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LETTER DATED 8 DECEMBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 29 November 1958 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia addressed to Your Excellency, enclosing a communication from the Royal Government of Cambodia, dated 28 November 1958 (Document S/4121), alleging that troops on a war footing and large amounts of military equipment are being concentrated by the Government of Thailand on the Cambodian frontier and that this constitutes a threat to peace in that part of the world.

Under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the above allegations are completely false and untrue and that Thailand is prepared to welcome any United Nations representative to observe the situation in the border area between Thailand and Cambodia. If, for instance, Your Excellency should consider the present case as falling within the purview of Article 99 of the Charter, my Government would be happy to welcome your representative to Thailand and would afford him every possible facility to inspect our border area.

I am to point out that what Thailand has done has been to increase police reinforcements along the border posts in order to prevent unwarrantable entry and armed raids conducted by Cambodia and, in particular, infiltrations into Thailand by undesirable elements from Cambodia but no concentration whatever of troops or military equipment has been undertaken.

With regard to the communication from the Royal Government of Cambodia above referred to, I am enclosing herewith a memorandum in reply.

I am instructed to request that this matter be brought to the attention of the States Members of the United Nations.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Wan Waithayakon

Prince Wan Waithayakon
Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations

MEMORANDUM

In reply to the Communication from the Royal Government
of Cambodia, dated 29 November 1958

1. Severance of Diplomatic Relations. - On 24 November 1958, the Cambodian Ambassador in Bangkok handed a Note to the Acting Foreign Minister of Thailand, suspending the diplomatic mission of Cambodia in Thailand provisionally until further notice as from 1 December 1958, thus taking the initiative in severing diplomatic relations with Thailand.
2. The Temple of Phra Vihar (Preah Vihear). - This is an ancient shrine on the Thai side of the watershed frontier line as defined in the treaties and Thailand has been in possession of it long before Cambodia became independent and not since 1953 as alleged by the Government of Cambodia.
3. Negotiations. - The Government of Cambodia admits that the Government of Thailand took the initiative in proposing negotiations not only for the settlement of the question of Phra Vihar but for the promotion of good neighbourly relations as well. This is the general policy of the Thai Government vis-a-vis its immediate neighbours. In fact, Thailand's relations with Burma, Laos and Malaya are excellent.
4. Frontier Traffic Agreement. - The Thai Government felt that its frontier traffic agreement with Laos and with Cambodia should be uniform, for this would be in the interests of the populations concerned, and so negotiations were undertaken accordingly. Thus it was not a case of mere denunciation but termination to be followed by a new uniform agreement. This was explained to the Cambodian Delegation.
5. Thai Armed Forces. - There has been no concentration of troops or military equipment along the Thai-Cambodian frontier. There have only been police reinforcements along the border posts, as occasion requires, in order to prevent unwarrantable entry and armed raids conducted by Cambodia and, in particular, infiltrations into Thailand by undesirable elements from Cambodia.
6. Demonstration. - The Cambodian Delegation broke up the negotiations and there was a demonstration after they left but it certainly was not inspired by a member of the Thai Government: there had been a demonstration at Pnom Penh earlier.

7. Willingness to Negotiate. - The Thai Government has repeatedly declared its willingness to negotiate and has many times invoked Article 33 of the Charter.
8. Press Campaign. - Virulent attacks against Thailand have come from the Cambodian press and even from official quarters, including abusive statements made by members of the Cambodian Government.
9. Foreign Hostile Elements. - Foreign elements hostile to Thailand exist in Cambodia and it is natural that Thailand should maintain a cautious and watchful attitude on its border.
10. Border Raids by Cambodian Gangs. - The Thai authorities have shown great restraint in connexion with such raids, as a result of which many Thai nationals and properties have considerably suffered. For instance, on 20 November 1958, 32 Thai nationals, 18 men, 8 women and 6 children, were forcibly taken into Cambodia by the Cambodian police and they have not been returned yet. Again, on 27 November, fourteen more Thai nationals were forcibly taken into Cambodia by the Cambodian police but they were subsequently allowed to return.
11. Severance of Diplomatic Relations Unjustified. - No valid reason has been given by the Government of Cambodia to justify the severance of its diplomatic relations with Thailand. Indeed, it is unjustifiable.
12. Thailand Ready to Resume Diplomatic Relations. - The Government of Cambodia has proposed that diplomatic relations be resumed at the Chargé d'Affaires level. The Government of Thailand, however, maintains that normal diplomatic relations should be resumed at the Ambassadorial level. The Government of Cambodia was also informed that Thailand considers the release and return to Thailand of the thirty-two Thai nationals who have been forcibly taken into Cambodia and are still detained by the Cambodian authorities as essential for the restoration of normal relationships. Finally, Thailand assured the Government of Cambodia that once these steps have been taken, the Thai authorities will promptly consider the withdrawal of the precautionary measures which have been taken with a view to ensuring the safeguard of security and protection of the Thai people.

Permanent Mission of Thailand
New York, 8 December B.E. 2501 (1958)