



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/672
12 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda item 123

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Letter dated 12 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the request of His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea concerning the debate on the "Kampuchean problem" in the United Nations, and I request you to have the Declaration and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 123.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Declaration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of Kampuchea concerning the debate
on the "Kampuchean problem" in the United Nations

Despite the opposition of the Kampuchean people and progressive world opinion, the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session will soon debate the so-called "problem of Kampuchea", and it will do so without the participation of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, the sole authentic and lawful representative of the Kampuchean people, and in the presence of the representatives of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, who have been found guilty of genocide and condemned to death by the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Phnom Penh.

On behalf of the Kampuchean people, the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea and the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea vigorously protests against this illegal debate, which constitutes flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the Kampuchean people and an insult to the 3 million Kampucheans who have fallen victim to the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime and to the surviving 4 million of our compatriots who are engaged in rebuilding our ravaged homeland at the cost of countless torments and difficulties.

What "problem of Kampuchea" is involved here?

There was indeed a grave problem of Kampuchea when the Fascist Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime, established on the model of the Chinese "cultural revolution" and serving as an instrument for Peking's expansionism, was turning Khmer society upside down, destroying our ancient Angkor civilization, massacring millions of Kampucheans, sowing discord with all the neighbouring countries and launching a large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam.

If there still is a "problem of Kampuchea", it is that of definitively liquidating that barbarian régime and preventing its restoration by the Peking expansionists, who, in connivance with other imperialist and reactionary forces, are utilizing Thai territory to maintain, train and supply the remnants of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and other bands of traitors that have regrouped in certain locations along our western frontier.

Such a situation, linked to the presence of tens of Chinese divisions massed along the frontier with Viet Nam and Laos, is fraught with danger not only to the independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic but also to the peace and stability of South-East Asia and to world peace. In the face of the common danger, the peoples of the three fraternal countries of Indo-China have closed ranks and strengthened their fighting solidarity. The Declaration of 16 July 1979 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea affirmed this: "In conformity with the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation between the

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People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Vietnamese People's Army is maintaining its presence in Kampuchea and giving aid and co-operation to the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea in mopping up the remnants of the armed bands of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and other reactionaries who are lackeys of the Peking expansionists.

"That presence concerns solely the relations between two fraternal countries and does not threaten anyone in the area. As soon as the Chinese expansionists and their imperialist allies cease their acts and manoeuvres of interference aimed at harming the peaceful life of the Kampuchean people, in connexion with which those expansionists and imperialists have an obligation to respect the independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Vietnamese People's Army will immediately withdraw from our country."

The fighting solidarity of the peoples of Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Laos has been manifested repeatedly in our common liberation struggle in the form of military co-operation. Not long ago, our armed forces were fighting side by side against a massive United States invasion fully supported by the present ruling circles of the ASEAN countries, some of which, such as Thailand, sent divisions to spread ruin and death in our countries. It is not at all surprising that those same circles should continue their support for the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and lend themselves to the reactionary manoeuvre of abusing the forum of the United Nations to slander the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, calling for the "withdrawal of Vietnamese troops" with the obvious aim of dividing and weakening the two fraternal countries. However, the Kampuchean people, with the strength of its historic experience acquired at the cost of so many sacrifices, cherishes and is consolidating the fighting solidarity between Kampuchea and Viet Nam, which it guards like the apple of its eye. It does not tolerate any divisive, defamatory and subversive manoeuvre against those precious ties of fraternal solidarity.

The same circles are now loudly calling for a cessation of the "armed conflict" and for finding a political solution to the "problem of Kampuchea". The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea wishes to make it clear that there is at present no "armed conflict" in Kampuchea and that the people's power is engaged merely in mopping-up operations against gangs of pirates maintained from abroad and infiltrated into Kampuchean territory to pillage and instigate disorder. Those mopping-up operations are part of the normal activity of any State power responsible for ensuring the security of the country, exactly like what is happening nowadays in most of the ASEAN countries, which are carrying on similar operations on a much larger scale against gangs of Maoist-inspired troublemakers. It would clearly constitute flagrant and intolerable interference if demands were made from certain quarters to the authorities of those ASEAN countries that they should seek a political solution with those gangs of Maoist troublemakers.

The People's Republic of Kampuchea is an independent and sovereign nation, pursuing a foreign policy of peace, friendship and co-operation with all countries without discrimination. Going beyond the consequences of the recent past, it intends to maintain relations of friendship and good-neighbourliness with the

countries of South-East Asia, based on the principles of mutual respect, equality and reciprocal benefit. The People's Revolutionary Council, which controls the entire country and is managing all of Kampuchea's affairs, is the only authentic and lawful representative of Kampuchea. Any problem involving Kampuchea must be settled with the People's Revolutionary Council. Any conference or discussion relating to Kampuchea must be conducted with the consent of the People's Revolutionary Council and with the participation of its duly accredited representatives. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea regards the debate of the United Nations General Assembly at its current session on the so-called "problem of Kampuchea" as invalid and regards any resolutions resulting from it as null and void.

Phnom Penh, 10 November 1979
