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LETTER DATED 27 OCTOBER 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter from the Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand (S/8190, dated 12 October 1967), who, on the basis of a garbled version of a statement by Prince Norodom Sihanouk published on 17 August 1967 in the bulletin of the "Agence Khmère de Presse", accuses Cambodia of "attempting to mislead uninformed world public opinion".

May I first point out that in my letter dated 8 August 1967 (S/8116) I reproduced in full the statement made by a former member of the Khmer-Serei movement employed by the United States Embassy in Thailand. This person left Bangkok by the regular Air-Viet-Nam mail plane and gave himself up to the Cambodian authorities.

It should be noted that the person concerned is not the first member of the Khmer-Serei movement to have given himself up to the Cambodian authorities; there were others before him. All their statements have demonstrated unmistakably that it is the Americans, the Thais and the Saigon régime who set up and have subsidized the mercenary Khmer-Serei movement in order to create insecurity in Cambodia's frontier areas and sabotage Cambodia's policy of national independence, peace and neutrality.

The Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand, quoting two passages from a verbatim record of four pages published by the "Agence Khmère de Presse", and mutilating the statement made by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, furnished no evidence of Cambodia's alleged complicity with the communists. It must be said that the tactic which, though threadbare, is still being used by the militarist Thai Government to turn the tables and discredit Cambodia can convince no one, no serious and sincere observer.

To enable Members of the United Nations to appreciate fully the duplicity of this militarist and dictatorial Thai Government, I venture to quote the following

passages from Prince Norodom Sihanouk's statement published in the "Official Bulletin of the Agence Khmère de Presse" for 17 August 1967 but not mentioned - very understandably - by the Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand.

Page 1. "The two ideological camps fighting for world hegemony each laud their own regime and policy and are trying to draw us into their ranks; but our true interest will always be to continue to be Khmers and to mind only our own interests."

Page 1B. "Samdech Sahachivin said that our friendship with the socialist Powers could not be based on blind confidence but only on the principle of reciprocity which is the immutable foundation of our foreign policy.

"We also know, said Samdech, that we can place absolute trust neither in Thailand nor in Viet-Nam, and that we shall always have to remain on our guard and exercise constant vigilance in order to preserve our territorial integrity and our independence in the face of these two neighbours, whose expansionist aspirations have been demonstrated by history.

"Thus the keystone of our future remains our own unity; and it is this unity that every Khmer citizen is in duty bound to defend against all comers, for it alone can ensure our survival.

"Samdech Sahachivin emphasized again our country's need to rely on itself alone both for its national development and for its defence.

"... The Sangkum will never betray Cambodia, its independence, its religion or the least particle of its soil, added Samdech Sahachivin."

Page 1C. "Samdech Sahachivin concluded his statement by informing his audience that his Highness Prince Norodom Phurissara, our Minister for Foreign Affairs on mission to China, had been instructed by the Head of State to contact the Thai Patriotic Front in Peking.

"On my instructions, Prince Phurissara contacted the responsible leaders of the TPF on the subject of the recognition of our present frontiers, but his Thai interlocutors replied that they could not commit themselves to recognizing those frontiers but that, in order to please us, they could insult Bangkok and Kittikachorn more (sic). We know that as an opposition movement they do not deal gently with the Bangkok Government, but their best efforts against that Government are of no use to us. In point of fact, they insult Bangkok not for the sake of Cambodia but for their own sake and on behalf of their ideology (they are pro-Chinese communist Siamese while the Bangkok leaders are pro-American Siamese).

"We have here yet another proof that we shall never be able to rely on the Siamese, whether red or blue, to respect our independence and our frontiers. I repeat, then, that we must rely on ourselves, and that the only way we can survive and defend our homeland is to close our ranks tighter and tighter and persevere along the correct course charted by our Sangkum."

Any serious and sincere observer who studies these passages, carefully concealed by the Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand from the Members of the United Nations and from world public opinion, will see, firstly, the duplicity of the present militarist and dictatorial Government at Bangkok, which is trying to mislead world public opinion, and secondly, the genuineness of the policy of national independence laid out by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and followed by the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Neutral and peaceful Cambodia is a member of no block and no military or ideological organization. It neither threatens nor provokes any country. It is acting within its most absolute rights in seeking information from the Thai Patriotic Front on that organization's intentions regarding Cambodia's independence and its present frontiers. The contacts made with the Thai Patriotic Front in no way prove Cambodia's complicity with this Thai communist movement.

If the present militarists and dictatorial Government at Bangkok believes that contacts constitute proof of complicity why has it not drawn the logical conclusion from its peculiar reasoning and accused the Government of the United States of America, its lord and master, of complicity with the Government of the People's Republic of China, with which it has had almost regular contacts at Warsaw for several years?

I take this opportunity to condemn emphatically the traditionally hostile, imperialist and expansionist policy of Thailand (ex-Siam) towards Cambodia.

Just as it did in 1940-1945, backed by militarist Japan, so today the militarist and dictatorial Government at Bangkok with the aid of the American imperialists, stubbornly pursues its criminal and senseless policy by almost daily committing acts of aggression and provocation against neutral and peaceful Cambodia, as witness the letters I have regularly addressed to the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of this letter as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) HUOT SAMBATH  
Permanent Representative of Cambodia

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