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LETTER DATED 23 JUNE 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LAOS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to my letter of 25 February 1972 (S/10548), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a message from H.H. Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council of the Royal Laotian Government, drawing your attention to the serious situation which is currently developing in my country.

This serious situation is the result of numerous acts of aggression perpetrated during recent months by North Viet-Nameese troops against the Kingdom of Laos in flagrant violation of the 1962 Geneva Agreements and the fundamental principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.

I would appreciate it if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prince KHAMMAO
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Message dated 8 June 1972 from the Chairmen of
the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Laos
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the situation in Laos. It has become very serious this year because of the extensive resources put into the field by the attacking North-Viet-Nameese troops, who are now equipped with very powerful weapons and large contingents sent by the Hanoi Government to attack the Plain of Jars and the southern part of the Kingdom.

So far we have, fortunately, been able to repulse attacks in the Plain, but in the south the situation is becoming dangerously worse, as can be seen from our last protest on this matter to the International Control Commission (ICC), a copy of which I am attaching as an annex to this letter for your information.

The ICC remains the organ established under the 1962 Agreements to supervise the implementation of those Agreements. Nevertheless, as on previous occasions, we doubt that the Commission will be able to reach a unanimous decision to proceed to an investigation of the violations denounced by our Government. For years the Commission has been paralysed by a complete lack of unity among its members, who are divided because of the policies of their respective Governments on the question of Laos.

In the circumstances, the Royal Government urgently requests you to inform the Security Council of the facts it has submitted to the ICC in Laos for consideration. This procedure seems to us to be the only way of persuading the world to acknowledge the aggression being directed against our country for over 20 years. The aims of the Indo-Chinese Common Front have been defined clearly for the whole world to see. There is no longer any doubt about the intentions of the Hanoi Government, which is deliberately flouting its international commitments and responsibilities. It has only one aim: to take over by force all the countries of Indo-China in order to exercise political and military control over them.

Laos is requesting that justice be done to it in accordance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations. Since assuming your high office, you yourself have frequently said that the United Nations was the natural forum for the settlement of disputes between nations. Nothing could suit our small Kingdom better.

I shall be grateful to you for any intervention to promote peace in Laos.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Prince SOUVANNA PHOUMA
(Chao Krommana)