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Items 20, 37, 68 and 124 of the
preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND

CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE

DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF

GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 21 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring the following clarification of the Royal Thai Government on the Thai-Lao border incident to your attention:

1. To extend development to every village in the Kingdom, the Thai Government has set up a project to build roads to all remote areas of Thailand, particularly those villages along the border. The road from Nan to Uttaradit Province, which is projected to run through Ban Na Sia, Ban Haad Rai, Ban Nam Moab and Ban Bo Bia, and running by Ban Sawang, Ban Klang and Ban Mai, is one such road within the framework of the existing five-year project. Its construction has been going on for more than two years now.

2. Following a survey of the area, it was confirmed that the three villages are clearly within Thai territory, as shown in the Thai-Lao boundary map. In this area, the treaty clearly sets the watershed dividing the Mekong and the Chao Phraya Valleys as the boundary line.

* A/39/50.

3. In March 1984, Lao troops obstructed the construction of this road at a point about 6 kilometres inside Thai territory, claiming that the Thais had entered Lao territory.

4. In April, Lao troops along the border were strengthened. On 15 April, they attacked our volunteers and a base of Thai border patrol police in an area about 2 kilometres north of Ban Bo Bia well inside Thailand.

5. The Thai Government wishes to continue the construction of this road and has sent volunteers to provide protection. On 24 and 25 May, a group of Thai volunteers clashed with the Lao troops who had entered Thai territory, which resulted in minor injuries but no deaths. On 6 and 7 June, Thai troops were dispatched to provide security to the area inside Thailand and to ensure that this road project is successfully implemented within the set period. There have been no further clashes.

6. Since the incident in May, the Thai Government has tried to avoid the use of force. The Thai authorities have met with the Lao side, asking them not to send forces into the area. We have also asked them to hold discussions at the local level to clear up any possible misunderstanding. If there is any contention as to the borderline, it is felt that the matter should be discussed by the two sides. Initially, the Lao side agreed to have a discussion.

7. Since 9 June, the Lao side began to mount propaganda attacks against us through the mass media. This was followed by demonstrations and protest rallies. Moreover, they have set up as pre-conditions that the Thai forces be withdrawn from the three villages before any discussion could be held. The Thai Government, in contrast, has chosen to adopt a quiet attitude to defuse the tension.

8. To prevent the worsening of that incident, the Thai authorities have tried to settle the matter in a peaceful manner. On 15, 18 and 20 June, through the Lao Ambassador in Bangkok, the Thai Government conveyed the Thai wish to solve the problem and its readiness to talk at all levels, local or national, with the Lao authorities. Meanwhile, it suggested that consultation should be undertaken through diplomatic channels in order not to heighten the tension. The Lao side was also asked to avoid any armed clash as it would worsen the situation, and not to have demonstrations, protest rallies, or further propaganda attacks through the media.

9. Thailand has always had good relations with Laos. At present, we have the Thai-Lao border committees at both regional and national levels. They are the mechanism to help solve border problems which occur from time to time. Both sides have agreed that those committees will contribute to the maintenance and further strengthening of the existing bond of friendship between the two countries.

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10. With reference to the letter dated 18 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the Secretary-General (A/39/313), the Thai Government regards Thai-Lao border problems as bilateral issues in which Viet Nam should not interfere. The Vietnamese attitude and activities in connection with Thai-Lao border problems clearly demonstrate Vietnamese interference in the bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries as well as in the internal affairs of Thailand. It is also a blatant twist of the factual situation, aiming at obfuscating the root cause of the Kampuchean problem which is the Vietnamese military invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. Therefore, it is certain that Viet Nam maintains a clear policy of creating permanent instability and conflict in South-East Asia. Viet Nam is thus trying to dominate Laos and Kampuchea completely while sabotaging the good relations between Thailand and Laos at the same time.

11. The Thai Government reaffirms its standing policy of maintaining good relations with all countries, particularly those sharing common borders with Thailand. The Thai Government reiterates its consistent policy of respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other States. The Thai Government also reaffirms its readiness to solve Thai-Lao border problems peacefully and as soon as possible, without interference from a third country.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 20, 37, 68 and 124 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI
Permanent representative
