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

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 29 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 to you herewith a text of a statement dated 27 October 1984 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 37, 123 and 124.

(Signed) Kithong VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao
People's Democratic Republic dated 27 October 1984

For sending in their occupation troops and for their crimes committed in the three Lao villages of Bane May, Bane Kang and Bane Savang more than four months ago, the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circles have been denounced as aggressors and expansionists in collusion with the Chinese expansionists against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as saboteurs of good relations between the peoples of the two countries and as creators of tension in South-East Asia.

In face of the resolute struggle of the Lao people, approved and supported by public opinion in Thailand and throughout the world, these reactionaries became increasingly isolated from day to day, finding themselves beset by difficulties and defeats in every field. Their troops were therefore constrained to withdraw from the three villages. The Lao local authorities are once more administering the three villages, and some of their inhabitants who had fled are gradually returning to their homes.

However, the situation in the surrounding area remains tense; Thai troops are still occupying a position in Lao territory, in the valley to the south of Bane May, carrying out harassment activities and hastily reinforcing freshly-constructed outposts on various heights adjoining the frontier, in order to dominate the area of the three villages. At the same time, the Thai ultra-rightist reactionaries have assisted the Lao reactionaries in exile in their sabotage activities within Lao territory. What is particularly serious is that they have compelled more than a thousand inhabitants of these three villages to leave for Thailand. Furthermore, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs has openly declared that Thailand has in no way renounced its sovereignty over the three villages. And General Arthit Kamlang Ek has declared that this is merely a "redeployment" of forces and that he is convinced that these three villages belong to Thailand.

These developments show that the Thai side has not really withdrawn its forces from Lao territory and has not renounced its intent to occupy these three villages and its expansionist designs on Laos.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly condemns and denounces before Thai and world public opinion these aggressive manoeuvres and the criminal acts of ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circles, and resolutely demands that the Thai side should withdraw its forces completely from Lao territory, cease all threatening and harassing activities around the three Lao villages, ensure the immediate return to their homes of all the inhabitants forced to leave for Thailand, compensate them for the damage caused by the troops, and recognize Lao sovereignty over this region.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic again reaffirms its unchanging determination resolutely to safeguard its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. At the same time, it maintains its peaceful foreign policy and adheres to the principle of settling disputes between two countries through negotiation. In this spirit, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is prepared to send a delegation to Bangkok in order to resume the negotiations with the Thai delegation as soon as possible, in order to find a joint solution to the problems outstanding, to restore the situation that prevailed in the three villages prior to 6 June 1984, to end the tension in the frontier region and in the relations between the two countries and to re-establish good-neighbourly and fraternal relations between the Lao and Thai peoples, in response to their fervent aspirations and legitimate interests.

The people and Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic sincerely thank the Thai people, the peoples of fraternal and friendly countries and justice-loving world public opinion for their sympathy and strong support in the Lao people's struggle against the aggression of the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circles in order to protect Lao sovereignty over these three villages.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic urgently appeals to the people of various countries to continue to give sympathy and support to the just struggle of the Lao people in order to safeguard their sovereignty over these three villages, in the interests of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos, and peace and stability in South-East Asia and throughout the world.
