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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 3 June 1985 from the Permanent Representative of the
Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government and with reference to my previous letters concerning the aggression and occupation of a part of Lao territory in Sayaboury province by Thai troops of the extreme right and a whole series of acts of provocation committed by those troops, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. On 15 April 1985 the spokesman for the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on the renewed outbreak of acts of aggression perpetrated on 3, 9, 14, 18 and 22 April 1985 against the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the region of Ban May, Ban Kang and Ban Savang, Paklay district, and in certain other districts of Sayaboury province, by Thai troops of the extreme right that resulted in considerable material damage and loss of life among the civilian population.
2. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic categorically rejects the slanderous accusations made in the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 7 May 1985 (A/40/293-S/17165) and expresses its contempt for such cheap schemes which are, in fact designed to conceal the criminal activities of the extreme right circles of Thailand against the Lao People's Democratic

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Republic. These schemes can no longer delude anyone for international public opinion is perfectly well aware of the causes of the deterioration in Lao-Thai relations and the obstacles to their improvement.

3. It will be recalled that, acting under pressure from its allies and domestic and international public opinion, the Thai Government was forced under duress and much to the anger of Thai circles of the extreme right, to announce on 2 October 1984, at the United Nations General Assembly, that it was withdrawing its troops from the three Lao villages. In spite of that official announcement, Thai troops of the extreme right continue to occupy certain positions within Lao territory around the three villages and to maintain a continuing situation of tension.

4. This is amply demonstrated by the following facts:

On 24 November 1984, the Lao Government proposed to the Thai Government that the negotiations which the Thai party had unilaterally interrupted should be resumed in order to settle the outstanding question of the three villages, but on 3 December 1985, the Thai party quite simply rejected the proposal saying that the negotiations had ended and that there was nothing more to be negotiated. Since then Thai troops have engaged in repeated acts of provocation against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as has been reported in successive statements by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the most recent one being that of 25 April 1985.

On 18 May 1985, around 1400 hours, two armed patrol boats of the Thai river police, each with three frontier guards on board, knowingly entered Lao territorial waters and one of them twice drew alongside the Lao bank of the Mekong river in Hat Sayfong district in the prefecture of Vientiane, some 10 kilometres downstream from the capital. One of the frontier guards left the boat and committed certain acts of violence against a village woman who was fetching water.

On 19 May 1985, another patrol boat of the Thai river police again violated Lao territorial waters in front of another village of the same district sowing panic among the villagers who were bathing in the river.

These hostile acts of the Thai military extremist were the subject of a memorandum from the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs which was handed to the Royal Embassy of Thailand in Vientiane on 25 May 1985.

5. The Thai Government has often professed its so-called policy of peaceful coexistence with its neighbours. To achieve that it would first have to control and bring to heel Thai elements of the extreme right who do not hesitate to sell the independence of Thailand and the higher interests of the Thai people to the highest bidder. So far as it is concerned, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic cannot be satisfied with mere words and expects concrete actions from the Thai authorities.

6. Ours is a small country, but the Lao people who, together with the other peoples of Indo-china, have made enormous sacrifices and shed much blood in the past 30 years and more in their struggle for national liberation and real independence, are very jealous of that independence which was bought so dearly and will not allow anyone to threaten it.

7. Our country is classified among the least developed countries by the United Nations and it has far more important development tasks to carry out than to pick quarrels with its neighbours, particularly with Thailand with whom it has certain ethnic, linguistic and cultural affinities. All it wants, as a victim of aggression and occupation by Thailand, is for the aggressor and occupier to withdraw completely and finally from its territory, to return the villagers who were forcefully dragged into Thailand, to compensate the local population for the losses caused by their misdeeds and to restore normalcy in the sector as it existed prior to the aggression.

8. It is only by adhering scrupulously to the joint Lao-Thai communiqués of 1979, above all by having the courage to face its own responsibilities and by returning to the negotiating table in order to settle the question of the three villages peacefully, as proposed by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, that the Thai Government can prove its good faith and sincerity to the international community.

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the statement on the matter by the spokesman for the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated 25 April 1985.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter and that of the above-mentioned statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 40, 132 and 133 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Kithong VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement made in Vientiane on 25 April 1985 by the spokesman
for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic

From the beginning of April until now ultra-rightist reactionaries of the Thai ruling circles have been intensifying their hostile and treacherous schemes directed against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In order to disguise these schemes they have trumped up all kinds of slanderous and libellous tales about the Lao party. In fact, it is they who have engaged in many criminal acts around the three Lao villages in Paklay district and in certain other districts within Sayaboury province:

On 3 April 1985, from 1600 to 1900 hours, the Thai soldiers who continue to occupy the land around the three Lao villages pounded these three localities, particularly the hills of Phou Houat and the southern part of May village with heavy gunfire causing serious material damage to the local population. The Thai soldiers also infiltrated into these Lao localities to carry out spying operations but they were immediately repulsed by the regional forces and by the local population.

On 9 April 1985, the Thai ultra-rightists sent a group of soldiers to lay an ambush for the population and regional forces of those three villages but they were energetically repulsed by those same forces and villagers.

On 14 April 1985, Thai soldiers fired on the Lao population working peacefully in the fields in Muang Mo commune, Kenthao district, with M-79 grenades and M-16 automatic rifles killing one person and wounding 14 others. They also sent their spies to carry out subversive activities against the inhabitants of that locality.

On 18 April 1985, Thai soldiers infiltrated into Ban May commune, Paklay district and fired on the Lao farmers who were going about their business, killing one and wounding a number of others.

What is worse, on 22 April 1985 from 1000 hours to 1230 hours the Thai units occupying the hills around the three Lao villages in Paklay district, savagely pounded the villages of May, Kang and Savang and the surrounding countryside and even sent infantry units to attack these localities, killing one civilian and wounding a number of others and inflicting heavy material losses on the Lao inhabitants. The population and Lao regional armed forces repulsed them too.

All these deeds demonstrate clearly that the Thai ultra-rightists have not yet abandoned the plan of hostilities of the Peking hegemonists and are pursuing their unfriendly policy towards the Lao People's Democratic Republic, refusing to settle the problem of the three Lao villages peacefully. Not only have they not withdrawn completely from the areas surrounding the three Lao localities in accordance with the commitment undertaken by the Thai Government in October 1984 at the United Nations, but Thai troops continue to occupy those areas and to stir up tension there and regularly perpetrate crimes against the Lao population of those

localities and of the other regions in Sayaboury province. These actions are a serious threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos, to the joint Lao-Thai communiqués signed in 1979, are contrary to the aspirations of the Thai and Lao peoples, who wish to live in peace, are a flagrant breach of the United Nations Charter and seriously threaten peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemns these actions and demands that the ultra-rightist reactionaries within the circles close to power in Bangkok immediately terminate all their vile activities, withdraw their troops completely from these Lao localities, allow the Lao inhabitants who were deported to Thailand to return to their homes, compensate the Lao population for the material damage and loss of life, normalize and restore the situation that prevailed in the three villages prior to 6 June 1984, scrupulously respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos and return to the negotiating table to settle the problem of the three villages by peaceful means. Otherwise they will have unilaterally to shoulder full responsibility for the unfortunate consequences of their actions.
