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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-ninth session  
Items 20 and 64 of the preliminary list\*  
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA  
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-ninth year

Letter dated 2 March 1984 from the Permanent Representative  
of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the text of a statement dated 22 February 1984 by Professor Thiounn Thoeun, Minister and member of the Co-ordinating Committee for Health and Social Affairs of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, denouncing and condemning the intensified use of chemical weapons by the Vietnamese aggressors against the population of Kampuchea.

I should be grateful if you would bring this text to the attention of the Group of Experts on the application of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 20 and 64 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of Democratic Kampuchea

\* A/39/50.

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR THIOUNN THOEUN, MINISTER AND MEMBER OF  
THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF  
THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA DENOUNCING  
AND CONDEMNING THE INTENSIFIED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY THE  
VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS AGAINST THE POPULATION OF KAMPUCHEA

On 21 February 1984, at about 2 p.m., a Vietnamese MIG-type aircraft flew over the border region between Kampuchea and Thailand, spreading large amounts of toxic chemical products over the provinces of Koh Kong, Pursat and Battambang. These products, yellow and white in colour, fell on the leaves of trees, crops, the roofs of houses, pools, ponds, streams, wells and storage jars.

This is the latest in a long series of crimes of genocide perpetrated against the Kampuchean population by the Vietnamese aggressors since their aggression and occupation of Kampuchea, which to date have already caused more than 2,500,000 deaths.

1. During the present 1983-1984 dry season, as in previous dry seasons, the Vietnamese aggressors are resorting to the use of toxic chemical products in order to exterminate the Kampuchean people and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea. They have used other methods besides spreading these products from aircraft: they have fired toxic gas shells from 105 mm cannons or 82 mm and 60 mm mortars, and have released fumes of asphyxiating gases that poison or kill any person who approaches from tubes loaded with toxic products set at the foot of trees and scattered throughout the forest. Moreover, the Vietnamese aggressors have used Vietnamese agents, particularly women, to put poison into cakes and other consumer products sold in the markets.

2. Since November 1983, the Vietnamese aggressors have been resorting to a new way of employing toxic products. They have set up groups of experts who use syringes to inject liquid poison into ponds, pools and streams. Fishes living in them or animals coming to drink from them have died or contracted infectious diseases. The same fate has overtaken people who drink this water or eat the fish and animals.

These toxic products do not cause immediate death. Those who have been poisoned by them first experience coughing, repeated vomiting, sore throats, continual diarrhoea and fever, followed by the appearance of blistering rashes over the entire body. The victims die after two or three months.

Since the beginning of the present 1983-1984 dry season, from October 1983 to January 1984, the Vietnamese aggressors have intensified their use of toxic chemical products to exterminate the Kampuchean population of the provinces of Battambang, Siemreap, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, Kratié, Kompong Speu and Kampot.

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3. These crimes of genocide, perpetrated by means of the systematic, widespread and indiscriminate use of chemical weapons against the Kampuchean people, show still more clearly:

- First: The barbaric nature of the Vietnamese war of aggression against Kampuchea;
- Second: The policy of genocide being pursued by the Vietnamese aggressors against the Kampuchean people;
- Third: The total impasse into which they have been driven by the increasingly powerful struggle of the Kampuchean people and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese aggressors have intensified the use of chemical weapons to make up for their shortage of troops in Kampuchea or to reinforce their troops, who are overcome by defeatism and demoralization and who are about to suffer their final defeat on the battlefields at the hands of the Kampuchean people, the National Army and the guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea.

4. On behalf of the Kampuchean people and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, I denounce and condemn with the utmost rigour these crimes of genocide by the Vietnamese aggressors, committed in violation of the Geneva Convention of 17 June 1925, as "a crime against humanity".

5. The Kampuchean people and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea call on all the peace-loving and justice-loving countries of the world, and particularly the United Nations, to denounce and condemn even more vigorously the above-mentioned crimes of the Vietnamese aggressors. They call on them especially to take effective measures to thwart the criminal designs of the Vietnamese aggressors and their Soviet masters who, by persistently resorting to the use of chemical weapons, are aiming to realize their ambition to swallow up Kampuchea and exterminate the Kampuchean people in order to make Kampuchea a Vietnamese territory in accordance with their sinister "Indo-Chinese Federation" strategy. The best way for the peace-loving and justice-loving countries to respond is to unite and continue to put political, diplomatic, economic and financial pressure on the Hanoi authorities so as to induce them to withdraw their troops of aggression from Kampuchea totally, immediately and unconditionally, in accordance with five successive United Nations resolutions, in order to allow the Kampuchean people to decide their destiny for themselves, without any foreign interference.

Democratic Kampuchea, 22 February 1984

THIOUNN THOEUN  
Minister, Member of the Co-ordinating Committee  
for Health and Social Affairs of the Coalition  
Government of Democratic Kampuchea

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