it rolled several metres from his body.

Within several seconds, a father by the name of Klok lost his wife, Néang Klok Tay, aged 30 years, and his two children, Onn, aged 8 years, and Yun, aged 2 years.

In addition, ten persons were wounded, six of them suffering serious shrapnel or bullet wounds, who were evacuated to the hospital at Kompong Cham. The four other wounded were sent to the hospital on the rubber plantation at Mimot. Two of the latter have already returned to the village. The wounded included women and children, whose names are as follows:

Tith Moeung, aged 46 years,
Neang Klok Cay, aged 33 years,
Chhim Chhoun, aged 9 years,
Neang Pel Touch, aged 15 years,
Neang Moeung Chhuk, aged 8 years,
Chhim Sophorn, aged 6 years.
(all evacuated to the hospital at Kompong Cham)

Luk Has, aged 57 years,
Ea Chea, aged 30 years,
Son South, aged 23 years,
Neang Moeung Sen, aged 17 years.
(all four sent to the hospital at Mimot).

The total loss of livestock is as follows:

5 oxen and 3 buffaloes killed,
1 ox injured.

Damage to property:

4 dwellings seriously damaged.

To summarize, as a result of the attacks that have occurred since the beginning of 1969, our total losses have been:

4 villagers killed,
12 villagers, including a monk, wounded,
10 head of cattle killed, and dwellings destroyed or damaged.

Furthermore, during the same period, the Military Command of the region recorded thirteen provocative acts which did not, however, cause any serious injury or damage. These acts consisted of strafing by aircraft and shelling by artillery of the United States - Republic of Viet-Nam forces, which left more than sixty shell-holes in the region.

In the village of Skatum alone, nineteen rocket craters were counted. Furthermore, a large number of rocket fragments were picked up on the ground, including rocket tips complete with their directional fins, and these fragments were handed over to the members of the ICC as evidence.

After this detailed report by the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region, the members of the ICC carried out a preliminary interrogation of the soldiers, before visiting the village of Skatum in the company of Colonel Thong Van Fan Moeung.

Guided by the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region of Cambodia, the members of the Commission went all through the village of Skatum, observed the damage to dwellings, the shell-holes, the large quantity of rocket fragments, including rocket tips complete with their directional fins, that had been picked up on the ground, and the decomposing corpses of the victims and dead cattle.

It was almost 3.30 p.m. before the inspection of Skatum was completed, and the ICC then interrogated the inhabitants and the members of the victims' families until about 5 p.m.

It should be mentioned that, during this inquiry, aircraft of the United States - Republic of Viet-Nam forces were extremely active and overflew the area of the inquiry on several occasions in violation of Cambodian air space, and, in short, did not lose sight of the ICC for a single instant.

You will find attached a set of photographs of the various activities of the members of the International Control Commission during their inquiry at the scene of the attack.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has protested vigorously and most indignantly against this violent attack on a Cambodian village, which brought death and destruction to its innocent inhabitants. It has demanded that the Governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Viet-Nam take immediate steps to put an end to such hostile acts against Cambodia and that they compensate the victims.

Finally, it should be noted that the act of aggression committed by the United States - South Viet-Nam forces against the peaceful inhabitants of the Cambodian village of Skatum took place on the very day that the Cambodian Head of State made the important decision to release four United States prisoners unconditionally, on the basis of nothing more than a friendly letter from President Nixon.

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

Accept, Sir, the assurances, etc.

(Signed) HUOT SAMBATH
Permanent Representative of Cambodia



1

Le Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire accueille les membres de la CIC.

Colonel Commanding the First Military Region welcoming members of the ICC.

Командующий Первым военным районом принимает членов МКК.

El Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar acoge a los miembros de la CIC.



2

Les membres de la CIC entrent dans le village de Skatum sous la conduite du Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire.

Members of the ICC entering the village of Skatum, led by the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region.

Командующий Первым военным районом приводит членов МКК в деревню Скату́м

Los miembros de la CIC entran en la aldea de Skatum guiados por el Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar.



