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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 7 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic addressed to the Secretary-General*

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter of 21 December 1984 (A/40/59), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 5 January 1985.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", and "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States".

(Signed) Kithong VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Previously circulated as document S/16884.

ANNEX

Statement of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign
Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

In recent days, the situation in the region of the three Lao villages, Bane Mai, Bane Kang and Bane Savang in Paklay District, Sayaboury Province, has once again become extremely tense. On 2 January 1985, at 12.30 p.m., a unit of Thai troops stationed in Lao territory, in the vicinity of Hongkhap Pass in Phou Hang Mountain, launched an attack aimed at encroaching upon Lao territory approximately two kilometres south-west of Bane Mai, 600 metres inside the Lao border. However, the attack was repulsed by our militia in the region. Immediately thereafter, Thai troops pounded the region with artillery fire, using weapons of all calibres, including 155-mm guns.

On 3 January 1985, troops of the first Thai cavalry regiment, with artillery support, launched another violent attack on the same region, but, once again, the attack was turned back. At the same time, Thai troops indiscriminately fired more than 200 155-mm and 105-mm shells on the three villages and the surrounding areas, including the hilltop of Phou Houat, the Kiou Nokseo pass, the Bane Mai post and the area around Bane Mai Noy and Bane Phoung.

It is common knowledge that, after being forced to withdraw their troops from the three villages in mid-October 1984, the ultra-rightist reactionaries among the Thai ruling circles ordered the occupation of nine hilltops situated in the vicinity of those localities, some 300 to 500 metres deep within Lao territory. The Thai side continues to refuse to allow the inhabitants of the three villages who were deported to Thailand to return to their villages of origin, evades responsibility for compensating the inhabitants for the damages they have suffered, and rejects Lao proposals concerning the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in Bangkok aimed at resolving the outstanding problems relating to the three Lao villages.

These events are fresh proof that the statements made by the Thai side at the United Nations on 2 October 1984 undertaking to withdraw completely its troops from the three villages and the Thai side's reply of 3 December 1984 to the effect that "since 13 October, there are no longer any Thai troops in the area of the three villages; there is therefore nothing further to negotiate," are nothing more than cunning manoeuvres perpetrated by the ultra-rightist reactionaries among the Thai ruling circles, acting in collusion with the Peking hegemonists and expansionists, against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the other countries of Indo-China.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic condemns these hostile acts of the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circles and demands that the Thai side cease forthwith its acts of aggression against and occupation of Lao territory, withdraw all its troops from Lao territory, return to their villages of origin the Lao inhabitants who were deported to Thailand by Thai troops, compensate the local population for the losses it has suffered, and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Lao People's

Democratic Republic. Only in this way will it be possible to bring about a speedy normalization of the situation in the three villages, to restore the conditions obtaining before 6 June 1984 and to accommodate the interests and aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples.

The Thai side alone therefore must accept responsibility for its acts.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic reiterates once again its unswerving position, namely that it reserves its right of self-defence to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity and that, at the same time, it stands ready to resume the negotiations between the two parties in Bangkok, as proposed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic appeals to the peoples and Governments of all countries, including the Thai people, to help stay the criminal hand of the ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circles and to support and demonstrate their sympathy with the Lao people's just stand in defending and building their country so as to promote the cause of peace and stability in South-East Asia.

Vientiane, 5 January 1985
