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LETTER DATED 9 SEPTEMBER 1964 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES a.i. OF
CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On the instructions of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a joint declaration by the Prince Head of State of Cambodia, the Royal Government and the two Assemblies.

I should be grateful if you would have this declaration circulated as a Security Council document.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Thouth VUTHI
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

JOINT DECLARATION BY THE PRINCE HEAD OF STATE OF CAMBODIA,
THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT AND THE TWO ASSEMBLIES

In a note forwarded on 10 August last to Mr. Narasimhan, Chef de Cabinet to U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Head of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, indicated that Cambodia was requesting that its complaint to the Security Council against the United States and South Viet-Nam "should simply be placed on file". The manner in which this decision has been interpreted in certain Western capitals and certain United Nations circles now renders it necessary to make the Cambodian position absolutely clear, particularly with respect to the report presented on 27 July 1964 by the Security Council Mission to Cambodia and South Viet-Nam.

It should be recalled in the first place that the Security Council, in its resolution of 4 June 1964, requested "that just and fair compensation should be offered to the Royal Government of Cambodia" (paragraph 2) for the loss of life and the destruction resulting from United States-South-Vietnamese acts of aggression, invited those responsible "to take all appropriate measures to prevent any further violation of the Cambodia frontier" (paragraph 3), and requested "all States and Authorities and in particular the members of the Geneva Conference to recognize and respect Cambodia's neutrality and territorial integrity" (paragraph 4).

The Royal Government is compelled to note that these three paragraphs of the resolution have remained a dead letter in so far as concerns the States which were the subject of the Cambodian complaint, since the requests to the Governments of the United States and South Viet-Nam for compensation in reparation for the damage caused have met with no response. Moreover, violations by land and air and attacks on Cambodian territory by United States-South-Vietnamese forces have continued, particularly with the spraying of toxic chemicals on villages in the provinces of Rattanakiri and Svay Rieng.

It seems clear, therefore, that the Security Council has proved powerless to give Cambodia the guarantees for which it was entitled to hope. In such circumstances, it was thought wiser and more logical to request that a complaint which could lead to no positive results should be placed on file.

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The Prince Head of State, the Royal Government, the two Assemblies, and public opinion in Cambodia have also noted with profound surprise that the Mission, which was appointed to investigate acts of aggression perpetrated by United States-South-Vietnamese forces against Cambodian territory and means of preventing their recurrence, confined itself to enumerating in its report what it called "frontier incidents", without naming those responsible for these acts of aggression.

A study of the report of the Security Council Mission shows that the investigators in fact devoted themselves almost exclusively to a consideration of the Cambodian-South-Vietnamese dispute, which was quite outside their terms of reference. A matter of particular gravity is that the Mission, having arrogated to itself the right to settle the problem of the Cambodian-South-Vietnamese frontier, practically espoused the case presented by the Saigon Government on this question - the Royal Government, for its part, having taken the view that there was no occasion whatever to present its own case to a Mission whose sole functions were to investigate its complaint and to seek such measures as might prevent any recurrence of the attacks on Cambodian territory.

It will be noted that the Security Council Mission saw fit to point out in its report that Cambodia "has no territorial claims" against South Viet-Nam and to indicate that the Republic of Viet-Nam "laid claim to the islands lying off the coast of Cambodia opposite the town of Kep and under Cambodian administration". Yet the Cambodian position on this subject had been explained clearly and at length to the Security Council's investigators - namely, Cambodia had definite rights, which it was able to assert juridically, to a large part of what is now South Viet-Nam, the frontiers of which had been drawn entirely at Cambodia's expense by the French colonial authorities. However, the Royal Government, in a desire for peace and good neighbourliness, would definitively renounce its territorial rights if the Government of South Viet-Nam formally recognized the present course of the frontier by land and sea, including our sovereignty over off-shore islands which were never under Vietnamese administration. It is most regrettable, therefore, that the Security Council Mission saw fit to take cognizance only of the Saigon Government's unwarrantable claim to our off-shore islands, while at the same time asking the Security Council to "take note of the statement by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam that it recognizes ... the ... territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia".

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The fact that only the South Vietnamese case was taken into account is equally clear from paragraph 57 of the report, which notes that "there is a Khmer minority living in the Republic of Viet-Nam, just as there is a Vietnamese minority in the Kingdom of Cambodia". Yet the Mission could have learnt, if it had made the least inquiry, that the Khmer community in South Viet-Nam, consisting of the original occupiers of the land, enjoys none of the rights accorded to minorities living in a foreign country (e.g., nationality, language, religion, custom), whereas the Vietnamese living in Cambodia, who are immigrants of recent date, are accorded their national and ethnic rights to the full.

Lastly, it is inadmissible that the Security Council Mission should have presumed to recommend a resumption of political relations between Cambodia and South Viet-Nam - a recommendation which constitutes flagrant interference in our internal affairs.

Consequently, the Prince Head of State, the Royal Government and the two Assemblies formally protest against the report submitted by the Security Council Mission in so far as concerns the Cambodian-South-Vietnamese dispute. They also consider that the recommendations included in the report are strictly unacceptable to Cambodia.

The Security Council is requested to take note of this declaration.

Phnom Penh, 30 August 1964.

(Signed) NORODOM SIHANOUK
Head of State of Cambodia

(Signed) UNG HONG SATH
President of the National Assembly

(Signed) NORODOM MONTANA
President of the Council of the Kingdom

(Signed) NORODOM KANTOL
President of the Council of Ministers

