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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 17 April 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 16 April 1984 (A/39/184-S/16485) and upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour once again to bring to Your Excellency's attention the continuing military attacks being conducted by the illegal occupation forces of Viet Nam in Kampuchea against unarmed and innocent Kampuchean civilians congregated along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Oblivious to appeals from many quarters to refrain from attacking Kampuchean civilian encampments under the supervision of the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO), the said Vietnamese forces attacked at the end of March and early April this year two such encampments inside Kampuchea across from the Thai border villages of Ban Samrong Kiat and Ban Borai in Sri Sa Ket and Trad provinces respectively. In addition, between 14 and 16 April 1984, Vietnamese troops occupying Kampuchea launched a series of attacks against Kampuchean civilian encampments along the Thai-Kampuchean border as follows:

1. On 14 April 1984, the Kampuchean civilian encampment at Ampil inside Kampuchea opposite the Thai border village of Ban Sangae, Prachinburi Province, came under attack from intensive Vietnamese shelling, resulting in another influx into Thailand of approximately 32,000 Kampucheans. About 50 wounded Kampucheans were sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross hospital at the Khao-I-Dang holding centre in Thailand. The total number of people killed is still unknown.

* A/39/50.

2. Between 14 and 16 April 1984, close to 45,000 Kampuchean civilians from encampments along the border inside Kampuchea in the areas opposite the Thai villages of Ban Charat, Ban Tatum or Greenhill, Surin Province, and Ban Sok Sann, Trad Province, were evacuated into Thai territory due to heavy fightings in those areas.

The above series of indiscriminate attacks against the Kampuchean civilian population are in open violation of the fundamental principles of humanitarianism and the Charter of the United Nations. The attacks by the Vietnamese occupying forces on Kampuchean civilian encampments constitute a callous and unjustifiable crime against humanity because the said encampments under UNBRO supervision shelter only Kampuchean civilians, as was clearly stated in a communiqué dated 24 January 1984, of the Council of Ministers of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (A/39/92-S/16301, annex). Moreover, the attacks have led to a massive influx of over 75,000 Kampuchean civilians, mostly women, children and the aged, into Thailand and have aggravated further the untold suffering of these unfortunate people. Since heavy shellings are anticipated on other major Kampuchean civilian encampments along the Thai-Kampuchean border, namely Nong Samet, Nong Chan and Dong Rak, which accommodate 47,000, 16,000 and 20,000 Kampucheans respectively, the Government of Thailand, out of humanitarian consideration, has decided to provide temporary refuge for these unfortunate Kampuchean civilians inside Thailand and is closely co-operating with UNBRO, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other relief agencies in providing these Kampuchean civilians with all necessary assistance. The latest influx of Kampuchean civilians into Thailand has not only placed a further strain on the resources provided by the international community for the care and relief of the existing 230,000 Kampuchean civilians along the Thai-Kampuchean border but also has added immeasurably to the already heavy burden Thailand is shouldering by providing temporary refuge to close to 140,000 Indo-Chinese refugees and displaced persons.

I have the honour to request that the text of this note be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 20 and 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI
Permanent Representative
