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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 23 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, upon the instructions of my Government, further to report, since my last note to you dated 1 November 1979 (A/34/644-S/13602), that Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity were still being violated on numerous occasions, the latest major incidents being as follows:

1. On 12 November 1979, between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., fighting from inside Kampuchea spilled over into Thai territory north of Ban Laem, Pong Namron district, Chantaburi province, in eastern Thailand, with the result that several rounds of M-79 rockets, and 60-mm and 82-mm mortar were fired into Thai territory. Several hundred foreign troops also intruded 500 to 1,000 metres inside Thai territory during the fighting, and some were positioned there until 17 November 1979, when a 35-man Thai Marine Patrol, assigned to clear the area in preparation for the visit of the United Nations fact-finding team the following day, was, at 3.45 p.m., ambushed with M-79 rocket and 60-mm and 82-mm mortar fire, suffering one dead, three wounded, and one missing.

2. On 14 November 1979, at 12.35 p.m., six shells were fired from inside Kampuchea, landing inside the Thai side of the border at Ban Non Mak Moon, Ta Phraya district, Prachinburi province, where, at the time of the incident, officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross were transporting rice in five trucks for distribution to Kampuchean refugees. The shelling caused injury to 36 Kampuchean refugees, nine of whom were seriously wounded. The injured were all taken to the hospital for treatment.

3. On 18 November 1979, at 11.30 a.m., while searching for the marine who was missing as a result of the clash of 17 November 1979, a 10-man Thai Patrol Unit came under heavy mortar and M-79 rocket attack, fired from foreign forces inside Kampuchea. The Thai Patrol Unit, in an act of self-defence, was forced to return fire until the firing ceased at 3 p.m.

These incidents, the frequency of which is clearly on the upswing, constituted another round of glaring and blatant violations of Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity, causing a further senseless loss of lives and aggravating the already tense situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border. They took place at a time when the United Nations fact-finding mission was in Thailand to establish the facts prevailing along the Thai-Kampuchean border on behalf of the Secretary-General, and when hundreds of thousands more Kampucheans were poised along the border to enter Thailand with the intensification of fighting in Kampuchea.

The Thai Government strongly condemns these acts and wishes to reiterate its intention to remain uninvolved in the armed conflict in Kampuchea and its determination to take all necessary and legitimate measures to protect the lives and property of its citizens as well as its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pracha GUNA-KASSEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations