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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

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Letter dated 5 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 press release dated 3 November 1979 by the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea condemning the Vietnamese authorities for again using toxic chemicals against the civil population of 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

PRESS RELEASE DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1979 FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA CONDEMNING THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES FOR
AGAIN USING TOXIC CHEMICALS AGAINST THE CIVIL POPULATION OF KAMPUCHEA

On 20 October 1979 Vietnamese MIG aircraft sprayed toxic chemicals over the districts of Chhouk and Koh Sla in Kampot province, the districts of Phnom Sruoch and Kong Pisei in the province of Kampong Speu, and the district of Tram Kâk in the province of Takeo, killing three people and poisoning 12 more. The chemical used induces high temperature, swelling of the face and lips and the whole body, vomiting of blood, and death.

The Vietnamese aggressors have used toxic chemicals and poisons many times in their drive to exterminate the people of Kampuchea: on Mount Reach Torng to the north of Kirirrom in the province of Kampong Speu, at Andaung Toek and Thmâr Baing in the province of Koh Kong, in the region of Pailin-Poipet and on the stretch of Route 10 between Pang Rolim and Pailin, where 31 people were killed and many others, mostly women and children and old people, were affected by the chemicals.

This is one of the most cowardly and loathsome crimes of the Vietnamese aggressors. Since they are bogged down and at an impasse everywhere, in all respects, the Vietnamese are taking their revenge on innocent civilians by spraying toxic chemicals in areas inaccessible to them. Their aim is to exterminate the entire Kampuchean people so as to deprive it of any possibility of resisting and defending its independence and its nationhood. The Vietnamese aggressors use every possible weapon. They herd the people into concentration camps and booby-trap the access roads. They put up barricades around villages, forests and mountains. They destroy all the crops, rice paddies and fields and the means and tools of production, slaughter draught animals, and deliberately use the weapon of famine, whereby hundreds and thousands die every day. Now they are using chemical weapons, banned by international law, to exterminate the Kampuchean people.

The Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea, in the name of the victims and of all the people of Kampuchea, utterly condemns this new crime of the Hanoi authorities, and calls on all peace-loving and justice-loving countries in the world, the United Nations and all international organizations to condemn most forcefully the Hanoi authorities and to take the necessary steps and act in time to prevent the Hanoi authorities from continuing to exterminate the people of Kampuchea as they please, and to compel them to withdraw immediately and unconditionally all their troops and aggressive forces from Kampuchea so as to put an end once and for all to the sufferings of the people of Kampuchea.
