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LETTER DATED 21 DECEMBER 1984 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter of 6 December 1984, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following additional information relating to the occupation since 6 June 1984 of a portion of Lao territory by Thai ultra-rightist reactionary troops:

1. Since the middle of October this year, as a result of our nation-wide strong protest as well as a world-wide condemnation to which they had been subjected, the Thai troops have evacuated the Lao three villages proper but, regrettably, they are still occupying some nine hilltops surrounding the said localities. That is to say that they are still on our territory and those heights are situated about 300 to 500 metres deep inside Lao territory. The Thai troops have been carrying out, almost everyday, artillery shellings against the Lao localities, thus inflicting heavy damage on the properties of the local inhabitants. On 16 December this year, they fired several rounds of 60 mm and 105 mm artillery shells as well as different types of light weapons against Ban May and its neighbourhood.

2. The local population numbering 966 persons, which have been, in the wake of the Thai aggression and occupation, deported into a camp called in Lao "Deune Khima" (place teaming with dung of horses) and located on the Thai side of the border, have been undergoing inhumane treatment and suffering from malnutrition, lack of sanitation and different kinds of disease. Most of the female inmates have been brutally raped by the Thai soldiers. The most recent criminal practice resorted to by the Thai soldiers has been the cowardly gunning down of one Lao civilian on 25 November 1984 while he went about his business of searching for food in the neighbourhood of the detention camp. The Thai side impudently claimed that the unfortunate boy was murdered by the Lao soldiers. The Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the letter of its acting Minister dated 5 December 1984 addressed to the Thai Foreign Minister, lodged a strong protest against this cowardly murder and demanded that the Thai side compensate the family of the slain boy (this case was referred to in my letter of 6 December 1984).

3. On 24 November 1984, the Lao acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Khamphay Boupha, in a letter addressed to his Thai counterpart, proposed that the talks, which, as is known, were unilaterally broken off by the Thai side on 15 August 1984, be resumed in Bangkok on 10 December this year. Regrettably, this good will gesture on the part of the Lao Government has not been reciprocated by the Thai side as was stated in the reply letter of the Thai Foreign Minister dated 3 December 1984. The Thai Minister impudently claimed that "it is no use talking (with the Lao side) since the Thai troops have already undertaken their repositioning and the question of compensation (for loss of lives and damage to properties) did not arise either since both sides have equally suffered casualties".

On 13 December 1984, the Lao Foreign Minister sent a protest note to the Thai embassy in Vientiane in which the Lao Government strongly rejected fallacious arguments and viewpoints contained in the Thai Foreign Minister's letter of 3 December 1984, which did not make any distinction between the "aggressor" (Thai soldiers) and the "aggrieved" (local Lao people). The Thai attitude, in the present case, was completely at variance with the language which the Thai side traditionally uses, that is: "Thai and Lao could talk with one another and should engage in negotiations in good faith".

4. On 13 December 1984, the Lao ambassador in Bangkok was summoned by the chief of the Press and information department of the Thai Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the following was pointed out to him: "the Thai side is not happy with the manner in which "Pasason" (the Lao people's revolutionary party's paper) was, three days ago, criticizing and condemning supreme Commander General Arthit Kamlang Ek. This should be stopped because it would be detrimental to any negotiation efforts and bilateral relations". The Thai side was threatening also to restrict the activities of the Lao envoy, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Vienna Convention of 1961 concerning diplomatic relations and, worse still, to declare him as "a persona non grata".

5. The Thai side refused to recognize the sovereignty of Laos over the three Lao villages. This implies that they still arrogate to themselves the right to launch another aggression against the said localities with a view to their reoccupation. They are resorting to all kinds of tricks in order to mislead the world public opinion and to whitewash their aggressive actions. For instance in the course of November 1984, they managed to bring into the detention camp "Deune Khima" the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the dark purpose of ascertaining that the inmates (of the camp) "have voluntarily fled their homes to get temporary shelter there". No sensible person could be misled by this astonishing story.

6. The Thai side refused so far to free and return those Lao detainees to their homes and to pay equitable compensation to those who have suffered losses of lives and properties.

Such is the latest situation prevailing at the Lao-Thai border, the gravity of which poses naturally a serious threat to peace and stability in

the region. As it can be seen, the good will and peaceable nature of the Government and people are beyond doubt. But for the sake of their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity they are duty bound to continue their just struggle until their just demands are fully met through peaceful means. It is earnestly hoped that the Thai side will readily reciprocate the Lao good will gesture in order to promote relations of good-neighbourliness between the two countries and peoples as called for in the joint statements signed by the two Prime Ministers in 1979.

I should be very grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Kithong VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative