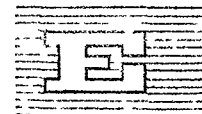


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Item 12 of the agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD,
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND
OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 13 March 1979 addressed to the Chairman
of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on
Human Rights by the head of the Delegation of
Democratic Kampuchea

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the declaration made by the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea with reference to the report of the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the "situation with regard to human rights in Democratic Kampuchea".

I should be most grateful if you would arrange to have this declaration distributed as a document of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Sam San

The delegation of Democratic Kampuchea, representing the Government of Democratic Kampuchea as an Observer at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, wishes by this declaration to make known its position on the report submitted to the Commission on Human Rights on 7 March 1979 by the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the "situation with regard to human rights in Democratic Kampuchea", as follows:

I. American imperialism is responsible for the war of aggression in Democratic Kampuchea in 1970-1975 and for the monstrous crimes committed against the nation and people of Kampuchea

The Sub-Commission's report, in its analysis of the situation in Democratic Kampuchea, is deliberately silent on the innumerable crimes committed by United States imperialism during its 1970-1975 war of aggression against Kampuchea. In this connexion, the international community should be reminded of the following tragic balance-sheet:

More than 800,000 persons killed and over 240,000 disabled, including more than 40,000 left permanently unfit for work.

Devastation wrought in front-line and adjacent areas, namely in the plains where many centres of population are generally located, as follows:

Factories and plantations destroyed:	over 30 per cent
Fields and rice-paddies destroyed:	over 30 per cent
Forests destroyed:	between 8 and 35 per cent
Villages and towns destroyed:	90-100 per cent
Pagodas destroyed:	90 per cent
Cattle destroyed:	50-60 per cent

Between 65 and 70 per cent of the hevea plantations were destroyed.

The fauna, including aquatic fauna, suffered heavy losses. Many species have disappeared.

Between 70 and 80 per cent of bridges, means of communication and strategic roads were destroyed. Between 50 and 60 per cent of harbours and 80 per cent of railway track were destroyed. The entire country was riddled with large bomb craters and it may be recalled that on some days in 1973 up to 4,000 to 5,000 tons of United States bombs were rained on Kampuchea.

The Sub-Commission should have taken these basic facts into account in its analysis if it wished to assess the situation in a completely objective manner. All foreigners who visited Democratic Kampuchea after its liberation on 17 April 1975 were struck beyond belief by the extent of the destruction caused during this war of aggression. A senior Swedish civil servant who visited Democratic Kampuchea at the beginning of 1976 and travelled 800 km along highways Nos. 1, 5 and 6 and on the Mekong said that he was deeply shocked by what he had seen. Not a single house along his route was left standing; he had seen only ashes, charred trees and brick and concrete rubble. In addition, some 3 million inhabitants were experiencing famine in the towns, including Phnom Penh, the capital. Gangs belonging to secret organizations, armed to the teeth, threatened the safety of the towns.

The Sub-Commission might have asked itself some questions concerning this situation which is of the utmost gravity for any Government responsible for the future of the nation and the people.

We would point out that the people of Kampuchea made immense sacrifices in the course of its long and stubborn struggle and is continuing to make sacrifices now in order to realize its deepest aspirations, namely, a society in which equality, justice and true democracy prevail, and in which all live in the broadest harmony, concord and national unity.

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea has realized all these aspirations of the Kampuchean people since national liberation.

First: As to the rights of the nation

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea, like many other Governments, regards independence and national sovereignty as the cornerstones of the rights of the people and of citizens. The individual can enjoy these rights only if his nation is free and independent. From 17 April 1975 until 25 December last, Democratic Kampuchea was a fully independent and sovereign country, resolutely applying a policy of peace, neutrality and non-alignment in accordance with the will of the people.

Second: As to the rights of citizens

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea has guaranteed to the people of Kampuchea the right to life from the material, moral and cultural standpoints.

The people of Kampuchea has become master of the means of production.

II. Achievements of the people of Kampuchea after national liberation (1970-1978)

Defying difficulties, the people of Kampuchea have by their determined efforts, succeeded in changing conditions of life in all spheres, which have undergone significant transformations. Ninety per cent of the population, including the poor peasants and other workers who led an absolutely miserable existence in the past, now enjoy living conditions which are many times better and are fully safeguarded. All may avail themselves equally of the fruits of their own labour. All have enough to eat. All are properly dressed and housed, can obtain medicine and receive medical and hospital care in each co-operative and in each enterprise. All have the same opportunities for improving their cultural level. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea resolved the food problem - which is the fundamental problem for the people - only two years after liberation by relying on its own efforts, without importuning the international community. Visitors to Democratic Kampuchea not suspected of having any particular sympathy for us all agree that there are no signs of malnutrition in Kampuchea because people look so healthy. They have also seen for themselves that Kampuchea has become a vast housing construction site, and that the wooden dwellings with tiled roofs are intended for each family.

