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LETTER DATED 31 JULY 1968 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. 5447 of 30 July 1968,* I have the honour to bring the following to your attention, for the information of members of the Security Council:

On 10 July 1968:

At about 8 p.m., a four-engined aircraft of the United States - South Viet-Name forces, flying at a height of 500 metres, violated Cambodian air space and flew over the commune of Prasat, district of Chantrea, Svay Rieng province, several times.

At about 9 p.m., a United States - South Viet-Name aircraft of the same type flew over the same locality and fired on Cambodian villagers who were engaged in manual work, injuring the following persons:

Mr. Hen Chen, 21 years

Mr. Choeng Khim, 53 years

Mr. Pien Yon, 16 years.

Mr. Hen Chen died from his injuries while being transferred to the hospital at Svay Rieng.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has protested strongly against these violations of Cambodian air space and this further barbarous act of aggression by United States - South Viet-Name forces against the peaceful inhabitants of Cambodia. It has demanded that the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Viet-Nam immediately put an end to such acts and compensate the families of the victims.

I reproduce below the text of the statement made by the Royal Government of Cambodia on 17 July concerning this matter:

* Document S/8704.

"On 10 July 1968, at about 9 p.m., an aircraft of the United States - South Viet-Nameese forces machine-gunned a group of people working at Vat Prasat, Srok of Chantrea, Svay-Rieng province. An hour earlier a four-engined aircraft from South Viet-Nam had flown over the village for some considerable time. The result of this terrorist act was the death of one person and injuries to two persons.

"Thus, twelve days after the massacre of fourteen Khmer peasants at Svay A Ngong, the United States - South Viet-Nameese air force carried out a further attack on the defenceless civilian population of Cambodia. It is clear that the United States military authorities responsible for these atrocities intend to continue their murderous acts of aggression against Cambodia, despite the reactions of international opinion.

"The Royal Government makes a further appeal to all the countries of the world and to the international organizations and urges that further action should be taken to induce the United States Government to halt without delay the barbarous acts committed against the peaceful Khmer people. It is essential to determine whether the United States today has an implicitly acknowledged right to attack a Member country of the United Nations and to murder its population with impunity."

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
