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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH

COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

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Fortieth year

Letter dated 15 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to send you herewith a document on the current situation in Kampuchea, consisting of excerpts from the New Year's message addressed to the people and National Army of Democratic Kampuchea by H. E. Mr. Khieu Samphan, Vice-President of Democratic Kampuchea in charge of foreign affairs.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "The situation in Kampuchea" and "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

(Signed) THIONN Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

- JANUARY 1985 -

During the past 1984, thanks to our national unity, we have overcome all obstacles and have won greater victories than in the previous years, in all fields at home and abroad. We can say that, thanks to these 1984 victories, our struggle for national survival has reached a new turning point.

I. MILITARY SITUATION

Since early 1984, the resounding news of our victories won over the Vietnamese enemy in the towns of Battambang, Siemreap, Kompong Thom and Pursat, have shown that these four provinces of the Tonle Sap region have now become hot battlefields. Since then, our forces have remained there. Furthermore, we have sent successive military reinforcements and our forces are now active in the province of Kompong Chhnang. The guerrillas and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) are intensifying their "five targets" attack in the five provinces, in the Tonle Sap region and elsewhere in the country: They cut the enemy's transportation lines, especially the railroads. They wipe out the Vietnamese administrative apparatus in the villages. They assail the Vietnamese military strongholds. They disintegrate the Kampuchean soldiers forcibly enlisted by the Vietnamese aggressors. They attack the Vietnamese mopping-up forces. They assault district and provincial towns.

The development of the military situation can be clearly summed up as follows:

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In 1979, when the 250,000 Vietnamese aggressors were mobilized in order to capture the capital Phnom Penh, they seemed very mighty. But later on, these forces have had to spread far and wide so as to defend themselves from the attacks of our guerrillas and the NADK. Thanks to their lofty heroism and ardent patriotism, the latter have worn out the Vietnamese forces, protected and strengthened themselves up to the point where now they force the Vietnamese aggressors to flock together and dare not spread out any more.

By entering into 1985, we are now almost in the middle of the 7th dry season of the Vietnamese invasions. We have kept our initiatives in the military field by attacking the Vietnamese aggressors along the western border and in the Tonle Sap region which is the most important battlefield for us, according to the principle: "to attack in order to defend ourselves". We have launched attacks around the towns of Battambang, Mongkolborey, Sisophon, along the Mongkolborey river and the Sangker river, along the NH5, NH6, around the towns of Kompong Thom, Siemreap and Pursat and along the Tonle Sap river. We have cut the railroad, especially from the east of Pursat town to the villages of Kdol, Kraingskea, Romeas, Kraing Lovea, south of Kompong Chhnang town and carried out our military activities in the northwest of the capital Phnom Penh.

As they have been too busy to defend themselves from our attacks in the above-mentioned regions, the Vietnamese enemy have not enough forces to launch powerful attacks against us in the western border regions. Furthermore, we have put a check on their attempts to take over some of our strategic hills and positions as they planned for this 7th dry season, as a first step, in order to launch, later on, their offensives against us along the western border.

They have sent regiments supported by cannon 105mm, 120mm and 130mm and by tanks to launch attack against us in south Sisophon, Pailin and Samlaut. But our counter-attack have put all their attempts to failures.

Recently, on 21 December, the Vietnamese enemy mobilized four regiments to attack us in upper Koh Kong, abreast and behind, supported by several thousand shell-fires. Nevertheless, our forces succeeded in cutting them into pieces and inflicted on them many hundred casualties, wounded or killed.

A striking fact which has appeared during the present 7th dry season is that the Vietnamese enemy are using, in the western border region and in the Tonle Sap region, more heavy artillery than during the previous years. In the Tonle Sap region, they are also using more airplanes for bombing and machine-gunning. The reason is that they have not enough infantry forces and the

morale of their soldiers has very much declined.

In short, in the military field, the situation is more favourable for us than in the 1984 dry season. The Vietnamese enemy are facing more difficulties than in the previous dry-seasons.

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

As for the political field, our situation is also better than the previous years. As we have wiped out the Vietnamese administrative apparatus in the villages, especially in the Tonle Sap region, we have succeeded in eliminating successively the Vietnamese administrative apparatus network. Our people can now move more easily to make their living. Therefore, the people give us more support, put more trust in our struggle and cooperate with us, in various forms, in the struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors, according to their capabilities and possibilities.

In such a situation, the Vietnamese enemy have carried out more savage repression against the people. In the provinces of Kratie (northeast region), Svay Rieng (southeast), Takeo (south),, they have mobilized many people, young and old, and forced them to abandon their homes and properties, their villages and their crops still in the ricefields and sent them to the western region to build and defend their transportation lines at the western border. They have looted the crops and forced the population to give rice to their army.