Those who led comfortable lives before liberation - approximately 10 per cent of the population - have had their material living conditions adjusted to the level of everyone else. They can live like everyone. They perform their day-to-day tasks and live in the same way as others. But, as patriots, they are glad that they have been able to participate in the task of national reconstruction, particularly as they clearly understand that the Government of Democratic Kampuchea is resolutely implementing the policy of independence, defending honour and national dignity and bringing about the rapid advancement of society in justice.

III. Democratic Kampuchea's policy of peace and friendship

In conformity with its policy of peace and friendship, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, in a spirit of goodwill, has solemnly declared to the world that it is turning squarely towards the future and putting the past behind it. It has tried in good faith since 1976 to enlighten the international community about the situation in Kampuchea, as its statements to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1976, 1977 and 1978 testify, for the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, in line with its own efforts to achieve the happiness and welfare of the people of Kampuchea, has always wished to establish friendly relations with all countries of the world on the basis of equality, non-interference in internal affairs, non-aggression and respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right of each people to decide its own destiny.

However, we are compelled to note, as demonstrated by the history of decolonization, that Democratic Kampuchea, which in 1975 won its freedom and independence at the cost of a protracted struggle, has not been spared criticism, attacks and even slander and disparagement because of what is happening in its internal affairs. There is no instance in the history of mankind of countries which, having thrown off the yoke of their foreign oppressors, have received congratulations, praise or consideration from them. Worse still, the newly-won independence and freedom of these countries were frequently subjected to armed attacks by their former oppressors.

As a member of the United Nations and of the movement of non-aligned countries, Democratic Kampuchea continues to have faith in the Charter of the United Nations and in the principles of non-alignment to which it is deeply attached. It still considers that all States are under a duty to respect these principles, and particularly the principles of State sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of others, non-aggression, etc. For without respect for the rights of the nation and the people there can be no guarantee for the rights of the citizens of that nation.

IV. The rights of the people of Kampuchea and human rights in Kampuchea are being flouted and violated by Viet Nam

Viet Nam has been waging a new war of aggression and pursuing an extremely barbaric invasion in Democratic Kampuchea since 25 December 1978.

By this war of aggression, the Vietnamese army of invasion of over 100,000 men (now increased to 180,000 men) is insolently trampling under foot the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. This war of annexation, aided and abetted by the Soviet Union, threatens the very existence of the nation and people of Kampuchea, both by reason of its objectives and the methods employed. Our delegation is compelled to warn the Commission on Human Rights that extremely serious violations of the rights of our people and human rights in Kampuchea have been perpetrated by the Vietnamese army, and that these violations are more in the nature of a policy of genocide directed against the nation and people of Kampuchea than mere random events.

In the space of only two months, since the outbreak of the war, several hundred thousand of our compatriots have been savagely slaughtered by the Vietnamese armed forces which are applying in Kampuchea the policy of "destroy everything, burn everything, butcher everyone".

Our delegation would like to give the following examples:

1. Use of toxic chemical gases, in the eastern area and at Rattanakiri.
2. Round-up of frontier dwellers, numbering several tens of thousands, from the districts of Snuol (Kratie), Krèk and Mémot (Kampong Cham), Romeas Hèk, Romduol, Svay Teap and Kampong Rau (Svay Rieng), Koh Andet and Kirivong (Takeo), Banteay Meas and Kampong Trach (Kampot). These inhabitants were forcibly deported to Viet Nam. According to the few who escaped, almost all of them were massacred.
3. Summary mass executions. Those inhabitants of Kampuchea whom the Vietnamese army seized and did not deport to Viet Nam were butchered on the spot.

4. Massacres by methods more horrible than those used by hitlerite hordes.

In the Province of Takeo, the Vietnamese army of aggression bound the members of co-operatives and hung them from trees. They bled the bodies of their victims, who died after long and frightful agonies.

In the Province of Svay Rieng, the Vietnamese army tied the members of co-operatives together as peasants tie chickens. They took them into the fields of ripe rice, sprinkled them with petrol and burned them alive.

In the south west, during its recent campaign of repression from 13 to 15 February 1979, the Vietnamese invading army arrested the inhabitants of the region. They put cords through the palms of their hands and ears to take them to the place of execution.

On highway No. 5, in the Province of Kampong Chhnang, the Vietnamese forces arrested thousands of inhabitants, tied them up very tightly and locked them up, so that prisoners died slowly as a result of starvation and gangrene of their members.

As for the parents and members of the families of party members and combatants, the Vietnamese hordes mutilated them, disembowelled them and put out their eyes before butchering them.

