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THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO
PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Letter dated 16 February 1984, addressed to the Chairman of the
Commission on Human Rights by the Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations Office at Geneva

I have the honour to send you herewith additional information on the use of
chemical weapons by the Vietnamese forces of aggression in Kampuchea:

1. Communication by Professor Thiounn Tho-un, Minister in charge of the
Co-ordinating Committee for Public Health and Social Affairs of the Coalition
Government of Democratic Kampuchea, dated 15 January 1984, on a new form of use of
chemical weapons by the Vietnamese occupying forces in Kampuchea;

2. News broadcast by Democratic Kampuchea Radio on 9 January 1984 regarding
the use of chemical weapons by the Vietnamese aggressors in Kampuchea.

I would be most grateful if you would arrange for these texts to be circulated
as official documents of the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights
under agenda item 9.

(Signed)

Ngo Hae Team
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

New form of use of chemical weapons in Kampuchea
by the Vietnamese occupying forces

Communication by Prof. Thiounn Thoeun, Minister in charge of the
Co-ordinating Committee for Public Health and Social Affairs of
the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea

(Kampuchea, 15 January 1984)

1. For each of the past five years, the beginning of the dry season in Kampuchea has witnessed the use of chemical weapons by the Vietnamese occupying forces against our population and combatants.

The use of chemicals is carried out by 105-mm cannon and 60-mm and 82-mm mortars. They are also used by filling them in tubes and attaching the latter to tree trunks in the woods and forests so that the toxic gases emanating from these chemicals reach our combatants and others passing by.

In addition, high-flying Vietnamese planes spray yellow and white chemicals over trees, crops, houses and water sources: pools, streams, ponds and rivers. Furthermore, many cases of poisoning by putting toxic chemicals in food on sale at the markets have been reported; this is the work of specially organized Vietnamese agents, particularly women.

Each year, thousands of Kampucheans - men, women, children and elderly people - have been poisoned, and hundreds more killed by the toxic chemicals used by the Vietnamese occupying forces.

2. This year, as in previous years, the occupying forces started using chemicals in November. But this time they have resorted to a new method in addition to those mentioned above: the toxic chemicals are put in syringes to avoid burning those who use them, namely, the Vietnamese experts in chemical weapons, and injected later in water sources, which have a low level during the dry season. Fish and other creatures living in and drinking such water have been poisoned and have died. The survivors have their bodies covered with sores. Our population, including combatants, using these water sources, have also been poisoned.

The poison does not kill at once. It first causes coughing, sore throats, diarrhoea, dysentery, fever, sores, and finally death two or three months later.

These various facts clearly show:

1. The barbarous and fascist policy of the Vietnamese aggressors in their war in Kampuchea;

2. The genocide committed by Hanoi in Kampuchea;

3. The growing impasse faced by the occupying forces exposed to constant and numerous attacks from all sides by our combatants.

We therefore wish to appeal urgently to the international community vigorously to denounce and condemn these odious crimes committed by the Vietnamese occupying forces, and to make use of every means to compel them to withdraw completely from Kampuchea in accordance with the five relevant United Nations resolutions, so as to put an end to these crimes in Kampuchea and to the sufferings of the Kampuchean people.

ANNEX II

Text broadcast by Democratic Kampuchea
Radio on 9 January 1984

THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY THE VIETNAMESE
AGGRESSORS IN KAMPUCHEA

Since the onset of the present dry season (October 1983-April 1984), the Vietnamese aggressors have been intensifying the use of toxic chemical substances against the civilian population of Kampuchea. They are taking advantage of the fall in the water level and the dry season to poison the water that is left in the reservoirs, pools, ponds and rivers.

1. Around the beginning of the dry season (October-November 1983) the Vietnamese aggressors poisoned pools and ponds in the Santul district, Kompong Thom province (central region). Scores of inhabitants were taken ill after drinking the poisoned water.
 2. On 10 December 1983, the Vietnamese troops of aggression stationed at Pongro, in the Chikrèng district, Siemreap province (northern region), dumped poison into the Makak reservoir. Several individuals were poisoned, one fatally.
 3. On 10 December 1983, at Soeu, in the Chancar Leu district, Kompong Cham province (central region), five individuals were taken ill and several others seriously poisoned when they drank drinking water that had been poisoned by the Vietnamese aggressors.
 4. On 12 December 1983, in the Sangkum Thmei district, Preah Vihear province (northern region), two Kampuchean police officers who had been forcibly recruited by the Vietnamese occupiers died of poisoning at the hands of the Vietnamese aggressors.
 5. On 12 December 1983, in the village of Phum Russel Pork in the Chikrèng district, Siemreap province (northern region), two individuals were fatally poisoned when they consumed salt which they had purchased in the market in the district capital and to which the Vietnamese troops of aggression had added toxic chemical substances.
 6. On 22 December 1983, in the Chikrèng district, Siemreap province, in the course of their raids, the Vietnamese troops put toxic chemical substances in all water points near the rice fields.
 7. On 25 December 1983, the Vietnamese troops of aggression committed the same crime in the Siemreap district, Siemreap province. Several inhabitants were taken ill, one fatally.
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