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preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT
NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES
INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
First regular session of 1985
Items 3, 4 and 16 of the
provisional agenda**
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
CULTURAL RIGHTS
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
HUMAN RIGHTS

Letter dated 25 April 1985 from the Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, a document prepared by the Office of the Prime Minister of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea entitled "Evidence of atrocities by the occupation forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam against the civilian population of Dangrek in Western Kampuchea on 24 January 1985". 1/

This evidence describes the crimes committed by the Vietnamese aggressors during the last dry season against one of several civilian encampments along the Kampuchea-Thailand border, in the framework of their war of genocide against the people of Kampuchea. Through this document, one can imagine the extent of the Vietnamese crimes against other civilian encampments and places in Kampuchea.

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

** See Economic and Social Council decision 1985/101.

1/ The annex is available in English only.

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I should be grateful if you would have this document circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22, 80, 104 and 105 of the preliminary list, and of the Economic and Social Council, under items 3, 4 and 16 of the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1985.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Democratic Kampuchea

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ANNEX

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE
OCCUPATION FORCES OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF DANGREK
IN WESTERN KAMPUCHEA ON 24 JANUARY 1985

Prepared by the Office of the Prime Minister

February 1985

Since their invasion and military occupation of Cambodia in late 1978- beginning 1979, the armed forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have not been shy with their repression of any resistance against their attempt to colonise this country. That they utilise force against armed resistance is to be expected and within accepted norms of military conduct in an armed conflict. However, that they use military means and other forms of violence against innocent civilians because they refuse to collaborate is beyond the limits of any internationally accepted behaviour, especially against a foreign population they claimed they have come to "protect".

AN INDOCHINA UNDER HANOI

Yet, the Vietnamese armed forces have been doing exactly this ever since they invaded Kampuchea. After only a brief "honeymoon" period during which they still believed it was possible to deceive the Khmers through ruses and other deceptive manoeuvres, the Vietnamese have made all efforts to materialise the dream of their late President Ho Chi Minh of an Indochina Federation under Hanoi's direct rule.

Savageries against the Cambodian civilian population began discreetly during 1979 when the Vietnamese occupation authorities proceeded to arrange the disappearance of people suspected of collaborating with the nationalist resistance. As time went by, the Vietnamese authorities, having lost their patience, did not even attempt to hide their crimes against the Cambodian population. On 25 May 1983, Hanoi's systematic genocidal policies against the Cambodian people were exposed to the open with the mass arrest of more than 300 officials of the puppet regime they installed in Phnom Penh, ranging from provincial governor to the lowest ranking official, in the provinces of Siemreap, Oddar Meanchey, and Battambang. These arrests were the cause for some 12,000 other Khmers to have fled their homes in these provinces within a period of about 4 months.

Other evidence has shown that what the Vietnamese are set to do in Cambodia is not only to occupy it militarily, but also to systematically empty out this country of its Khmer inhabitants in order to make room for

Vietnamese settlers to move in, in accordance with a very elaborate plan.

This expansionist plan of Vietnam has almost completely succeeded — Laos is now virtually a Vietnamese satellite — if it were not for the determination of the Khmer people themselves to resist the Vietnamese attempt to colonise their Motherland and an uproar of disapproval raised by the international community.

DANGREK: A MODEL SETTLEMENT

Having failed internationally to legitimise their occupation and colonisation of Cambodia — the Vietnamese now resort to raw force to try to subjugate the Khmer people, without any restraint as to the methods used.

This is why they knowingly attacked the all-civilian settlement of Dangrek on 24 January 1985, on the eve of the scheduled visit to this camp by United Nations Secretary-General, H. E. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, a hardly veiled defiance to the family of Nations he represents, to show their disdain for the repeated calls of this world body for a withdrawal of their forces from Cambodia in order to allow the long-suffering Khmer people to freely exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

Until its evacuation and abandonment on 25 January 1985, the settlement of Dangrek had been a purely civilian camp. It had a population of over 23,000 Cambodians and Vietnamese "land refugees". According to the latest statistics available, a total population of 19,515 Khmers and 3,838 Vietnamese lived at Dangrek.

KHMER POPULATION

Men	:	4,449
Women	:	6,669
Boys under 15	:	4,510
Girls under 15	:	4,887
T O T A L	:	<u>19,515</u>

VIETNAMESE POPULATION

Men	:	1,657
Women	:	739
Boys under 15	:	829
Girls under 15	:	613
T O T A L	:	<u>3,838</u>

The two populations had learned over the years to co-exist peacefully, mainly because they all share at least one basic element in common: they all left their homes in their respective homelands to seek freedom. This prompted a western journalist to observe that it is surprising that these two populations had managed to harmoniously live together and that even after the attack against the camp by Vietnamese forces, no signs of hostility from the Cambodian population was ever

registered against the Vietnamese population of the camp.

