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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 November 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, the testimony of a Vietnamese soldier on the crimes committed by the forces of aggression of the Hanoi authorities against the people of Kampuchea (disseminated by the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea).

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

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith  
Permanent Representative  
of Democratic Kampuchea

ANNEX

Testimony of a Vietnamese soldier on the crimes committed by  
the forces of aggression of the Hanoi authorities against the  
people of Kampuchea

On 15 September 1979 the guerrillas and the population of Leach (province of Pursat) counter-attacked the Vietnamese troops who were conducting a sweep operation, killing five of them and wounding four. In addition, they seized five AK rifles, one B40 and ammunition, as well as documents and a letter from a Vietnamese soldier named Nguyen Van Hong written to his mother, Le Thi Nheun, an inhabitant of the second ward of the Nham Trang district, province of Phu Khanh, South Viet Nam. The full text of the letter reads as follows:

Dear Mother,

I have been in Kampuchea for more than three months but I have had no news from you. How are you? How are Hua and Ot? Please give my love to everyone.

As for me, it is only three months since I arrived in Kampuchea, but, oh Mother! I have the impression that it is more than 30 years. I am at the breaking point. The Le Duan administration has fooled me. Before sending me to Kampuchea, it spread the lie that the purpose was to defend the revolutionary power of Kampuchea. But the reality, poor Mother, is entirely different. The Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, which include your son, are aggressors hundreds of times more barbaric and more Fascist than the Thieu-Ky soldiers.

Oh Mother! How would you feel if they came to rob you of your belongings and to beat you up! If they raped Hua, your beloved daughter, before your eyes? If they destroyed your rice and your other crops? And if they drove you from your home? This is the way that the Vietnamese army in Kampuchea is behaving. This is what the Le Duan administration calls "helping the people of Kampuchea".

On 10 September my company made a raid in the Leach district, province of Pursat. On arriving at the village the leader of the company went straight to the house of a woman villager of about your age. She was standing in front of her door with her daughter. He began beating her with the butt of his rifle and driving her away. As she resisted, he beat her twice as hard and raped her daughter in front of her. He ordered me to protect him and ordered the other soldiers to pillage the houses and to kill all the inhabitants without mercy. The soldiers then shot all the cattle, buffalo, pigs and poultry. They set fire to the houses and destroyed all the crops so that the Kampuchean would not have the strength to fight against the Vietnamese troops.

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Mother! At that point the inhabitants of the village together with the self-defence guards could not restrain themselves any longer. Armed some with sickles and others with hatchets and sticks, they went after the leader of the company and killed him on the spot. They killed five soldiers and wounded four. I had a narrow escape that day.

Dear Mother,

Perhaps my days are numbered, for I am now on an erupting volcano. If you want me to return to you and to all of you, when you have read this letter go immediately to Ba, Ket, Thu and others who have children in the army committing aggression against Kampuchea and protest to the Le Duan administration demanding our return. You must not delay, for if you do we will all be killed. Tell Ot and the other young people of his age like Chi, Diep, the children of Hay Tinh, Bao and Le, as well as all the secondary-school children, to take steps to avoid being sent to Kampuchea by the Le Duan administration. Tell them to take to the bush or leave the country or else band together to attack the recruiters, for if they are taken, death will await them anyway. It is better to die fighting in your own country than as a Fascist soldier of the aggressors.

This is the general situation. Time is short. The Kampuchean guerrillas will certainly attack my unit again.

With my deepest respect,

Nguyen Van Hong  
13 September 1979

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