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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

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Letter dated 19 April 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 15 January 1985 (A/40/88-S/16898), I have the honour to send you herewith additional information on the situation in Kampuchea as of mid-April 1985, consisting of excerpts from the Message of His Excellency Mr. KHIEU Samphan, Vice-President of Democratic Kampuchea, on the occasion of the traditional New Year and on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Founding of Democratic Kampuchea, on 13 April 1985, together with the attached map.

I should be most grateful if you would have this text and the attached map circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 22 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THOUNN Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

- AS OF MID-APRIL 1985 -

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This year, how have the Vietnamese enemy fought against us? And what have they achieved? How have we fought back against them? And what have we achieved?

In order to make a correct assessment of the situation, we must answer these two linked questions.

I. HOW HAVE THE VIETNAMESE ENEMY FOUGHT AGAINST US ? AND
WHAT HAVE THEY ACHIEVED ?

As they are more and more bogged down, the Vietnamese enemy have sent in new reinforcements to strive to extricate themselves from their situation of defeat.

This year, they have sent in large reinforcements to fight us at the border area. However they have only succeeded in taking over some parts of our liberated areas. They have not been able to destroy our forces.

In war, especially guerrilla war, the most important factor is combat strength. The battlefield can be changed but as long as we can preserve our military strength, we can keep on fighting.

The Vietnamese enemy have been able to take over some of our liberated areas but they have had to pay a very high price in Phnom Malai - South Sisophon front as well as in other fronts along the border. Our small guerrilla units have been fighting skilfully and creatively. The Vietnamese troops have suffered heavy losses by stepping on our land mines at every step before they have gained an inch of our territory. As a result, from December 1984 to mid-February 1985, on the battlefields along the border, we killed or wounded more than 10,000 Vietnamese crack troops.

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Another objective of the Vietnamese enemy's attacks was to prevent us from organizing the ceremony of credential presentation by some Ambassadors of friendly countries to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, President of Democratic Kampuchea. But this also failed. Samdech President of Democratic Kampuchea received the credentials from those Ambassadors as scheduled.

Thus in their attacks along the border, the Vietnamese enemy have paid a very high price for a small result of some territories. In military term, it means that they have met with failure.

II. HOW HAVE WE FOUGHT BACK AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE ? AND WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED ?

Since last year, we have divided the battlefields throughout the country into three main zones: We have designated the region around the Tonle Sap lake as the battle zone I because of its strategic importance which will decide the outcome of the war in Kampuchea. The battle zone II comprises the border area, and the remaining part of the country constitutes the battle zone III (A/40/139-S/16969, A/40/166-S/17010).

This year, we have fought the Vietnamese enemy better and more actively than in the previous years.

In battle zone II along the border, as mentioned earlier, we keep fighting actively the war of attrition to eliminate more Vietnamese forces. In the battle zone III, we have carried out our guerrilla warfare and our "five-target combat tactic" (A/40/88-S/16898) better than during the previous 6th dry season in destroying the enemy's commune administrative apparatus, disrupting the enemy's supply lines, such as railroads, roads and highways, attacking their positions, their small or medium scale mopping-up operations as well as attacking the provincial or district towns such as the provincial town of Rattanakiri (northeastern region), the district town of Damber (in the province of Kompong Cham, eastern region), the district town of Kompong Tralach (province of Kampot, southwestern region), etc.

But most important is the development in the battle zone I which, this year, presents the following significant points:

. First, we have carried out our "five-target combat tactic" better than last year. The attacks against the commune administrative apparatus and the cutting-off of railroads have become our daily targets. We cut the railroads, the Vietnamese enemy repair them, we cut them again and so on, causing the enemy to face increasing difficulties in supplying their troops stationed in western Kampuchea.

. Secondly, we have increased and expanded our attacks against provincial and district towns as well as other population centres. This year, we attacked those provincial towns that we had attacked last year such as Battambang, Siemreap and Pursat. In addition, we have attacked another provincial town, Kompong Chhnang.

We have increased our attacks against the district towns and population centres in the 4 provinces bordering the Tonle Sap lake that we had previously attacked. Moreover, we have also attacked, this year, other district towns and population centres in the province of Kompong Chhnang such as Chhnok Trou, Phat Sanday, Kompong Leng, Kompong Thkav, Peam Chhkok, Kompong Taches, Prey Kry, Samrong San, Chranauk, the district seat of Boribor and the region of Peam Longvek.

. Thirdly, we have expanded this battle zone I up to the vicinity of the capital city Phnom Penh. We have wiped out the Vietnamese enemy stationed along the Tonle Sap river from Chhnok Trou, Kompong Leng, Kompong Thkav, Kompong Taches (district of Kompong Tralach, province of Kompong Chhnang) up to Prek Kdam, Koh Chen, Kompong Os, Peam Satha, Prek Phnoeu and Muk Kampoul (province of Kandal) at 12 Kms from Phnom Penh. We have wiped out the Vietnamese enemy from the districts of Baray and Taing Kauk (province of Kompong Thom) up to the districts of Prey Chhor and Choeung Prey (province of Kompong Cham) and from Choeung Prey district to Roka Kong, Prek Russei, Prek Anh Chanh (district of Muk Kampoul, province of Kandal) along the Mekong river. Our forces deployed on the Mekong river and those on the Tonle Sap river have been able to join hand and are actively attacking the Vietnamese forces in the districts of Kompong Tralach, Ponhea Loeu and Muk Kampoul.

