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

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 15 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement dated 14 October 1984 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this text to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 37 and 123.

(<u>Signed</u>) Kithong VONGSAY

Ambassador

Permanent Representative

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Tension has been on the rise in recent days in the situation in the three Lao villages of Bane May, Bane Kang and Bane Savang. Thailand's occupation troops have by no means withdrawn from the three localities. On the contrary, they have been reinforced, their fortifications have been improved, and day and night they continue indiscriminately to pound the neighbouring Lao villages with artillery fire. At the same time, the Thais have massed their troops and those of the Lao reactionaries in exile along the border of the Lao province of Sayaboury, while attempting to infiltrate at various points to carry out their subversive activities.

The most serious development, however, is the forcible removal to Thailand, hurriedly carried out by the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circle, of nearly all the inhabitants of the three villages, which have been plundered and left in ruins. In connection with this event, the reactionaries have been levelling accusations or disseminating such news stories as: "Lao troops fired shells on the three villages", "a major battle is about to take place" and "the Lao population has left of its own accord to seek refuge in Thailand". The fact that some 50 individuals managed to escape this deportation carried out by Thailand's occupation troops has given the lie to such false assertions.

This act is the most barbaric committed by the Thai reactionaries since they embarked upon their aggression. It is part and parcel of their treacherous manoeuvres, in collusion with the reactionaries of Peking's ruling circle, aimed at using Lao nationals to fight against the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The reality totally contradicts the statement by Thailand's Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning the withdrawal of Thai troops from the three villages and demonstrates with utmost clarity that the aim of the statement was to deceive public opinion and conceal the dark designs behind the Thai reactionaries' efforts to undermine the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly denounces and condemns these criminal acts committed by the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circle, and demands the unconditional and total withdrawal of Thai troops, military officers and civilians from the localities in question, the return of all the Lao inhabitants who were forcibly removed to their villages of origin, compensation for the loss of life and damage to the property of the local population caused by the Thais, and the cessation of all hostile acts against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circle alone must accept full responsibility for their criminal acts.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic solemnly appeals to all countries, to the Thai people and to all peace-loving and justice-loving peoples throughout the world to restrain the criminal hands of the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circle.

Vientiane, 14 October 1984