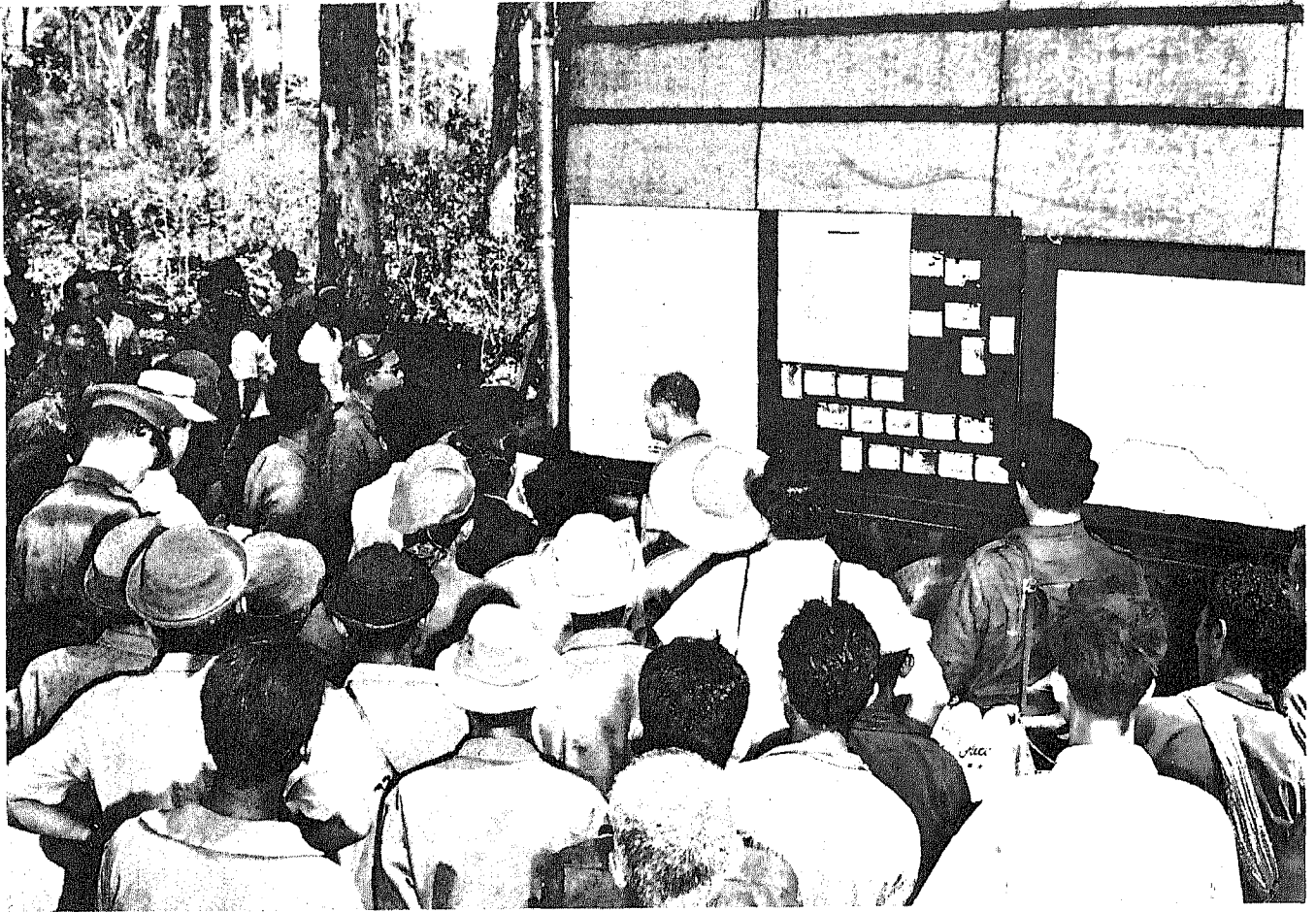
3

Les membres de la CIC dans le village de Skatum.

Members of the ICC in the village of Skatum.

