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

Upon the request of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, I have the honour to submit to you herewith the text of the statement by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of that country, issued at Phnom Penh on 19 June 1985.

I should be very grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the enclosure 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

\* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the People's Republic of Kampuchea concerning Thai  
manoeuvres regarding the problem of Khmer refugees, issued at  
Phnom Penh on 19 June 1985

According to a report from the New China News Agency received on 14 June 1985 in Bangkok, the Thai authorities are in the process of stepping up preparations for the "repatriation" of 230,000 Khmer refugees in Thailand to a "security zone within Kampuchea". The repatriation, according to the report, would be carried out over a period of several consecutive days "under the supervision of the Thai armed forces, ICRC and other international organizations". That same day, Agence France-Press, quoting the spokesman for the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that arrangements had also been made for a meeting between representatives of the Ministry, the Thai armed forces, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and other international organizations to discuss the "repatriation".

This well-worn manoeuvre of the Thai authorities, acting in close collusion with the Peking authorities, of using the refugee problem to oppose the rebirth of Kampuchea, has been denounced and condemned by world public opinion more than once.

By joining their Chinese brothers those in power in Bangkok are defying world public opinion and paying little heed to the lives of the Khmer refugees whom they are using as hostages for strategic purposes. Meanwhile, in a recent note addressed to the United Nations, not content with repeating the same old abominable slander regarding the intrusions of Vietnamese troops into Thailand, they even went so far as to brazenly accuse those troops of forcing the Khmer refugees to return to Kampuchea.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea categorically rejects the misleading and ridiculous allegations of the Thai authorities and again denounces their treacherous manoeuvre concerning the refugee problem.

It is common knowledge that in recent years the Thai authorities have been using the refugees on a seasonal basis to support the activities of the Khmer reactionaries to undermine the Kampuchean people. Everyone knows that during the dry season the Thai authorities open their borders to give refuge and comfort to what is left of Pol Pot's supporters and other reactionary Khmers who are being hunted by the Kampuchean people only to drive them back into Kampuchean territory during the rainy season to perpetrate crimes. Kampuchean civilians brought by the intruders into Thailand, either driven before the bayonet or lured by the promise of humanitarian assistance, are then taken back to Kampuchea to serve as a shield with the support of the Thai armed forces. Many of them have been forcibly enrolled in the ranks of Pol Pot's supporters.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea vigorously denounces this repetition by the ultra-rightist reactionaries among the

Thai leaders of an inhuman machination which constitutes a deliberate flouting of international laws on the refugee problem. It strongly demands that the Thai authorities put an immediate end to this trickery of "repatriation" which is criminal and fraught with consequences. It should be recalled that, with a view to settling the problem of Khmer refugees in Thailand, the People's Republic of Kampuchea has several times put forward constructive proposals, inter alia, the proposals that the Kampuchean and Thai parties engage in direct or indirect negotiations to seek a solution acceptable to both parties. These proposals remain on the table. The Thai party should stop being obstinate and respond positively to the proposal. The Khmer refugees are persecuted daily by Pol Pot's supporters and their accomplices and they deserve international sympathy and protection. International organizations must not allow themselves to be drawn by the Bangkok administration onto a path that is contrary to their humanitarian aim and that would seriously undermine their prestige.

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