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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Letter dated 10 October 1979 from the Permanent
Representative of Viet Nam to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea on the question of international humanitarian aid, and kindly request you to have both the statement and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 123.

(Signed) HAN VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued at Phnom Penh on 5 October 1979 by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of
Kampuchea on international humanitarian aid

1. Because of the extremely serious aftermath brought about by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary genocidal régime, over two million Kampuchean are threatened by famine. Faced with that situation, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea took a number of positive measures aimed at speedily stabilizing the life of the people, enabling the great majority of the population dispersed by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique to return to their places of origin, and stimulating production and mutual assistance. At the same time, the People's Revolutionary Council requested urgent and substantial aid from Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. In addition to the material needed for basic and long-term construction, the brotherly socialist countries have supplied more than two hundred thousand (200,000) tons of aid in provisions and other food-stuffs and hundreds of tons of medical supplies to meet the danger of famine and disease in Kampuchea. The People's Revolutionary Council expresses its deep gratitude to Viet Nam, the Soviet Union and the other brotherly socialist countries and movements of solidarity with the Kampuchean people for their timely, substantial and effective aid. The People's Revolutionary Council has also requested and obtained from certain international organizations additional aid totalling so far some two hundred (200) tons. All those supplies were speedily distributed to the population, especially to the regions seriously threatened by famine. Thus, efforts to overcome the danger of famine have met with initial success. Many difficulties remain to be overcome, but owing to the efforts of the Kampuchean people, with the disinterested aid of the international community, and above all of the brotherly socialist countries, the prospects for combating famine are encouraging. Blind to these realities, the United States of America, Japan and other imperialist and reactionary forces are dramatizing the situation in Kampuchea with regard to the danger of famine and the possibilities of overcoming it, and are attributing to the revolutionary authorities the responsibility for that situation, which was bequeathed by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and their masters. They are denying the considerable efforts exerted by the People's Revolutionary Council and the initial results it has achieved in the struggle against the danger of famine, and are slandering the People's Revolutionary Council, accusing it of obstructing "massive international aid" to Kampuchea. In doing so, those hostile circles are in fact intending to put pressure on the Council in order to impose political conditions on their material aid. The most blatant of those conditions is the demand for recognition of the so-called "aid to both sides" with a view to imposing a "political solution to the problem of Kampuchea", etc.

2. A parallel may easily be drawn. Whereas the socialist countries have provided and are providing effective, sizable and unconditional aid to Kampuchea in the struggle against famine, the United States and Japan have hitherto made no contribution to that struggle of the Kampuchean people; they are trying desperately to slander Kampuchea and its friends, laying down all sorts of political conditions for non-existent aid, in respect of which they are putting out noisy propaganda.

What they have actually done and are conspiring to do in this "massive aid campaign" is to send thousands of tons of aid to the remnants of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary troops; to install supply bases and create "sanctuaries" along the frontier between Kampuchea and Thailand; and to resuscitate the defunct Pol Pot-Ieng Sary genocidal régime with a view to sabotaging the reconstruction and defence of Kampuchea, thereby jeopardizing the country's independence, sovereignty and security and the peace and stability of that region of South-East Asia.

3. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea vigorously denounces and condemns the evil designs of the imperialists and international reactionaries, and categorically rejects their slanders and the political conditions they are seeking to impose. They do not deceive the Kampuchean people and world opinion by their attempt to confuse black with white, to place on the same footing their ill-intentioned "humanitarian aid" and the disinterested aid of the brotherly socialist countries, of the peace- and justice-loving countries and of progressive organizations the world over. The People's Revolutionary Council once again reaffirms its policy of accepting all aid to the Kampuchean people that is not accompanied by political conditions. Only the People's Revolutionary Council, the sole authentic and lawful representative of the Kampuchean people responsible for the control and management of all the internal and external affairs of the country, is the representative qualified to receive and distribute international aid to the Kampuchean people as a whole. Any attempt to take advantage of the "humanitarian-aid" label in order to interfere in the domestic affairs of Kampuchea will be vigorously opposed by the Kampuchean people and severely condemned by the peoples of the entire world, and will be doomed to a dismal failure.
