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ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Letter dated 23 February 1984 from the representative of Democratic
Kampuchea to the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights
addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

In reference to document E/CN.4/1984/47 of 25 January 1984, item 24 of the provisional agenda on the Election of members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on behalf of the delegation of Democratic Kampuchea, I would like to inform Your Excellency that Democratic Kampuchea strongly and categorically opposes against the candidatures of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to be members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, for the following reasons:

1. The present regime of Viet Nam has never respected the rights of national minorities. On the contrary all throughout its history, it has always oppressed the national minorities, both their own national minorities inside Viet Nam as well as those abroad. It has destroyed their cultures, civilizations, languages and identities. In the sixteenth century, Viet Nam has swallowed a whole Islamic Kingdom of Champa, which is now central Viet Nam. These Cham nationals have now become non-existent in Viet Nam, together with their culture, civilization, language and identity. The Khmer nationals, living in south Viet Nam, which used to be called Kampuchea Krom, up to the eighteenth century belonged to Kampuchea, are now in the process of facing the same fate as Cham nationals. Their schools, villages, pagodas, everything with Khmer identity, have been destroyed and abolished. As for many minorities living in the remote mountainous regions, particularly along the border with Laos, they are all treated like slaves. The fact has shown that all these national minorities in Viet Nam are now standing up and fighting against the present Vietnamese regime in Hanoi, in various movements and organizations.

Beyond the border of Viet Nam, the present Vietnamese authorities have sent and are sending their troops of aggression to occupy Laos and Kampuchea. Their aim has become very clear to all, that is to "Vietnamize" these two nations and peoples, through their policy of aggression and expansion.

2. Based on this expansionist policy, the present regime of Viet Nam has trampled underfoot all basic fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the rights of peoples to self-determination. Namely, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam refuses to implement all relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and those of the Commission on Human Rights.

The delegation of Democratic Kampuchea should therefore be grateful if you could kindly have this position of my delegation be informed to all members of the Commission and this letter be circulated as an official document of the fortieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on item 24.

(signed) NGO PIN
Ambassador
Head of the Delegation