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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION  
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES  
Twenty-first session

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS  
INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF  
APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL  
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE  
SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Submission from the Government of Australia under  
Commission on Human Rights decision 9 (XXXIV)

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the attached statement of the Australian Government on the question of Human Rights in Democratic Kampuchea to be circulated to members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and included with any documents referred by the Sub-Commission to the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) L.D. Thomson  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

GE.78-9851

STATEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE  
QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

The Australian Government has on a number of occasions expressed its deep concern at persistent reports of gross violations of human rights in Kampuchea. This concern led us to support fully the decision taken at the thirty-fourth Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

We recognize the difficulty of reliably establishing what is happening within Kampuchea. However, the overall consistency of the many reports which have been received lend them a general credibility even if one might sometimes question points of detail. The evidence now submitted to the Sub-Commission and other recent reports, including information available to my Government, make it clear that violations of human rights are continuing.

Australians have been shocked by these reports and are understandably anxious for the welfare of the Kampuchean people. After so many years of conflict in the region, it was widely hoped that Kampuchea, in common with its neighbours, might proceed with a policy of reconciliation and reconstruction. This remains not only a national, but a regional priority. Its attainment has been inhibited by the internal policies of the Kampuchean Government. So also has Kampuchea's ability to develop relations with countries which would otherwise be sympathetic to Kampuchea's needs and problems, countries which, like Australia, attach importance to the independence and territorial integrity of Kampuchea.

It is our hope, nevertheless, that the development of relations between Kampuchea and other countries, especially those in the South East Asian region, will lead to an improvement in the conditions of life of the people of Kampuchea. It is also our hope that the Commission on Human Rights, acting on your advice, will contribute effectively to that end.

In this respect, the Kampuchean Government will no doubt be given every opportunity to co-operate with the Commission.