Dangrek camp was a peaceful temporary settlement where at least a semblance of normalcy prevailed in war-torn Cambodia. It had an administrative apparatus to care for the more than 3,500 families living in thatched houses aligned along well-maintained avenues with neatly planted rows of trees.

Dangrek was created in 1983 with the help of the U.N. Border Relief Operation following the Vietnamese attack against Nong Chan camp. The camp administration ran several projects and services for the population including health care centres, schools, a nutrition programme, a handicraft programme, a women centre, an agricultural project with an emphasis on vegetable farming, animal farming and fish hatching to contribute to the self-sufficiency of the camp in food, an irrigation project, etc. In addition, each family in the camp grew its own vegetables and raised livestock to contribute to the common effort.

In many respects, Dangrek camp had somehow become a model for other refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.



Dangrek, a peaceful settlement where a semblance of normalcy prevailed. This picture shows a group of Buddhist monks on their way to the village.



...each family in the camp grew its own vegetables...



Dangrek camp: ... a model for other refugee settlements along the Thai-Cambodian border.

THE ATTACK

The shelling attack of Dangrek camp occurred on 24 January 1985, beginning at around 6:15 PM. It was one of the bloodiest ever against a civilian concentration. A total of 21 shells from 130mm artillery pieces (range: approximately 27 Kms. or 17 miles) were fired from a nearby Vietnamese position causing 15 inno-

cent civilian lives to be lost on the spot, including a 3-month old baby girl, and 35 wounded. Another baby girl lost both of her parents during the attack.

According to an eyewitness account, the first shells landed without warning in the most heavily

populated areas of the camp, inflicting most of the fatalities.

Because the attack took place at the end of the day when family members were about to eat dinner, it was not uncommon to hear the heartbreaking and desperate cry: "I have lost everyone in my family!" Indeed, several of the victims were members of the same families.



A survivor: "I have lost everyone!"

The shells hit camp districts Nos. 2, 3, 7, and 8 exclusively. According to the list of casualties submitted by camp leader Chum Chheang, of the 15 people killed, only 3 were adult males: a young man of 22 and two older people in their fifties. The others were either women or children under the age of 12.



A survivor: "No warning..."

LIST OF CIVILIANS KILLED

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Boun Rang	M	12
2. Chan Than	F	3
3. Chum Sokhom	F	34
4. Him Phon	F	19
5. Mr. Ly	M	58
6. Neang Roeum	F	19
7. Neang Thoeum	F	36
8. Roeum Rith	F	3mos.
9. Sar Roeum	F	23
10. Sar Voeun	M	3
11. Sok Mony	M	22
12. Ta Thlaeum	M	50
13. Thay Ny	F	19
14. Uk Rasmey	F	2
15. Uk Sophat	M	5

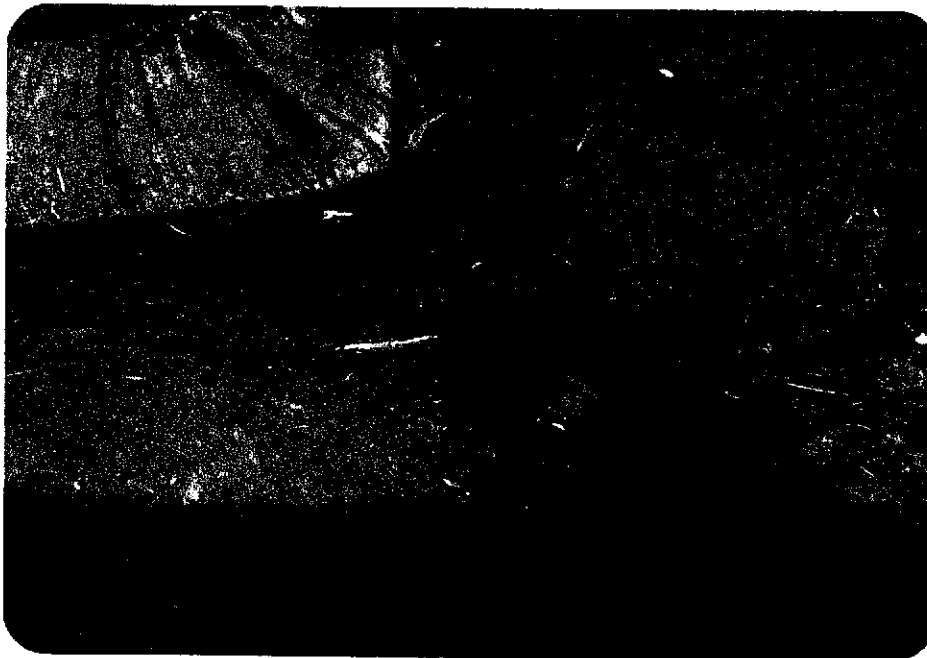
Of the 35 reported wounded and hospitalised at Khao-I-Dang Refugee Holding Centre hospital, only 9 were adult males. Two of the wounded admitted to the hospital later succumbed to their wounds, raising the total of fatalities to 17.

