

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

S/5777  
19 June 1964

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Royal Cambodian Government, which was circulated under the reference No. S/5728 on 2 June 1964. This letter, while it claims to provide fresh evidence of Cambodia's desire for conciliation, unjustifiably accuses myself and my Government of attempting to mislead the Council. This accusation is based on a supposed discrepancy between my statement on 25 May 1964 and the British Foreign Secretary's letter of 9 January 1964.

2. The answer to these charges is simple and obvious. Mr. Butler's letter and my statement concerned two different problems. The responsibility envisaged for the International Commission in the enclosure to Mr. Butler's letter was expressly limited by the phrase "within the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia". The Security Council, however, were concerned with the different problem of a dispute between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Viet-Nam, arising from specific border incidents subsequent to Mr. Butler's letter of 9 January. As a result, various proposals had been made to the Security Council for the institution of measures to prevent the future occurrence of the kind of incidents under discussion at the Council. Such measures could clearly not be confined to Cambodian territory, nor, as also proposed in the drafts originally circulated by Mr. Butler, taken only on the initiative of the Royal Government of Cambodia or of an International Commission set up for different purposes and with different terms of reference.

3. A new situation having thus arisen, Her Majesty's Government were free to propose new methods of meeting it, just as the Cambodian Government made numerous fresh proposals since 2 February 1964.

4. Among these fresh Cambodian initiatives was that Government's appeal for the intervention of the Security Council. By this step the Cambodian Government themselves transferred this problem from the Geneva setting to that of New York and, by appealing to the judgement of the Security Council rather than of the Geneva Conference, the Cambodian Government must be presumed to have intended the natural consequence of their act, namely that the remedies proposed by the Security Council would make use of the machinery of the United Nations.
5. I trust that this explanation will dissipate all misunderstanding.
6. I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Patrick DEAN

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