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LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 5 January 1965 addressed to you by the Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand (S/6139) in reply to my letter of 31 December 1964 (S/6132).

The real facts which were brought to your notice by my above-mentioned letter have been completely distorted by the Government of Thailand, which has attempted to reverse the roles. The truth is that the four Cambodian fishermen were not in Thai territorial waters; on the contrary, it was the Thai police which violated Khmer territorial waters in order to arrest the Cambodian fishermen, who were fishing in Cambodia's own territorial waters, and take them and their boat to Thailand.

On the instructions of my Government I denounce this inadmissible Thai version and again protest most emphatically against this violation of our national territory by the Thai police, followed by the arbitrary arrest of Cambodian nationals.

It is well known that the waters of the littoral of the maritime Province of Koh Kong abound in fish and have always attracted Thai nationals, whose waters offer poor fishing grounds. The Thais have therefore made frequent incursions into the maritime zone off Koh Kong, where they have not hesitated to open fire on Khmer patrol boats and, when they could, capture Cambodian fishermen with their boats and fishing gear.

The Royal Government of Cambodia again demands the immediate release of the persons detained, with their boat.

I should be obliged if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, sir, etc.

(Signed) Voeunsai SONN
Permanent Representative of Cambodia