Члены МКК в деревне Скату́м.

Los miembros de la CIC en la aldea de Skatum.



4

Les membres de la CIC écoutent l'exposé des faits présenté par le Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire.

Members of the ICC listening to the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region giving an account of the events.

Командующий Первым военным районом рассказывает о происшедшем членам МКК.

Los miembros de la CIC escuchan la exposición de los hechos presentada por el Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar.



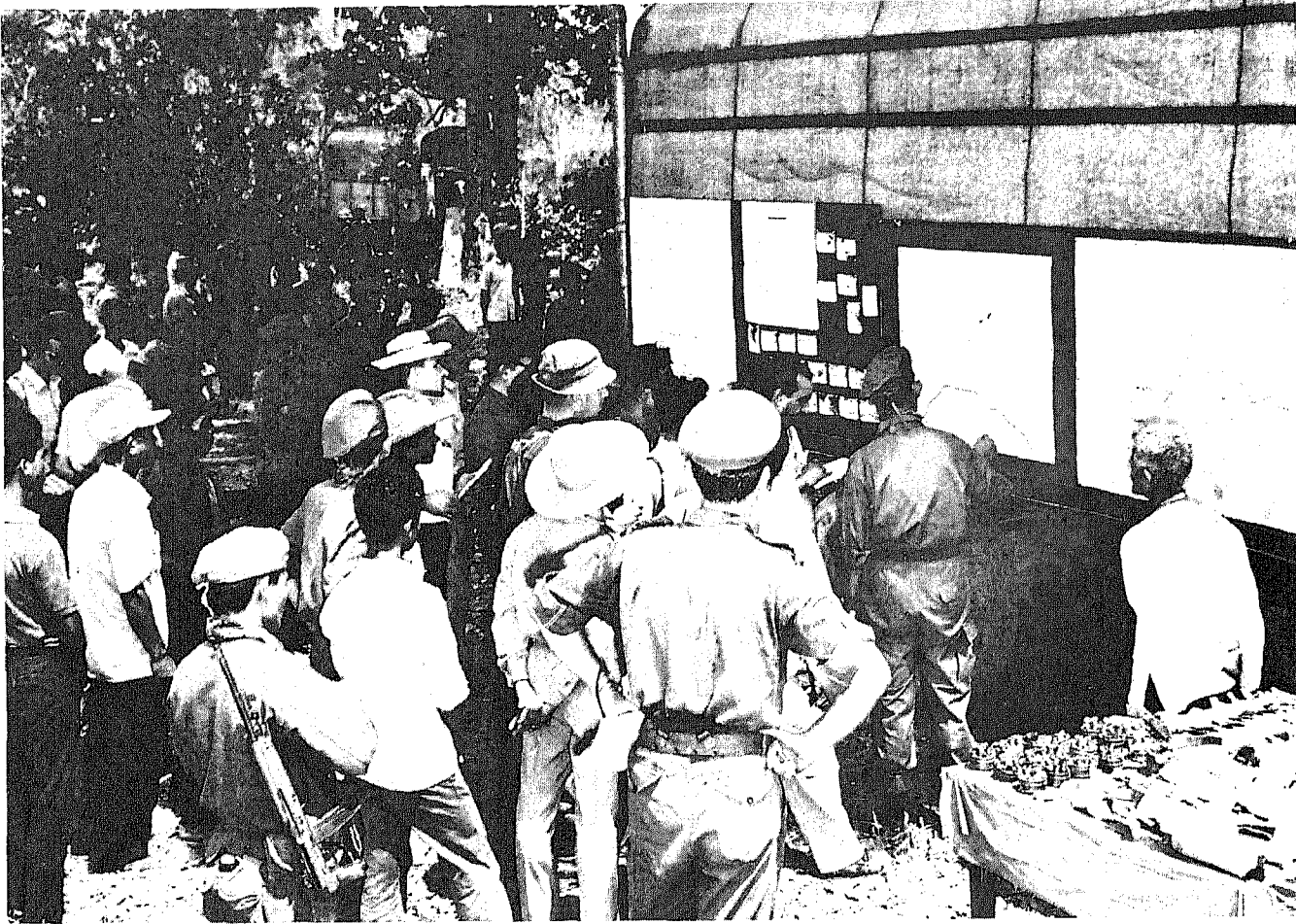
5

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6

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Командующий Первым военным районом рассказывает о происшедшем членам МКК.