5. Rape and massacre of girls and women.

During their invasion, the Vietnamese soldiers rounded up girls aged 12 and upwards and women in order to rape them. Those who resisted were shot out of hand. The others were first raped and then butchered. Some died during these barbaric acts. Those who escaped and whom we picked up did not survive because they had been so badly treated. In certain places, such as Mimit near the Thai frontier, the Vietnamese soldiers separated light-complexioned girls and dark-complexioned ones. The latter were killed out of hand while the others were taken away to be raped.

6. Execution of children and babies.

In the Province of Takeo, the Vietnamese hordes used babies and children of Kampuchea as toys in their murderous game. They threw the babies into the air and transfixed them with their bayonets as they fell, thus running them through. Some soldiers literally tore babies apart by tugging at their legs. Others used babies as balls in their monstrous games.

7. Massacres in hospitals.

On entering Phnom Penh on 7 January, the Vietnamese army slaughtered more 2,000 patients in the hospitals of Phnom Penh.

8. Mass and indiscriminate bombing.

So as to advance rapidly in their second large-scale attack with a view to the invasion and occupation of Kampuchea, the Vietnamese unleashed mass and indiscriminate bombing attacks against all places along highway No. 1 from the frontier to Phnom Penh, highway No. 2 from the frontier to Takeo, highway No. 7 from Snuol towards Kratié City on the one hand and Mémot, Krèk and Kampong Cham City on the other, and highway No. 15 from the Chup plantations to Neak Luong. Thousands of inhabitants were killed. All the houses, factories and co-operative medical centres along the highways were destroyed. The town of Takeo was reduced almost to ashes. The hospitals of Neak Luong and Kampong Cham City were also destroyed. In the course of their advance, Vietnamese tanks and armoured vehicles crushed everything in their paths, including the inhabitants fleeing along the highway.

In short, wherever they pass, the Vietnamese hordes destroy and burn villages, fields and paddy fields, massacre the population and rape women before killing them, seize the land to give it to Vietnamese sent from Viet Nam and pillage the crops and take them off to Viet Nam to try and alleviate the famine raging there. They are endeavouring to eliminate the national culture and civilization of Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese hordes have also pillaged the wealth and national heritage of Kampuchea: the statues of Buddha in solid gold and silver from the Silver Pagoda and in various pagodas of Phnom Penh, the rare and priceless bas-reliefs from the National Museum at Phnom Penh, the treasures of Angkor, the treasures of the Royal Palace, etc.

Thus, the present violations of human rights by Viet Nam in Democratic Kampuchea are not violations which are commonly encountered. Viet Nam is trying to exterminate the race and people of Kampuchea for the purpose purely and simply of swallowing Kampuchea up and making it a province of Viet Nam. That is why the Vietnamese aggressors have set up at Phnom Penh an administration whose head, arms, legs and very body are entirely Vietnamese. This administration is Khmer only in name, a name which Viet Nam has given it to camouflage its aggression, invasion and occupation of Kampuchea and to deceive international public opinion. This administration survives only through the presence of Vietnamese occupation forces. The Vietnamese occupation forces in Kampuchea control neither the population nor the countryside. They are installed only on a few stretches of the main highways and in deserted towns which are, incidentally, encircled by the troops of the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea and the people of Kampuchea. For example, the present population of Phnom Penh consists of 90 per cent Vietnamese invaders and 10 per cent Soviet and Cuban advisors.

The people of Kampuchea utterly refuse to become the slaves of the Vietnamese, for whom they have an ancestral hatred. After having fought for several decades and made so many sacrifices to gain their freedom, independence and territorial integrity, they will never allow Viet Nam to impose on them its colonial yoke, annihilate their nation and destroy their civilization and

national identity. Under the direction of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, all the people of Kampuchea, united in a broad national front, and the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea are daily destroying hundreds of Vietnamese invaders. They are determined to wage a long and unremitting struggle until the Vietnamese colonialist occupiers are all driven out of the national territory and until the national independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea are fully restored.

In conclusion, to help to put an end to this Vietnamese invasion which is being intensified against Democratic Kampuchea, to thwart Viet Nam's ambition of swallowing up Kampuchea, and to eliminate the steadily increasing threat to world peace, as well as to defend the rights of the people of Kampuchea and human rights in Kampuchea, the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea considers that the Commission on Human Rights should:

Condemn the genocide of the people of Kampuchea perpetrated by the Vietnamese armed forces in Democratic Kampuchea, following upon the aggression, invasion, colonization and absorption of Democratic Kampuchea by Viet Nam.

Demand that Viet Nam should cease its war of aggression immediately withdrawing totally, unconditionally and without delay all its armed forces from Democratic Kampuchea, and should respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea and the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their own destiny.

Geneva, 13 March 1979.