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Letter dated 16 November 1979 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 press release dated 14 November 1979 from the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea condemning the new spraying of toxic chemical substances by the Hanoi authorities.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea

ANNEX

Press release dated 14 November 1979 from the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea condemning the new spraying of toxic chemical substances by the Hanoi authorities

On 5 November 1979 the Vietnamese aggressors again sprayed toxic chemical substances over the districts of Toek Phos and Báribaur (province of Kampong Chhnang) and the district of Leach (province of Pursat).

According to the first information received, 35 persons were killed and 72 others are in serious condition. The majority of the victims are children, pregnant women and elderly persons. The substance used, which is yellow in colour, burns the dust, gives off an odour which causes dizziness, and results in a haemorrhaging through the mouth and ears and ultimately death.

Thus the Vietnamese aggressors sprayed toxic chemical substances over the same region twice in one week (28 October and 5 November). Since last July they have increased sprayings of toxic chemical substances. To Reach Torng (province of Kampong Speu), north of Kiriro, which was the target on two occasions, have been added Andaung Toek and Thmar Baing (province of Koh Kong), the Pailin-Poipet region (west of Battambang), the districts of Chhouk and Koh Sla (province of Kampot), the districts of Phnom Sruoch and Kong Pisei (province of Kompong Speu), the district of Trankak (province of Takeo) and the Pang Rolim-Pailin section of national highway No. 10 (province of Battambang).

In all, 152 persons have been killed and more than 200 seriously wounded.

To exterminate the people of Kampuchea, the Hanoi authorities are resorting systematically and with increasing frequency to chemical weapons on an ever-increasing scale. On behalf of the victims and of the entire people of Kampuchea, the Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea denounces most emphatically the crimes of genocide perpetrated by the Hanoi authorities, who in the most cowardly fashion are having recourse to the use of toxic chemical substances.

With military operations in the course of which the inhabitants of whole villages and whole communities are massacred, even crushed under tanks, and with the widespread famine which it has deliberately provoked, the Le Duan clique has transformed the whole of Kampuchea into an immense crematory oven, killing thousands of Kampucheans every day. In spite of this, it is not succeeding in breaking the will to independence of the people of Kampuchea. Nor will it ever succeed in doing so. Quite the contrary, all it is doing is becoming more and more bogged down in its war of genocide in Kampuchea, and in every way its undertaking is being brought to a standstill. Today, reaching new extremes of cruelty, the Le Duan clique is systematically and more and more frequently using toxic chemical substances, prohibited by international laws, against the innocent population. Its purpose is clear: it is seeking to exterminate the people of Kampuchea so that it can introduce colonies of Vietnamese settlers in their place.

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The Ministry of Information of Democratic Kampuchea once again draws the attention of the United Nations, of countries, Governments, political organizations, mass organizations and persons dedicated to peace, freedom and justice throughout the world, to what is going on and appeals to them to take effective and urgent measures to act, while there is still time, to oppose and thwart this attempt to exterminate the Kampuchean race by exerting political, diplomatic and economic pressure to compel Viet Nam to withdraw all its troops and forces of aggression from Kampuchea. We appeal in particular to the international community to compel Hanoi to carry out the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its troops and forces of aggression from Kampuchea, under the direct control and supervision of United Nations forces. This is the only measure which will put an end to the genocide being carried out by the Le Duan clique against the people of Kampuchea and restore peace in Kampuchea, in South-East Asia and in the world.