Los miembros de la CIC escuchan la exposición de los hechos presentada por el Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar.



7

Les membres de la CIC écoutent l'exposé des faits présenté par le Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire.

Members of the ICC listening to the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region giving an account of the events.

Командующий Первым военным районом рассказывает о происшедшем членам МКК.

Los miembros de la CIC escuchan la exposición de los hechos presentada por el Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar.



8

Les membres de la CIC visitent une maison endommagée.

Members of the ICC visiting a damaged house.

Члены МКК осматривают поврежденный дом.

Los miembros de la CIC visitan una casa dañada.



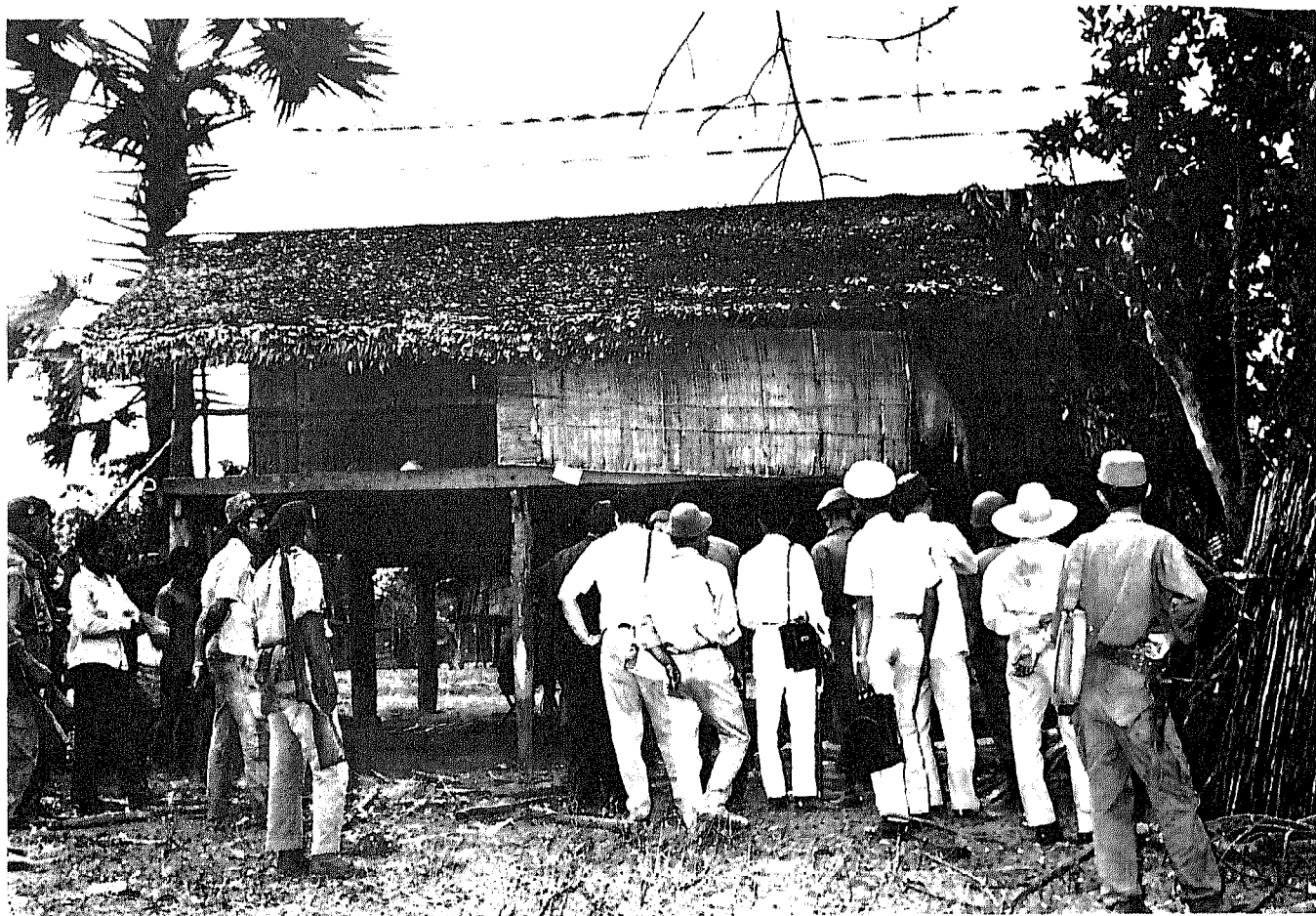
9

Les membres de la CIC examinent une habitation endommagée.

Members of the ICC examining a damaged dwelling.

Члены МКК осматривают поврежденное жилище.

Los miembros de la CIC examinan una vivienda dañada.



10

Les membres de la CIC en face d'une habitation endommagée.

Members of the ICC outside a damaged dwelling.

Члены МКК около поврежденного жилища.

Los miembros de la CIC frente a una vivienda dañada.



11

Les membres de la CIC examinent l'impact d'une roquette.

Members of the ICC examining a rocket crater.

Члены МКК осматривают воронку от ракеты.

Los miembros de la CIC examinan el impacto de un cohete.



12

Les membres de la CIC examinent les impacts sur les arbres en compagnie du Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire.

Members of the ICC examining trees hit by fire, accompanied by the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region.

Члены МКК в сопровождении Командующего Первым военным округом осматривают поврежденные деревья.

Los miembros de la CIC, acompañados por el Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar, examinan impactos en los árboles.



13

Le Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire présente les débris de roquettes aux membres de la CIC.

Colonel Commanding the First Military Region showing rocket fragments to members of the ICC.

Командующий Первым военным округом демонстрирует членам МКК остатки ракет.

El Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar muestra fragmentos de cohetes a los miembros de la CIC.



14

Les membres de la CIC examinent les débris de roquettes présentés par le Colonel Commandant de la Première région militaire.

Members of the ICC examining rocket fragments shown to them by the Colonel Commanding the First Military Region.

Командующий Первым военным округом демонстрирует членам МКК остатки ракет.

Los miembros de la CIC examinan los fragmentos de cohetes presentados por el Coronel Comandante de la Primera Región Militar.



15

Les membres de la CIC examinent un tas de débris de roquettes.

Members of the ICC examining a collection of rocket fragments.

Члены МКК осматривают собранные остатки ракет.

Los miembros de la CIC examinan varios fragmentos de cohetes.



