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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 7 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the attached telegram dated 30 October 1979 addressed to you by the President of the State Presidium of Democratic Kampuchea, Khieu Samphan, 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

Telegram dated 30 October 1979 from the President of the
State Presidium of Democratic Kampuchea addressed to the
Secretary-General

As Your Excellency is aware, the Kampuchean people and nation are facing the terrible danger of total obliteration because of the war of aggression and devastation and the large-scale genocide perpetrated by the Hanoi authorities. Because they have failed in their attempts to subjugate the Kampuchean people and nation, and because they realize that they will never be able to eliminate the Kampuchean guerrilla fighters or gain a military victory, the Hanoi authorities are stepping up and speeding up, with redoubled cruelty and barbarity, their design to exterminate our people. They are proceeding systematically, following a previously prepared plan to put an end to our people's struggle and deprive us of any means of resistance in the defence of our independence and our nation.

In doing this, the Hanoi authorities are using two methods: firstly, Vietnamese troops carry out mass killings of whole villages or communities. Secondly, they are engaged in the systematic destruction of the economy and of all means and instruments of production both large and small, including ploughs, harrows and draught animals, so as to deprive our people of any chance of feeding themselves, thus committing crimes on a large scale and bringing on a most disastrous famine.

Your Excellency can measure the extent of this criminal genocide which is without precedent in the history of the human race. Hitler invented cremation furnaces to exterminate the Jews. The Hanoi authorities have discovered famine and set it to work to convert the whole of Kampuchea into one vast cremation furnace to massacre the whole population of Kampuchea. The famine brought about by the Hanoi authorities is now hitting all Kampucheans indiscriminately, old people, children of all ages, men and women alike.

To date, more than a million Kampucheans have died in particularly tragic circumstances, and every day, hundreds of thousands more fall victims to the bullets of the Vietnamese aggressors or to famine.

In the name of the Kampuchean people and nation threatened with extinction I address myself to Your Excellency and call on you emphatically to take all measures to put an immediate stop to these genocidal crimes perpetrated by the Vietnamese authorities.

It is clear that only the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops and forces of aggression from Kampuchea, under the supervision and direct control of United Nations forces, can finally solve the problem of the war of aggression in Kampuchea. In this way also the people of Kampuchea will be able to find true peace, to have sufficient food and medicines and to lead a normal life once again, and the present tension in South-East Asia will cease.

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A/34/660
S/13610
English
Annex
Page 2

In this connexion I have great hopes of efforts to ensure the adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session, when it will shortly take up the situation in Kampuchea, of a resolution calling on Viet Nam to withdraw all its troops and aggressive forces from Kampuchea under the supervision and control of United Nations forces.

But I wish also to emphasize the importance of the part played by United Nations observers. I believe that the immediate dispatch of United Nations observers to Kampuchea would be a first step towards saving the lives of hundreds and thousands of innocent Kampuchean every day, because the presence of United Nations observers would hamper the Vietnamese aggressor troops in their sinister design of extermination; which they have been able to pursue as they pleased in the past and continue to do so today. Moreover, United Nations forces or personnel are more than ever needed to ensure the distribution of humanitarian aid directly to all the victimized Kampuchean people everywhere.

In this connexion I express the earnest hope that Your Excellency will use all your authority to send urgently to Kampuchea United Nations observers, officials and forces to put a timely end to the genocidal crimes which the Hanoi authorities are committing against the Kampuchean people and to take direct charge of the distribution of all humanitarian aid to the victimized people of Kampuchea, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the donors in all five continents.

KHIEU SAMPHAN
President of the State Presidium
of Democratic Kampuchea
