


General Assembly Security Council

 Distr.
GENERAL

 A/44/651
S/20907
17 October 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
Agenda items 31, 41, 72 and 141
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
RESTORATION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 16 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the interview granted to the
Viet Nam News Agency on 15 October 1989 by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex
to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda
items 31, 41, 72 and 141, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) TRINH XUAN LANG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam to the United Nations

ANNEX

Interview granted to the Viet Nam News Agency on 15 October 1989
by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam

Question 1:

Do you have any comment on the upcoming debate of the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Situation in Cambodia?

Answer:

We welcome a United Nations role in the Cambodian issue. But the United Nations resolutions of the past 10 years on the Cambodian issue have become hurdles in the search for an equitable settlement of that issue. As a result, the process of solving the Cambodian question has been and is unfolding outside the United Nations framework: in the context of the two Jakarta Informal Meetings (JIM), of the Chairman Hun Sen-Prince Sihanouk talks and of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, all countries concerned and the two Cambodian sides. This proves that the United Nations Security Council member countries and other countries directly involved, including those of ASEAN, realize that the United Nations framework cannot be used to settle the Cambodian issue. The JIMs, Hun Sen-Sihanouk talks and the Paris International Conference on Cambodia have identified areas of agreement on the external aspect of the Cambodian issue and laid the foundation for national reconciliation based on the reality of the existence of Democratic Kampuchea and the State of Cambodia. In view of that situation, if the United Nations General Assembly session this year continues to adopt resolutions similar to the former ones, which are not in keeping with the actual situation in Cambodia, these resolutions will hinder the settlement of the Cambodian question and a worthy role by the United Nations in that settlement.

Question 2:

Mr. Minister, how do you view a United Nations role regarding international control and verification of the agreements reached on Cambodia?

Answer:

We welcome an equitable and impartial United Nations role regarding international control and verification in Cambodia. But, if the United Nations continues to recognize the genocidal Pol Pot clique and repeat the previous resolutions on Cambodia, it will not be in a position to adopt an equitable and impartial attitude in international control. As the United Nations still recognizes the genocidal Pol Pot clique and regards the State of Cambodia as illegitimate, if the United Nations were to take charge of international control, it would mean that it would help the so-called tripartite government do away with the State of Cambodia, just as United Nations resolutions on Cambodia recognize

only Democratic Kampuchea, not the State of Cambodia. For the past 10 years these resolutions have demanded the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia but not the removal of the genocidal Pol Pot régime nor the cessation of foreign military aid to the Cambodian parties. Given such resolutions, the United Nations would only verify the troops withdrawal, would condone the re-establishment of the genocidal Pol Pot régime in Cambodia and would not control the cessation of foreign military aid to all Cambodian parties. Should the United Nations adopt resolutions that do not run counter to the positive developments embodied in the JIMs, the Hun Sen-Sihanouk talks and the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, it will surely play a major role.

Question 3:

What do you have to say about ASEAN's draft resolution on Cambodia at the United Nations?

Answer:

The ASEAN countries, on the one hand, recognize the existence of the two opposing Cambodian parties at the JIMs, support the meetings between Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk and participated in the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, which was attended by the two opposing Cambodian forces. And they also accept that the two key issues of a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem are the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops and prevention of the return of the genocidal Pol Pot régime. On the other hand, at the United Nations, they insist on the recognition of Democratic Kampuchea while rejecting the existence of the State of Cambodia which is in full control of the Cambodian territory and demand only that Viet Nam withdraw all its forces from Cambodia while opposing the removal of the genocidal Pol Pot régime. It may be that ASEAN's double-faced policy proceeds from a desire to use the United Nations to bend the settlement of the Cambodia issue at the Paris International Conference on Cambodia to its advantage.

I am confident that other United Nations member countries that took part in the Paris International Conference on Cambodia cannot adopt such a double-faced policy as ASEAN does. The United Nations Security Council permanent member countries and France and Indonesia as co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia will, out of a sense of responsibility, certainly shun such a policy.

We hold that the United Nations should adopt an equitable approach to the Cambodia question in keeping with ethical norms and with realities so that it may play a major role in the settlement of that issue.

Question 4:

Do you have any comment on China's recent statement that Viet Nam has not withdrawn the totality of its troops?

Answer:

I have more than once made definite statements on this question. World opinion, particularly the foreign politicians' delegations and press reporters who came to Cambodia to observe the Vietnamese troop withdrawal have confirmed the completion of the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Cambodia.

The Thai Foreign Ministry's announcement of a press conference on the so-called "5 captured Vietnamese soldiers" turned into a farce in the attempt to slander Viet Nam as leaving troops behind in Cambodia. The State of Cambodia and Viet Nam had invited all countries, including Thailand and China, to come and observe the Vietnamese troop withdrawal. They declined to come so as to still have a pretext for slander against Viet Nam. There is no evidence of Vietnamese troops disguised in military uniforms of the State of Cambodia, but only evidence of Chinese disguised as Vietnamese boat people.