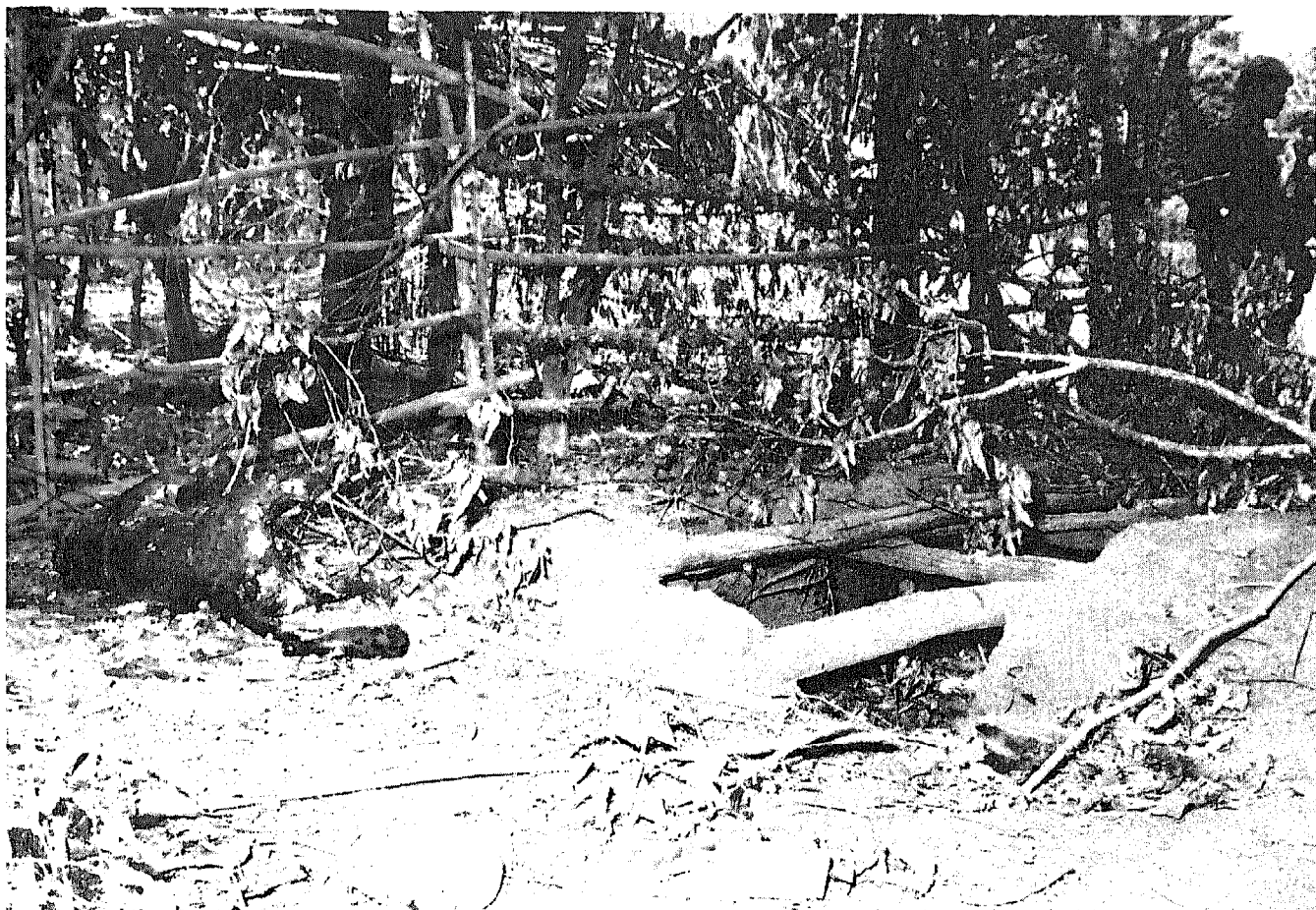
16

Les membres de la CIC en présence des cadavres putréfiés des victimes.

Members of the ICC observing the putrefied corpses of the victims.

Члены МКК осматривают трупы жертв.

Los miembros de la CIC en presencia de los cadáveres en descomposición de las víctimas.



17

Impacts de roquettes avec un cadavre d'une bête tuée.

Traces of rocket fire, with the carcass of an animal which was killed.

Попадение ракеты; тело убитого животного.

Impactos de cohetes, con el cadáver de un animal muerto.



18

Les membres de la CIC parcourent le village victime de l'attaque. Sur la route, au premier plan, gît un cadavre de buffle tué.

Members of the ICC passing through the village which suffered the attack. In the foreground the carcass of a buffalo which was killed lies in the road.

Члены МКК проходят пострадавшую деревню. На дороге труп убитого быка.

Los miembros de la CIC recorren la aldea atacada. En primer plano, se ve en la carretera el cadáver de un búfalo.



19

Cadavre putrifié d'un buffle tué.

Putrefied carcass of a buffalo which was killed.

Разлагающийся труп убитого быка.

Cadáver de un búfalo en descomposición.



20

Les membres de la CIC interrogent les habitants.

Members of the ICC questioning the inhabitants.

Члены МКК опрашивают местных жителей.

Los miembros de la CIC interrogan a los habitantes.