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LETTER DATED 31 MAY 1985 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government and further to my earlier letters concerning the aggression against, and occupation of, a portion of Lao territory in Sayaboury province by Thai ultra-rightist troops and a whole series of acts of provocation committed by those troops, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. On 25 April 1985, the spokesman of the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement concerning the recurrence of acts of aggression committed on 3, 9, 14, 18 and 22 April 1985 against the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the region of Ban May, Ban Kanq and Ban Savang, in Paklay district, and in other districts of Sayaboury province by Thai ultra-rightist troops which caused serious material damage and loss of human life among the civilian population.
2. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic categorically denies the slanderous accusations made against it in the statement issued on 7 May 1985 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and expresses its scorn for those base manoeuvres which are, in fact, aimed at camouflaging the criminal activities of Thai ultra-rightist circles directed against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Moreover, these manoeuvres will no longer deceive anyone, for international public opinion is well informed and is fully aware of the causes of the deterioration in Lao-Thai relations and the obstacles to their improvement.
3. It will be recalled that under pressure from its allies and domestic and international public opinion, the Thai Government, acting under duress and to the anger of the Thai ultra-rightist circles, was obliged to announce before the United Nations General Assembly, on 2 October 1984, the withdrawal of its troops from three Lao villages. Despite this official announcement, however, Thai ultra-rightist troops continue to occupy certain positions inside Lao territory, near the three villages, and to maintain a permanent situation of tension there.
4. The foregoing can be proved by recalling and mentioning the following facts:

- On 24 November 1984, the Lao Government proposed to the Thai Government that the negotiations unilaterally broken off by the Thai side should be resumed, with a view to settling the pending question of the three villages, but on 3 December 1984, the Thai Government purely and simply rejected that proposal, stating that the negotiations had been terminated and that there was nothing more to negotiate. Since then, Thai troops have continually been committing acts of provocation against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, as noted in the successive statements by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the last of which was issued on 25 April 1985.
- On 18 May 1985, at about 2 p.m., two gunboats of the Thai river police, each with three frontier guards on board, deliberately entered Lao territorial waters and one of them landed twice on the Lao bank of the Mekong, in Hat Sayfong district, Vientiane prefecture, about 10 kilometres upstream from the capital. One of the frontier guards left the boat and committed acts of violence against a village woman who was drawing water from the river.
- On 19 May 1985, another Thai river police boat once again violated Lao territorial waters near another village in the same district and caused a panic among the villagers who were bathing in the river.

These latest hostile acts of the Thai extremist troops were also the subject of a memorandum delivered to the Royal Embassy of Thailand in Vientiane by the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 May 1985.

5. The Thai Government has often proclaimed its so-called policy of peaceful coexistence with its neighbours. However, it must first succeed in controlling and disciplining the ultra-rightist elements who have no hesitation about selling the independence of Thailand and the better interests of the Thai people to the highest bidders. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, for its part, cannot be satisfied with words alone, but awaits actual deeds on the part of the Thai authorities.

6. Laos is a small country, but the Lao people, who together with the other peoples of Indo-China made enormous sacrifices and shed much blood over a period of more than 30 years in their national liberation struggle for genuine independence, are very jealous of their independence, which was so dearly acquired, and will not allow anyone to infringe upon it.

7. Furthermore, Laos, which has been classified as a least developed country by the United Nations, has other development tasks to carry out which are far more important than seeking a quarrel with its neighbours and least of all with Thailand, with which it has certain ethnic, linguistic and cultural affinities. All that Laos, as a victim of aggression and occupation by Thailand, desires is that the aggressors and occupiers should withdraw completely and for ever from its territory, return the villagers taken to Thailand by force, compensate the local population for the losses caused by their misdeeds, and re-establish in the sector the normal situation which existed before their aggression.

8. It is only by scrupulously respecting the 1979 joint Lao-Thai communiqués, and in particular by having the courage to assume their own responsibilities and returning to the negotiating table to settle peacefully the question of the three villages, 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 also have the honour to transmit to you, annexed hereto, the text of the statement on the same matter issued by the spokesman of the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 April 1985.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and that of the aforementioned statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kithang VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

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

Since early April until now, the ultra-rightist reactionaries in Thai ruling circles have intensified their hostile and treacherous manoeuvres against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. In order to camouflage these manoeuvres, they have completely fabricated all kinds of slanderous and defamatory stories against Laos. In fact, it is they who have stepped up the criminal acts in the vicinity of the three Lao villages in Paklay district, and in certain other villages in Sayaboury province.

Between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on 3 April 1985, the Thai soldiers who continue to occupy the outskirts of the three Lao villages pounded these villages intensely with heavy artillery, in particular the high ground of Phou Houat and the southern part of the village of May, causing the local population serious material damage. The Thai soldiers also infiltrated these Lao villages to engage in espionage but were immediately repulsed by regional forces and the local population.

On 9 April 1985, the Thai ultra-rightists sent a group of soldiers to lay an ambush against the population and the regional forces of these three villages, but they were vigorously repulsed by the latter.

On 14 April 1985, the Thai soldiers threw M.79 grenades and fired M-16 automatic weapons at the Lao population working peacefully in the fields in Muang Mo commune in Kenthao district, killing one person and wounding 14 others. They also sent their spies to engage in subversive activities against the inhabitants of this commune.

On 18 April 1985, the Thai soldiers infiltrated Ban May commune in Paklay district and shot at Lao peasants engaged in production work, killing one and wounding a number of others.

Worse still, between 10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on 22 April 1985, the Thai units, occupying high ground on the outskirts of the three Lao villages in Paklay district, savagely pounded the villages of May, Kang and Savang and their outskirts and even sent infantry units to attack these villages, killing one civilian and wounding a number of others and inflicting heavy material losses on the Lao inhabitants. The population and the Lao regional armed forces also repulsed these units.

All these facts show clearly that the Thai ultra-rightists have yet to abandon the plan of hostility of the Beijing hegemonists, are pursuing their unfriendly policy against the Lao People's Democratic Republic and refuse to settle the problem of the three Lao villages peacefully. Not only have they not withdrawn completely from the outskirts of the three Lao villages, in accordance with the undertaking given to the United Nations by the Thai Government in October 1984, but the Thai troops continue to occupy them, fomenting tension there and regularly committing crimes against the Lao population of these villages and of other areas

in Sayaboury province. These acts seriously infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos and the joint Lao-Thai communiqués signed in 1979, run counter to the aspirations of the Thai and Lao peoples, who wish to live in peace, flagrantly violate the United Nations Charter and thereby seriously threaten peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The Lao Minister for Foreign Affairs strongly condemns these acts and demands that the ultra-rightist reactionaries within the circles wielding power in Bangkok immediately end all these vile activities, withdraw their troops completely from these Lao villages, enable the Lao inhabitants deported to Thailand to return home, pay compensation to the Lao population for the material damage and losses of human life, normalize the situation in the three villages and restore it to that prevailing 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 peacefully. Otherwise, they alone will be entirely responsible for the unfortunate consequences of their acts.

Vientiane, 25 April 1985

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