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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Letter dated 5 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and request you to have this statement and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

On the eve of the international Pledging Conference for Emergency Humanitarian Relief to the People of Kampuchea, to be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 5 November in New York, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea considers it necessary to make the following clarifications concerning the position of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea.

1. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea is gratefully receiving food aid given without political conditions by several countries and international organizations to relieve the famine inherited from the genocidal régime of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique, the tool of Chinese expansionism.

The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea has received to date more than 200,000 tons of food-stuffs and other goods from the Soviet Union, Viet Nam, and other Socialist countries, as well as about 2,000 tons from the International Red Cross, UNICEF, OXFAM, the Secours Populaire Français, World Vision, and so on. The fact that such quantities of aid have been received and distributed clearly shows the baselessness of the campaign of misinformation and slander conducted by the imperialists and reactionaries concerning what they claim to be lack of goodwill and an unco-operative attitude by the people's authorities in Kampuchea.

2. This external aid together with mutual assistance and our own food production has enabled us to avert the threat of famine in several regions of our country. During the next two months, 570,000 hectares of rice await harvesting, while 200,000 hectares of dry season crops will be of great value in the between-season period next year.

The fact that this could be achieved in a country which has suffered a vast upheaval, by a population which has been bled white and lost three million children and has returned to work its native soil with its bare hands, is a great victory for the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and affords eloquent testimony to the vitality of the Kampuchean people and their trust in and support for the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea which controls the whole of the country and governs it as the sole authentic and legal representative of Kampuchea.

3. The People's Revolutionary Council firmly condemns manoeuvres designed to abuse humanitarian aid in order to interfere in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. The Council particularly condemns the United States Government's attempts to overdramatize the food situation in Kampuchea, and to demand the opening of a land route across the Thai border as a condition of United States aid and as the only solution to the problem of food shortage in Kampuchea.

It is known that the United States, with the connivance of the reactionaries of Peking, has used Thai territory to receive and provision the armed bands of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary and Sereika which, having been driven off by the Kampuchean people, have regrouped in certain places along the frontier. This is the explanation for all the fuss which has been drummed up about an access road across the frontier, even though the International Red Cross and UNICEF are both represented in Phnom Penh and are duly authorized to discuss with the Kampuchean authorities the means of getting aid to Kampuchea but have never raised that problem.

4. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea has already received and distributed a considerable amount of foreign aid received through the port of Kompong Som, Pochentong airport and other routes. In anticipation of a possible increase in such aid the People's Revolutionary Council has consulted and agreed with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam regarding the opening of the Mekong River to navigation and the use of the port of Phnom Penh for the reception of international aid. The People's Republic of Kampuchea is now able to absorb any amount of humanitarian aid, and with Phnom Penh in the centre of Kampuchea as a base we can send aid to any region of the country including those along the Thai border.

5. The People's Republic of Kampuchea is an independent sovereign State. Its foreign policy is one of peace, friendship and co-operation with all countries without discrimination. Accordingly, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea is prepared to receive assistance and co-operation on a bilateral or multilateral basis without political conditions. The People's Revolutionary Council does not make recognition of the People's Republic of Kampuchea a prior condition of humanitarian aid to the people of Kampuchea.

As the authority competent to receive international aid and distribute it efficiently, the People's Revolutionary Council is ready to hold discussions in a spirit of equality and mutual respect with any countries and international organizations willing to give aid to Kampuchea, and to assist their humanitarian efforts on the basis of strict respect for the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and of non-interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea will receive warmly all those who are inspired by goodwill to study on the spot how they can help to avert the danger of famine in Kampuchea.

Phnom Penh, 4 November 1979