



General Assembly    Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/39/367  
S/16684  
31 July 1984  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-ninth session  
Items 37 and 124 of the provisional agenda\*  
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION  
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA  
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS  
BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 30 July 1984 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an interview which His Excellency Mr. Soubanh Srithirath, Lao Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, and head of the delegation of the National Commission for the Lao-Thai Frontier, gave the press at Bangkok on Tuesday, 24 July 1984.

I should be grateful if you would have the aforementioned text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 37 and 124 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kithong VONGSAY  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

---

\* A/39/150.

ANNEX

Interview given by Mr. Soubahn Srithirath, Lao Deputy Minister for  
Foreign Affairs, and head of the delegation of the National  
Commission for the Lao-Thai Frontier

Bangkok, 24 July 1984

Gentlemen, you are no doubt already well aware of the consistent policy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for a peaceful solution to the problem of the three Lao villages occupied by Thai troops since 6 June 1984. This means that the Thai troops should withdraw from those three villages, that the inhabitants taken to Thai territory by force should be allowed to return to their homes and that the situation should return to what it had been before the events in question. That is the only way to ease the tension and to take different measures for dealing with the arguments of the two parties. I shall now summarize the discussions that have been held:

Since our arrival at Bangkok, the two parties have talked several times, with a view to finding a solution of the problem. On each occasion, I observed that the Thai delegation also endeavoured to arrive at an agreement. For that reason, we have come to an understanding on several points. However, after each meeting and after the Thai delegation had made its report to the various higher authorities involved, the Thai party has always raised new problems. That is why the talks have not yet dealt with the fundamental question, which is the key to the problem, namely, the withdrawal of Thai troops from the three villages.

The Thai side has insisted on its proposal, which is the following: after the withdrawal of the Thai troops, the Lao side should not send its own troops into those three villages. We regard this proposal as groundless, in view of the fact that the two sides had agreed on the withdrawal of Thai troops in order to restore the situation existing before 6 June 1984 and on respect for Lao sovereignty.

The maintenance of the Thai position on this question proves to us that Thailand wishes to share sovereignty over those three villages. But I assert that those three villages are Lao and are situated in Lao territory according to a historical demarcation which conforms to accepted international principles; in the present case the demarcation is the watershed. Since time immemorial the inhabitants of those three villages have been Lao, subject to Lao administration and using the Lao language and Lao writing. If Thailand claims those three villages, why did the Thai Government wait until 6 June 1984 to send its troops to occupy them, organize Thai language courses, enter the inhabitants in the civil register and the like? The attack upon the three villages and their occupation by Thai troops constitute:

- A grave violation of Lao sovereignty;
- An infraction of the principles governing relations between the two countries, as stipulated by the Joint Declarations signed in 1979 by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

/...

These actions are in no way different from those of the Chinese troops who have occupied territory belonging to India and thereafter arrogated to themselves the right to administer them. Such actions cannot be described as good-neighbourly relations.

Even more grave is the fact that the Thai extreme-rightist reactionaries have captured the inhabitants of those three villages and taken them away to Thai territory, which has evoked vigorous protests and condemnation not only from the entire Lao people but also from the Thai people and peace-loving peoples throughout the world.

It is regrettable that the behaviour of the Thai side is hampering or retarding the solution of the problem. If these talks have not been successful, the fault lies not with the Lao side but with the Thai side, which must bear the sole responsibility for it.

Although the problem cannot be settled at the moment, the Lao delegation hopes that the talks will be resumed, as agreed by the two parties. We express the hope that the Thai side will understand that the best way of finding a solution is none other than the way of sincere dialogue based on the Lao-Thai Joint Declarations of 1979.

Since my opposite number is leaving for a visit to the People's Republic of China, I myself shall first return to my country, leaving part of the delegation at Bangkok to continue the consultations. I hope that the results of the Thai delegation's visit to China will not lead to an increase in the tension existing in the relations between our two countries, and in particular the tension in the area of the three villages in question.

-----