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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1964 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the following declaration of the Royal Government of Cambodia:

"The agency France-Presse reports that at his Press conference on Friday evening General Nguyen Khanh stated that the policy of the Government of Cambodia with regard to the free South, as also the statements and attitude of the Khmer Chief of State, showed that the frontiers of Cambodia also constituted a threat to South Viet-Nam's security.

Previously, a spokesman for the South Vietnamese Army had claimed that there was collusion between Cambodia and the Viet Cong, the former tolerating the presence of the Viet Cong in the frontier zone, thus putting many obstacles in the way of the pacification operations undertaken by the South Viet-Nameese Army in that zone, and that there were at least five important zones in Cambodian territory which were serving as bases for the Viet Cong.

The Royal Government of Cambodia solemnly protests against the statements of the Head of the South Viet-Nameese Government and draws the attention of international opinion to the extreme seriousness of the threats against Cambodia.

It is clear that General Nguyen Khanh envisages military action against Khmer territory within the American-South Viet-Nameese political framework with a view to carrying the war to the whole of South-East Asia. The Royal Government would like to draw attention to the bad faith of the Saigon leaders, who, a few weeks ago, requested the Security Council to take note of the declaration by the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam recognizing the neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia and undertaking to respect them and who today claim that our frontiers constitute threats to the security of Viet-Nam.

Finally, the Royal Government protests against the formal accusation of the spokesman of the South Viet-Nameese Army that there is collusion between Cambodia and the Viet Cong. There is no international observer who fails to recognize the strict neutrality of Cambodia in relation to the civil war in South Viet-Nam.

With regard to the existence of the five zones supposedly serving as bases for the Viet Cong in Cambodian territory, the Royal Government requests the South Viet-Nameese authorities to specify clearly the locations of these alleged bases so that the International Control Commission or any other mission of enquiry, not excluding an American one, may be asked to proceed to the scene to determine whether they really exist.

As has been stated, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of State of Cambodia, will confront any aggression with the whole of the forces at his disposal, reserving the right to appeal, if necessary, to friendly countries for assistance.

The Royal Government wishes also to appeal to all peaceful Powers, and more particularly to the United Nations, in connexion with the very serious danger which the aggressive policy of South Viet-Nam, supported by the United States, is at present creating for world peace."

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the fact that the Royal Government of Cambodia requests the Viet-Nameese authorities to specify the names and localities of these five Viet Cong zones so that it may invite the International Control Commission or any other mission of enquiry, not excluding an American one, to proceed to the scene for purposes of verification.

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

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) Thoutch VUTHI
Deputy Permanent Representative of Cambodia
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