Why did this bombing attack occur at all? Why did the Vietnamese have to unnecessarily waste these innocent human lives? One could only speculate in trying to answer these questions. One thing is certain, however: in their attempt to subjugate the Khmer people, the Vietnamese will not stop at anything, not even killing off innocent children and women to warn other Khmers against escaping their rule in order to join the resistance. For they knew full well that up until the day of their bloody attack, the settlement of Dangrek had remained a purely civilian camp run by civilian administrators with the cooperation and assistance of the U.N. Border Relief Operation and other humanitarian organisations.

LIST OF CIVILIANS WOUNDED AT DANGREK

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>
1. Bun Savoeun	M	45	2. Chan Ny	F	18
3. Chhim Chan	F	55	4. Chum Choeun	M	57
5. Chuon Roem	F	32	6. Hak Khan	M	41
7. Heng Pot	F	75	8. Him Phan	M	12
9. Him Sopha	M	3	10. In Oeut	F	22
11. Keo Sarom	M	27	12. Khat Khem	M	44
13. Khieu Barang *	M	8	14. Mom Phaly	F	28
15. Nil Sopheap *	F	26	16. Op Kang	F	67
17. Pauv Ly	M	28	18. Pauv Nhang	F	3
19. Phat Chhan	M	19	20. Pheap Sokh	F	16
21. Ros Bunsceun	M	3	22. Ros Samoeun	F	43
23. Sean Mom	F	11	24. Seng Ol	F	22
25. Sen Thy	F	23	26. Soun Tara	M	20
27. Srey Sakhoent	M	4	28. Thang Huong	M	4
29. Thong Saloth	M	23	30. Um Choeung	M	56
31. Un Lonh	F	58	32. Voeun Chanthoeun	M	3
33. Voeun Chanthy	M	6	34. Voeun Yun	F	38
35. Yi Yoeun	M	12			

* Subsequently died at the hospital



Why this unnecessary waste in innocent human lives...?



Several of the victims are members of the same families



Mostly women and children under the age of 12 years old.

CONDEMNATION

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea deplures and condemns these new contemptable crimes committed by the Vietnamese occupation forces against the innocent men, women, and children of Dangrek camp. It denounces once again to the world the illegal occupation of Cambodia by armed forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam despite the repeated call of the international community for their immediate and total withdrawal, their attempt to colonise this country by altering the demographic composition of its inhabitants, and the "Vietnamisation" of its political institutions, economic structure, and educational system. It also denounces the introduction into Cambodia of some 700,000 civilian settlers from Vietnam by the Hanoi government.

The attack against Dangrek represents yet another episode in the escalation of violence and atrocities by Vietnamese occupation forces against the Cambodian people. It forced all 23,000 civilian inhabitants of the camp into Thailand, thus adding further suffering on the hapless refugees, not to mention the extra load imposed upon the already heavy refugee burden of the Royal Government of Thailand. By sending them away from their homes in Dangrek, the Vietnamese purposely wanted to deprive them of what little comfort left to them in a long time and threw them back once again defenceless against the scorching heat of the days and relative cold of the nights of the Dangrek mountain range only a few hundred metres away.



Temporary site for refugees from Dangrek camp: ... scorching heat of the days and relative cold of the nights of the Dangrek mountain range only a few hundred metres away (in background).

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea energetically condemns this new criminal effort by the Vietnamese occupation forces in order to punish innocent civilians whose only crime is to have chosen to live free.

The Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea reiterates its determination to continue to fight against the Vietnamese occupation forces in Cambodia until the last square inch of Khmer soil will be liberated. It appeals to all peace- and justice-loving countries to continue to apply pressure on Vietnam in order to force it to withdraw its armed forces from Cambodia so the Khmer people will finally have the opportunity to freely exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

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