



Security Council

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ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCHLETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter dated 17 October 1984 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, circulated as document S/16787, I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to bring to your attention the following points:

1. Thailand's statement in the letter in question to the effect that "there is no longer any Thai military or administrative presence in the three villages" is nothing more than a ploy intended to deceive world public opinion. What is actually taking place is a tactical redeployment of forces. This has been confirmed by the spokesman for the Thai Army in his statement to the press in Bangkok on 16 October.
2. Having deported nearly 900 Lao villagers to Thailand, that country now claims that the people concerned voluntarily left their homes and their property. That is a rather simplistic argument, since those who managed to escape the massive deportation have corroborated the statement made by the Lao delegation in the Security Council on 9 October concerning the measures of repression and harassment carried out against the villagers by the Thai occupation troops.
3. Thailand has insisted on the establishment of a so-called joint technical team for on-site verification of the boundary line. Contrary to Thailand's claim, the boundary line in the area in question has been very clearly delimited by the Franco-Siamese agreements of 1904 and 1907, and follows the watershed line. In other words, everything which descends towards the Mekong is Lao and everything which descends towards the Menam is Siamese. The three villages are situated on the Houei Luang River, which flows towards the Mekong. Thus, there is no question of an artificial boundary. Furthermore, a study issued by the United States Department of State on 18 September 1962 found the boundary established by the 1907 treaty to be completely consistent with the watershed line. The real purpose of the fact-finding machinery proposed by Thailand is to call into question the boundary inherited from the colonial period, which would constitute a dangerous precedent and would strike a blow at the universally recognized principle of the inalterability of historical boundaries.

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I would request you to arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kithong VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