Thus, during this 7th dry season, we have been moving forward while the Vietnamese have been increasingly bogged down in the region bordering Tonle Sap lake as well as in the western border of Kampuchea. We rely basically on the guerrilla warfare and have fought better than last year for we have improved our "five-target combat tactic" and expanded the battlefields, especially the battle zone I, to the vicinity of the capital city Phnom Penh. We have successfully fought the Vietnamese enemy in this battle zone I before and after their attacks along the border. We have launched successful attacks against the provincial and district towns and other population centres, and against the enemy's commune administrative apparatus. We have disrupted their supply lines, destroyed their fighting forces and military equipment. We have been able to fight the Vietnamese enemy during the dry season as well as the rainy season.

We continue to fight them actively in the three battle zones, which are interconnected. Thus, the Vietnamese are now facing an insoluble dilemma. If they try to oppose us in battle zone I, they will leave the other battle zones ill-defended.

Therefore, the Vietnamese cannot cope with our "fight-target combat tactic" throughout the country. We keep attacking them according to this "five-target combat tactic", especially the attacks against the commune administrative apparatus which have political, economic and military significances. Politically, it means that we attack the Vietnamese administrative power which commits all kinds of oppression and crime against the Kampuchean people. Economically, it means that we attack the Vietnamese networks which plunder the rice from the Kampuchean population to feed their troops in Kampuchea and send to Vietnam. Militarily, it means that we attack the Vietnamese networks which forcibly enlist young Kampuchean people to serve their war of aggression. Thus when we repeatedly attack the commune administrative apparatus year by year, we actually shake and destroy step by step the political, economic, food supply and military structures of the Vietnamese war of aggression in Kampuchea. Wherever our army units have attacked the enemy, very deep inside Kampuchea, especially in the most densely populated battle zone I, they have also liberated the people from the iron fist of the Vietnamese enemy. They have been cheered by the people. We have thus expanded and strengthened our guerrilla zones, our guerrilla bases and our liberated zones. We have also mobilized more people and increased their fight against the Vietnamese aggressors.

Hundreds and thousands of Kampuchean soldiers forcibly enlisted by the Vietnamese enemy have taken the opportunity given by the attacks of our army against the Vietnamese to desert and either join us or go back to their home villages.

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We have made progress in all fields. The unity within the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea has been consolidated. The national unity to carry on the struggle until the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces of aggression from Kampuchea has been strengthened. The Vietnamese manoeuvres aimed at splitting the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea have failed time and again.

In the international arena, the world community has increased its support for the Kampuchean people's struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors. It has seen more clearly the true nature of aggression and expansion of Vietnam, the danger of the expansionist strategy of the Soviet Union and Vietnam in South East Asia and the Pacific. It has also been more aware of the deceitful manoeuvres of Vietnam which refuses to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea in accordance with relevant UN resolutions adopted during the past six consecutive years. The international community has furthermore condemned the Vietnamese aggressors and demanded the total withdrawal of their forces from Kampuchea.

On this occasion, we would like to express our deep gratitude to our friends near or far the world over who have provided support and aid to the struggle of the people of Kampuchea and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and called for the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea. We would like to thank especially the ASEAN countries. The position of ASEAN and other overwhelming majority countries committed to peace and justice the world over, is not only an act of justice but also a real force combined with the struggle of the Kampuchean people in the battlefield. We are firmly convinced that these two forces combined will eventually compel the Vietnamese aggressors to totally withdraw their forces from Kampuchea so that the people of Kampuchea will be able to live again in peace. Kampuchea will regain her sovereignty as an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned country; peace and security in South East Asia and the Pacific will be really guaranteed.

The more the Vietnamese aggressors are bogged down, the more barbarous they become. They have been killing our people every day. They round up our people, force them to build fences around their villages and forbid them to go out and carry out their production activities. They plunder paddy and rice of the Kampuchean people and starve them. They round up our people and force them to clear the forest along their supply routes and even at the border with Thailand, thus forcing our people to leave their villages, rice-fields and fields. As a result hundreds of our people have died and continue to die by starvation and disease. The Vietnamese aggressors continue also to use chemical weapons against our people. This year, hundred thousands of our people have been forced to flee their villages and fields and to seek refuge in the Kingdom of Thailand.

All of us have suffered tremendously. Our anger against the Vietnamese aggression becomes most vehement. We all are determined to strengthen our national unity, to keep on fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors until they totally withdraw from our beloved fatherland.

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Our struggle has been strenuous and complex but we have won successive victories in all fields. Based on these victories over the past six years and on our resolute determination with the support of the world community, we will certainly win final victory.

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(Excerpts from the Message of H.E. Mr. Khieu Samphan, Vice-President of Democratic Kampuchea on the occasion of the traditional New Year and on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the founding of Democratic Kampuchea - 13 April 1985)

DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

