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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1967 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention, for the information of the members of the Security Council, the following communiqué by the Royal Government of Cambodia, dated 2 January 1967:

"On 30 December 1966 a further extremely grave act of aggression was committed against Khmer territory by the United States-South Viet-Nameese forces. This act of aggression was directed against the village of Bathu, Srok of Svay Teap, Province of Svay Rieng, and was carried out with large forces transported by fifty helicopters guided by four L.19 observation aircraft and supported by two F.105 jet aircraft.

"Four civilians (including two children) were killed and two were injured as a result of the action. In addition, twelve inhabitants of the village were kidnapped by the aggressors and taken by force into South Viet-Nameese territory. The village of Bathu suffered serious material damage and many domestic animals were killed or injured during this unjustifiable act of aggression.

"The Royal Government protests in the strongest and most forceful manner at this major act of aggression deliberately committed by the United States-South Viet-Nameese forces against Khmer territory. It draws attention to the fact that the martyred village of Bathu was previously the victim of a criminal act of aggression on 15 October 1965, on which date it was savagely bombed by aircraft from South Viet-Nam. That inexcusable bombing caused many casualties among the civilian population (seven killed and six injured), as well as considerable material damage. Thus, only fourteen months later, the aggressors have again attacked this peaceful village whose location is well known to them, so that they can certainly not invoke the detestable excuse of involuntary 'error'.

"It appears, in fact, that this criminal raid on the inhabitants of this defenceless village in the territory of a neutral and peaceful country is a part of the policy of pressure and intimidation which the Washington and Saigon Governments have long directed against Cambodia with the aim of forcing the Khmer Kingdom to renounce its policy of strict neutrality and non-alignment.

"The Royal Government calls upon all countries which, like Cambodia, love justice and peace, to protest strongly against this hateful policy pursued by South Viet-Nam and the United States in respect of a peaceful and neutral country which has only limited means of defence.

"It also wishes to point out that any further acts of aggression similar to that committed on 30 December 1966 will undoubtedly have the gravest consequences, for it is quite obvious that the massacre of innocent inhabitants of the frontier areas of Cambodia cannot continue any longer. In any event, the United States and South Viet-Nameese authorities will have to bear full responsibility for any consequences of the bloody aggression committed by their armed forces against the village of Bathu."

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) HUOT SAMBATH  
Permanent Representative of Cambodia

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