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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL)
WEAPONS

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Letter dated 5 May 1981 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 the statement of 30 April 1981 by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Democratic Kampuchea on the escalation of the chemical war by the Hanoi authorities in Kampuchea.

I would be grateful if you would transmit this text to the Group of Experts to Investigate Reports on the Alleged Use of Chemical Weapons, drawing its attention to paragraph 5 of this statement, in which the Group is requested to go to the scene for investigation and collection of evidence of the crimes committed by the Hanoi authorities, and to arrange for it to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22 and 42 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) THIOUON Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea

* A/36/50.

ANNEX

កម្ពុជាប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ



STATEMENT BY
THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

ON

THE ESCALATION OF THE CHEMICAL WAR
BY THE HANOI AUTHORITIES IN KAMPUCHEA

1. The International Community has fully been informed of the arch-criminal acts of the Hanoi authorities in their barbaric war of aggression, expansion, annexation and racial extermination in Kampuchea, and has firmly and constantly condemned those acts.

Especially the International Community has deeply been concerned by the use of the chemical weapons by the Hanoi authorities in this war. That is why, to stop those crimes, the 35th United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted the resolution 35/144C on December 12, 1980.

2. But the Hanoi authorities are of the most arrogant. They pay no attention to the International Law, the decision by the International Community to ban from mankind the use of chemical weapons. So in the dry season 1980-1981, at a time when they were more and more being bogged down in their war of aggression in Kampuchea, they resorted more than ever to those proscribed weapons. On the battlefields, they used both toxic gas shelled by cannons and toxic chemical products spread on strategic points. Their savageness was to such an extent that they did not hesitate using those chemical weapons to kill civilians, in line with their policy of racial extermination in Kampuchea. In the areas they were not able to reach, cannons were used to shell toxic gas, and aircrafts or helicopters to spread toxic chemicals. In other areas, mobile units were sent by platoon or company levels to carry out those spreading on water courses, ponds and other water supplying sources of the people and also over woods and forests in the vicinity of villages where the people were used to wandering in search for wild vegetables, edible tubercles of all kinds to feed

themselves, or lianas, resins and bamboos for their own commodity or for sale. The victims vomit, go into a coma. Those who cannot be taken to the hospital and cured in time are inevitably doomed to death. In the last dry season 1980-1981, alone, according to preliminary and still incomplete figures, the victims of chemical weapons used by the Hanoi authorities were numbering more than one thousand. Nearly half of them died.

3. For now, the Hanoi authorities are pursuing their arch-criminal acts everywhere throughout the country, as much in the remote areas, out of international observers' sights, such as in the provinces of Ratanakiri, Mondulhiri, Preah Vihear, at Pailin (Province of Battambang), Leach (Province of Pursat), Thmar Baing and Thmar Sar (Province of Koh Kong), as in the regions accessible to those observers, such as in the Phnom Malai hill region (district of Sisophon, Province of Battambang).

4. The escalation of the chemical war in Kampuchea occurs while the Hanoi authorities keep killing the Kampuchean population by the use of famine as a weapon and conventional weapons of all kinds. These facts show the true nature of the on going war of aggression in Kampuchea. This is not an ordinary war of aggression seen in history, but a war of racial extermination, that of the people and the nation of Kampuchea.

5. In front of this situation, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea requests the United Nations Investigation Team, in accordance with the resolution 35/144C, to go to the scene for investigation and collecting evidences of the crimes committed by the Hanoi authorities, so as measures be taken to prevent the latter from pursuing their chemical war in Kampuchea.

6. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea is convinced that the United Nations and all countries committed to peace and justice will carry on their efforts to compel the Hanoi authorities to withdraw all their troops from Kampuchea in conformity with the United Nations resolution 34/22, and to have an International Conference convened in conformity with the United Nations resolution 35/6 so as to set a specific time-frame for that withdrawal. Only such a withdrawal can put an end to the Hanoi authorities' crimes in Kampuchea, ensure the respect for the International Law, and safeguard peace and security in South-East Asia and in the world.