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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, by note dated 15 August 1968, the Australian Embassy at Phnom-Penh, which represents the interests of the United States of America in Cambodia, transmitted to the Royal Government a message from the United States Government in which the latter expresses its "deep concern regarding the widespread activity of the Communist Viet-Nameese forces in the south-east of the province of Svay Rient".

The Royal Government replied to that message as follows:

"The Royal Government wishes to make it quite clear that Cambodia is not obliged to justify itself to the United States with regard to the alleged use of its territory by troops of the National Liberation Front of South Viet-Nam. Since Cambodia is obviously not threatening the security of the United States, the United States note can fairly be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom. In that connexion, it should be borne in mind that:

"The United States is not entitled, under international law, to call to account Cambodia, a sovereign State, concerning the defence of its neutrality and territorial integrity.

"The presence of United States armed forces in South Viet-Nam is illegal and constitutes a flagrant violation of the national rights of the Viet-Nameese people. Consequently, the Government of the United States is guilty of unwarranted interference in relations between Cambodia and Viet-Nam.

"Any possible infiltrations of Viet-Nameese peoples' forces into Cambodia are the direct result of United States military intervention in Viet-Nam. The United States, which has brought about the difficulties being experienced by all the countries of South-east Asia, bears full responsibility for them.

"The United States Government, which has committed repeated ruthless aggressions against the civilian population of Cambodia, has consistently refused to recognize its responsibilities and to assume the consequences.

"The information contained in the United States note concerning the existence of Viet-Nameese bases, training camps, arsenals, workshops, food stores and supply lines in Cambodian territory are nothing more than gratuitous assumptions. The fact that the United States Army discovered a

weapons cache one kilometre from the Cambodian-Viet-Nameese border cannot be regarded as proof that those weapons were brought there through Cambodia, all the more as similar discoveries are made every day according to United States communiques all over South Viet-Nam. It is only logical for the United States Government to recognize that the Royal Government is better and more thoroughly informed than it is concerning the situation prevailing in the border areas on the Cambodian side.

"The Royal Government is not unaware that armed elements of the National Liberation Front - as well as commandos of the United States Special Forces - periodically infiltrate into Cambodian territory. But it wishes to stress that it is not feasible to have installed in Cambodia the permanent bases dreamed up by the United States military authorities to explain the failure of their operations against a national resistance which draws its strength from the support of the Viet-Nameese people and not from the alleged complicity of Cambodia. The International Control Commission and all international observers are well aware that the Royal Cambodian armed forces, backed by the population, do not tolerate the presence of any foreign military installation on Cambodian territory and will repel all foreign elements, armed or not, which cross the borders of Cambodia.

"Lastly, the Royal Government is once again surprised that the United States confines its official accusations to militarily neutral Cambodia whereas all the socialist countries are openly providing assistance in the form of war material to the Viet-Nameese fighters."

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) HUOT SAMBATH  
Permanent Representative of  
Cambodia

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