They continue to use chemical products by pouring them into ponds or by shelling chemical gas.

All these Vietnamese barbarous crimes cannot relieve the Vietnamese aggressors of their situation of defeat. On the contrary, all these genocidal crimes have strengthened the national unity of the Kampuchean people in their struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors.

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) has been also strengthened. We have solved problems through consultations based on the Declaration of Kuala Lumpur and on the enhancement of our common duty to ever strengthen our national unity against the Vietnamese enemy.

During 1984 last which has just elapsed, as they were in an impasse in all fields, military, political and diplomatic, the Vietnamese enemy, the Soviet Union and their supporters, carried out many deceitful manoeuvres, aiming at splitting our tripartite Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. But,

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all these manoeuvres failed. Through its activities to foil these deceitful manoeuvres, the CGDK has acquired experiences and a better knowledge of the hypocrisy, perfidy and machiavelism which characterize the true nature of the Vietnamese enemy.

III. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

In the international arena, the world community has granted stronger support to the just struggle of the Kampuchean people and to the United Nations resolution demanding the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea. The number of countries supporting that resolution has increased up to 110.

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To sum up, from 1979 up to now, our struggle has made a big step forward thanks to our own efforts to overcome all difficulties in the military, political, economic and diplomatic fields, and thanks to the active support given by our many friends the world over. In the war against the very stubborn and cruel Vietnamese aggressors, such a step forward is a great one. It can be compared to water which flood every where.

Through 6 dry seasons, 6 rainy seasons, and almost half of 7th dry season, our army and people have acquired experiences in their fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors and their struggle to foil all the Vietnamese manoeuvres. The international community has got also experiences and a better knowledge of Vietnam which is an aggressor, an expansionist and a soviet military base.

Thus, in taking into account all the obstacles and complex problems we still have to overcome, we can state the following:

- 1). There is no problem of being defeated by the Vietnamese aggressors;
- 2). There is no problem of getting neither victory nor defeat;
- 3). Our people, our CGDK will win definitely.

The Vietnamese enemy cannot evade the total withdrawal of their forces of aggression from Kampuchea. It is with that strong belief that all of us are determined to continue to hold aloft the banner of national unity, to overcome all obstacles in our multi-form struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors until they are compelled to implement the United Nations resolutions, and withdraw all their forces from Kampuchea.

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IV. VIETNAMESE CRIMES AGAINST REFUGEE CAMPS ALONG THE KAMPUCHEA-THAILAND BORDER

Lately, the Vietnamese enemy have mobilized their forces and heavy artillery to launch attack against the Kampuchean refugee camp of Nong Chan. On 25 December, they attacked Nong Samet, killing or wounding many dozen people among the Kampuchean refugees who have fled their genocidal war of aggression, destroying the shelters and properties of these refugees and forcing many ten thousand refugees to flee.

We condemn most vigorously these Vietnamese attacks against the defenceless Kampuchean refugees and appeal to the international community and the United Nations to continue exerting any kind of pressure on the Hanoi authorities to compel them to implement the 6 UN resolutions demanding the total and unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese forces of aggression from Kampuchea so as to enable the people of Kampuchea to decide themselves their own destiny and live in an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea.

The barbarous Vietnamese attacks against the Kampuchean refugee camps cannot, in any way, change their situation of defeat in the whole battlefield of Kampuchea.

The party of Democratic Kampuchea, and the NADK express their deep sympathy and strong solidarity with the people in the refugee camps of Nong Chan and Nong Samet. They are determined to intensify their attacks against the Vietnamese enemy everywhere in the country so as to immobilize their forces. Especially in the Tonle Sap region, the NADK continue to cut the enemy's transportation lines, to wipe out the Vietnamese administrative apparatus, to attack the enemy in the political, military and food supply fields, so that the Vietnamese enemy face more and more difficulties to carry out their crimes against the nation and people of Kampuchea. The NADK is determined to develop its cooperation with the other parties of the CGDK and the refugees of Nong Chan and Nong Samet.

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In 1985, as they are in a deeper impasse than ever, the Vietnamese enemy and their supporters will carry out more deceitful manoeuvres aimed at splitting our CGDK. But, based on our experiences, especially those in 1984, acquired in our successful struggle to foil all Vietnamese manoeuvres, we are convinced that our CGDK will continue uniting in its struggle until we achieve our sacred task to drive all Vietnamese aggressors out of Kampuchea.

(Excerpts from the New Year's Message
of H.E. Mr. Khieu Samphan, Vice-President of
Democratic Kampuchea in charge of Foreign Affairs,
addressed to the people of Kampuchea and the National
Army of Democratic Kampuchea - 1 January 1985)