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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1971 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the statement of the Government of the  
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic concerning the situation in Indo-China, dated  
25 February 1971 and I should appreciate very much if the statement were  
circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Zdeněk ČERNÍK  
Permanent Representative

STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC  
CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN INDO-CHINA, DATED 25 FEBRUARY 1971

In the recent days there has been further dangerous aggravation of the situation in the area of Indo-China which is causing grave concern on the part of the Government and the people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The United States of America which is constantly violating the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, which is continuing its armed intervention against the people of South Viet-Nam and which had together with the Saigon units invaded the neutral Cambodia, has conspired to launch armed intervention into the third country of Indo-China - the neutral Laos. On 8 February 1971 the region of Southern Laos was invaded by tens of thousands of Saigon mercenaries under the auspices of the United States armed forces and with their direct air and artillery support. Also numerous Thai armed units are being gradually involved in the campaign.

The escalation of aggressive actions of the United States of America against the people of Laos is an attempt at thwarting a peaceful settlement in Laos by way of negotiations between the two Laotian parties on the basis of the proposal of the Patriotic Front of Laos of March 1970. It is part and parcel of the American endeavour to weaken and to suppress the national liberation struggle of the anti-imperialist forces in the region of Indo-China. To the world public the American imperialism is again revealing its true identity as the sworn enemy of freedom and independence of nations.

It is being anew confirmed that the United States of America only feigns peaceful effort to solve the Viet-Nameese conflict and in reality it is further escalating armed intervention against the people of the entire Indo-China. In contradiction with the commitment to respect the neutrality, independence and sovereignty of Laos which the American Government took upon itself by signing the Geneva agreements of 1962 and in contradiction with the basic norms of international law the United States is grossly violating neutrality and independence of Laos. The intensified intervention of the United States of America in Laos and the new threats of the American Government to the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam testify to a dangerous military course of the United States

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of America which gravely threatens the security and peace of nations not only in South-East Asia, but throughout the world.

The Government and the people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic have always felt solidarity with the peoples of Indo-China in their struggle against American aggression. They have always supported and they will continue to support their just struggle for national independence and freedom and, therefore, they energetically condemn the new imperialist aggression against the neutral Laos. They fully support the statement of the Central Committee of the Patriotic Front of Laos of 8 February 1971 denouncing this act of aggression of the United States against the people of Laos. They are firmly convinced that the only way to end the conflict in Indo-China is to stop all war operations of the United States of America in South Viet-Nam, Cambodia and Laos and to withdraw United States troops and those of its allies from those countries.

The just struggle of the people of Indo-China for their inalienable rights, freedom and independence will end in victory.

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