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FOOD PROBLEMS

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ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN

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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 24 October 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, a statement of 22 October 1979, by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea condemning the crimes of racial extermination perpetrated by the Lê Duan clique against the people of Kampuchea.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 61, 74, 84, 87 and 123, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea

ANNEX

Statement of 22 October 1979, by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea
condemning the crimes of racial extermination perpetrated by the
Lê Duan clique against the people of Kampuchea

The people of the entire world are witnessing more and more clearly and are deeply distressed by the crimes of racial extermination perpetrated by the Lê Duan clique against the people of Kampuchea. In scope and in cruelty, these crimes are far worse than the genocide carried out by Hitler.

If the Lê Duan clique has gone so far in its policy of territorial annexation as to undertake the systematic extermination of the people of Kampuchea, thus causing universal outrage, it is because it finds itself in a serious impasse, as everyone knows, in the military and other sectors.

At the military level, Hanoi did everything possible during the 1979 dry season to crush the struggle of the people of Kampuchea - but to no avail. Today, at the start of the new dry season, the Lê Duan clique sees no way of attaining that goal. The Vietnamese troops are immobilized by the guerrilla war waged by the people of Kampuchea throughout the country. In the north-eastern zone alone, which includes Ratanakiri, Stung Trèng, Mondulhiri and Kratié, Hanoi is obliged to deploy four divisions; at Kampong Cham - Kampong Thom, another four divisions, and at Koh Kong, Kampong Som - Kampong Seila, also four divisions. In an effort to gain control of a country as small and sparsely populated as Kampuchea, the Lê Duan clique is constantly sending in military reinforcements. With 22 divisions and 12 independent regiments, a total of more than 220,000 men, the Vietnamese troops have not yet been able to gain a foothold throughout the country. They carry out search operations everywhere but are unable to drive away our guerrillas. Fighting is taking place all over the country. Such is the inextricable situation in which the Lê Duan clique finds itself in spite of its military build-up.

In other sectors, the situation is hardly any better for the Lê Duan clique. At the international level, it is faced with extreme isolation. It is being condemned everywhere in the world. The economy is in a state of collapse, and the internal political situation is going from bad to worse. Famine, various difficulties and the steady exodus of refugees have increased the opposition of the Vietnamese people. In the army and in the party, a smouldering crisis is about to flare up.

Bogged down in every sector, the Lê Duan clique clearly realizes that it cannot win a military victory. In this situation it is stepping up the implementation of its barbarous policy of racial extermination against Kampuchea, which involves draining the people of Kampuchea of their strength so as to make it totally impossible for them to resist and defend their independence and their nationhood.

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The Lê Duan clique has been unrelenting in committing these monstrous crimes during the last dry season and the last rainy season. More specifically, since September it has redoubled its efforts in accordance with a pre-established plan, using two approaches:

First, the Vietnamese troops are slaughtering the population of entire villages - old people, children, men and women - either by crushing them under tanks or by cutting them down with machine-guns. These crimes have been committed at such localities as Ratanakiri, Stung Trèng, Mondulkiri, Kratié, Kampong Cham - Kampong Thom, Preah Vilhear, Siemreap - Oddar Meanchey, Thmar Puok, Bavel and Mongkolborei (in Battambang province), Leach and Bakan (in Pursat province), Takeo and Kampot. In certain localities, such as Kampot, Takeo and Samlaut (in Battambang province), the Vietnamese troops of aggression have pierced holes in the palms of persons attempting to escape, drawn a cord through the holes and then taken them off to be shot.

In the areas under their temporary control, such as Chhlong, Krauch Chhmar, Snuol, Svay Rieng and Prey Vèng in the eastern zone, the Vietnamese aggressors have massacred the inhabitants en masse on the pretext that they were supporting the guerrillas or that a member of their family was a guerrilla. From the start of the aggression to September 1979, over 500,000 Kampuchean were killed in this barbaric manner. Since early September, additional hundreds of thousands have been killed. Thousands of people are being killed daily.

