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SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 27 September 1989 from the Permanent Representatives  
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to the  
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, the communication entitled "On the question of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia", which was submitted by the delegation of Mr. Hun Sen (State of Cambodia) at the Paris Conference on Cambodia in August 1989 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saly KHAMSY  
Permanent Representative  
of the Lao People's  
Democratic Republic

(Signed) TRINH XUAN LANG  
Permanent Representative  
of the Socialist Republic  
of Viet Nam

ANNEX

Communication submitted by the delegation of Mr. Hun Sen at the  
Conference on Cambodia held in Paris in August 1989

On the question of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia

As the Vietnamese forces are about to complete their total withdrawal from Cambodia by 26 September 1989, some delegations are attempting to fabricate a new issue around the existence or implantation of an unbelievable number of so-called "Vietnamese colonial settlers" in Cambodia. The purpose of this fabrication is obviously to:

- Sidetrack the Cambodian question towards an impasse.
- Explain the defeat of the other side on the battlefield.
- Justify civil war beforehand.
- Justify beforehand the liquidation of over 1 million, and perhaps more, Cambodians labelled as "Vietnamese colonial settlers".

As in any other country in the world, there have been and there are foreign residents and nationals living in Cambodia, the most numerous being the Chinese and the Vietnamese. It was the authorities of the French protectorate that brought Vietnamese people to Cambodia to be put to work on rubber plantations and in the administrative services. From that time to the Lon Nol coup in 1970, Vietnamese residents have numbered approximately 500,000. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk himself - at a banquet hosted by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 30 July 1989, at the same table with the Foreign Ministers of France and Indonesia, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Hun Sen, Khieu Samphan, Son Sann and Princess Monique - admitted having allowed 400,000 Vietnamese residents to live and work in Cambodia. It is therefore clear that the issue of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia dates back to before the 1979 events.

Under the Lon Nol régime, and especially under Pol Pot, Vietnamese residents have been subjected to systematic killings. A number of them escaped and fled to Viet Nam.

After liberation in 1979, those Vietnamese residents who had sought temporary refuge in Viet Nam were allowed by the Government of the State of Cambodia to return to Cambodia and their number at present does not exceed 90,000. They have resumed their traditional activities in handicraft, construction, fishing and animal husbandry. There are, however, no longer such zones of settlement as in the years 1970 or 1975, when Vietnamese residents used to live in areas of high concentration, such as on rubber plantations or elsewhere. They do not hold ownership of land since the law of the State of Cambodia does not allow foreign nationals to own land.

Moreover, since 1979, the State of Cambodia has not allowed any Vietnamese or Chinese to settle illegally in Cambodia or to acquire Cambodian citizenship.

In Cambodia, all foreign nationals are protected by the law. If one were to look upon the Vietnamese residents as colonial settlers to be expelled, would not the 500,000 or so Chinese residents living at present in Cambodia have to be expelled as well? Would other countries in the world deal similarly with foreign nationals on their respective territories too?

In Pol Pot's so-called Democratic Kampuchea, over 3 million Cambodians considered as aliens or foreign agents were massacred between 1975 and 1978. Might not one expect them to undertake the killing of over 1 million Cambodians once they are given the opportunity?

In view of such falsehoods, it is the task of the international control mechanism to conduct over the whole territory of Cambodia a careful investigation and verification as to whether there really exist so-called "Vietnamese colonial settlers" or other Vietnamese in disguise. The Government of the State of Cambodia is prepared to facilitate the task of the international control mechanism and to provide it with all necessary assistance.

These falsehoods must not be allowed to impede or to serve as a pretext to condemn the political settlement of the Cambodian problem to a deadlock or to prolong the war in Cambodia.

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