Secondly, Hanoi is wiping out the Kampuchean people by pillaging and destroying the economy and food supplies; it is, in fact, condemning the people to starvation. Hanoi destroys everything that makes life possible, from the crops (rice, maize, potatoes, bananas and sugar cane) to the tools, beasts of burden, ploughs, harrows and carts. Nor do the Vietnamese hordes spare plates, pots, spoons, water buckets and other daily utensils. They even vent their fury on old milk cans, riddling them with bullets in order to prevent the people from using them. Hoes, hatchets and machetes are thrown under tank treads or burned so that they cannot be used. All this is done in order to cut off the food supply and make the people die of hunger. Again, in the regions under their temporary control, the Vietnamese aggressors pen the inhabitants up and forbid them to work in the fields or to go out to hunt for yams and wild potatoes on the pretext of preventing them from contacting the guerrillas. They immediately seize the meagre wild roots that some people are able to find secretly. The rice has been pillaged ever since the last dry season. In exchange for one or two wild roots which they confiscate, they demand a person's daughter or gold. They return a tiny yam to a person who has painfully uprooted it for the price of an ounce of gold. These are the reasons why millions of Kampuchean are on the verge of starvation. Nevertheless, the Vietnamese occupying forces bring their families to Kampuchea and force the people to feed them. In many provincial areas, each family must feed and house four or five Vietnamese soldiers. This is a policy aimed at flaying the Kampuchean people alive!

The people of the entire world are well aware that it is the Lê Duan clique that openly attacked Democratic Kampuchea in the most barbaric manner in an attempt

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to swallow up that country's territory and make it Vietnamese. However, the dry season and the rainy season have gone by and the Lê Duan clique has not broken the Kampuchean people's fighting spirit and desire for national independence. Its back to the wall, the clique is playing its last card in order to carry out its plan to exterminate the Kampuchean people.

The Kampuchean nation and people have already overcome numerous obstacles and difficulties in their valiant struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and racial exterminators in defence of their right to live in full independence and sovereignty as a people of honour, dignity, national traditions and civilization.

No matter how numerous the obstacles and difficulties to come, the Kampuchean people and nation are determined to form a monolithic union within the Front de grande union nationale patriotique et démocratique du Kampuchea and resolutely to pursue their just struggle. With the active support of countries and peoples devoted to peace and justice in the world, they are convinced that they will win final victory over the Vietnamese aggressors and racial exterminators.

We are convinced that the world and mankind will not permit the Lê Duan clique to exterminate the Kampuchean people.

At the present time, the whole world, all of mankind, many Governments, countries, political organizations, mass organizations and individuals devoted to peace and justice in the world, the United Nations, the International Red Cross, UNICEF and other organizations are making every effort to bring urgent humanitarian aid to the Kampuchean people, who are threatened with extinction by the Lê Duan clique. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea expresses to them its deepest gratitude. It feels that all humanitarian aid for the people of the whole of Kampuchea contributes to an important degree to the defence and survival of several million Kampucheans who have been deliberately left to starve by the Lê Duan clique in accordance with its policy of racial extermination. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea will give full co-operation to all the international organizations concerned so as to ensure that all aid reaches the people of Kampuchea despite the obstacles and difficulties.

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea fully supports all efforts by international organizations to distribute and directly supervise the distribution of aid intended for the Kampuchean population in the regions temporarily controlled by the Lê Duan clique so as to ensure that such aid is in fact handed over to those for whom it is intended.

As for the act that would bring to a complete halt the terrible destruction which the Lê Duan clique is currently inflicting upon the Kampuchean people, it would be the withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressors from Kampuchea in order to leave the Kampuchean people to solve their problems themselves without any foreign interference.

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The Government of Democratic Kampuchea is convinced that all friendly Governments and countries and all political organizations, mass organizations and individuals devoted to peace and justice throughout the world will intensify the various forms of pressure on the Vietnamese aggressors so as to force them to withdraw all their troops and forces of aggression from Kampuchea and put an immediate end to the crimes of extermination which they are now perpetrating against the Kampuchean people.

In particular, we are convinced that the thirty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in the debate on the situation in Kampuchea, will vigorously condemn the crimes of genocide and the war of aggression and destruction which the Lê Duan clique is now perpetrating against the Kampuchean nation and people and will adopt measures forcing it to withdraw all its troops and forces of aggression rapidly and unconditionally from Kampuchea, leaving the Kampuchean people to solve all their problems themselves without foreign interference.

Only the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops and forces of aggression from Kampuchea can put an end to the war in Kampuchea, restore genuine peace in Kampuchea and reduce tension in South-East Asia.
