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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Letter dated 7 October 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 note of the Permanent Mission of Democratic Kampuchea dated 7 October 1981 concerning the "Memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic of 28 September 1981".

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this note to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 22 and 34.

(Signed) THIOUNN Prasith
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea

ANNEX

NOTE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA ON THE
"MEMORANDUM FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE LAO
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF 28 SEPTEMBER 1981"

The Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has arranged for a so-called "Memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic" (document A/36/561 of 30 September 1981) to be circulated under item 34 of the agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

The Permanent Mission of Democratic Kampuchea wishes to make the following comments:

1. Since the conclusion of the so-called "Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation" of 18 July 1977 between the Vientiane authorities and the Hanoi authorities, Laos has been officially annexed to the Vietnamese empire. According to this 25-year "treaty", there are no longer any boundaries between Viet Nam and Laos, the Vientiane administration is placed under Vietnamese control, and Vietnamese troops (currently totalling 60,000 men) are occupying Laos. It is a well-known fact that the Vientiane authorities have lost all national identity and have sold the independence and sovereignty of Laos to the Vietnamese regional expansionists. This annexation of Laos by Viet Nam is only the first link in the Vietnamese "Indochinese Federation", the second link being Kampuchea. Everyone can see that this "memorandum" is a document produced by the Hanoi expansionists who, having been denounced and condemned by the international community for their war of aggression and genocide in Kampuchea, deemed it preferable to use Vientiane as their spokesman.
2. It should be emphasized here that this "memorandum" constitutes a further example of inadmissible interference in the internal affairs of an independent and sovereign State which is a Member of the United Nations, namely Democratic Kampuchea, by the Hanoi expansionists, who arrogate to themselves the right to deal, in the name and on behalf of the people of Kampuchea, with questions falling solely within the competence and sovereignty of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea. We are bound forcefully to denounce and stigmatize these manoeuvres, which eloquently demonstrate the total scorn of the Hanoi expansionists for the sovereignty of other States in international relations. Clearly, there is a great discrepancy between the actions of the expansionists and the principles they profess.
3. This "memorandum" has but a single basic goal, the same as that of all the other Vietnamese "proposals" put forward successively by Hanoi since its invasion of Democratic Kampuchea in December 1978, namely to make the international community accept the fait accompli of Kampuchea, with a view to attaining its long-standing objective, the formation of a Vietnamese "Indochinese Federation". To that end:

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(a) It completely ignores the problem of Kampuchea created by the Vietnamese invasion, which is the basic cause of the growing tension currently threatening peace, stability and security in South-East Asia;

(b) It vainly seeks to replace this problem, which is the key to the tense situation in South-East Asia, by so-called "divergences" and "differences" between the ASEAN countries and the "countries of Indo-China", a euphemistic expression designating the Vietnamese "Indochinese Federation";

(c) It seeks to justify the fallacious proposal for a "regional conference", whose real objective is to enable the Hanoi expansionists to refrain from applying the relevant United Nations resolutions, namely General Assembly resolutions 34/22 and 35/6, and the Declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea of July 1981, which advocate a just and lasting solution to the problem of Kampuchea within the framework of the United Nations.

4. The international community is aware that in the course of its so-called attempts "to promote relations of friendship and co-operation on the basis of the principle of peaceful coexistence between States" while allegedly "refraining from interfering" in the internal affairs of other countries and "not using force" in its relations with the other countries of the region, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has:

(a) Invaded and occupied Kampuchea with 250,000 Vietnamese soldiers and 50,000 Vietnamese administrative agents;

(b) Occupied Laos with 60,000 Vietnamese soldiers;

(c) Launched armed attacks on Thailand from occupied Kampuchean territory;

(d) Given the Soviet Union military bases at Cam Ranh and Danang, which serve as bases for increasing numbers of Soviet ships and aircraft that pose a growing threat to the independence and sovereignty of all the States of the region and to the peace, security and stability of South-East Asia and the Pacific.

5. In fact, the Hanoi expansionists are the enemies of the peoples who care for peace, justice and independence. They are interring the noble ideals and principles of the United Nations Charter and of non-alignment.

It is they who are the enemies of the ASEAN countries, which they accuse of being the "lackeys of the American imperialists". According to the Hanoi authorities, the 1971 Kuala Lumpur Declaration declaring South-East Asia to be a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality is basically imperialist, "drafted in 1971 at a time when the United States imperialists were stepping up their war of aggression in Indo-China" (statement by the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Fifth Summit Meeting of Non-Aligned Countries, Colombo, 1976).

At the present time the only source of threats and tension in South-East Asia is the war of aggression and the occupation of Kampuchea by 250,000 Vietnamese soldiers, and not, as Hanoi claims, the lack of certain principles.

6. If Viet Nam really wants to establish "relations of peaceful coexistence for peace, stability, friendship and co-operation between all the countries of South-East Asia" it merely has to respect the sacred principles of the United Nations Charter and of non-alignment, which formed the basis of resolutions 34/22 and 35/6 of the United Nations General Assembly, the Declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea of 17 July 1981 (A/CONF.109/5) and the most recent communiqué of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries of 28 September 1981 (A/36/566), which call for the withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea and reaffirm the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their own destiny free from foreign interference, subversion and coercion. So long as Viet Nam persists in its aggression in Kampuchea and fails to withdraw all its forces from that country, it can never pose as a pilgrim of peace and it will be impossible to create a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia in accordance with the 1971 Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

7. The "memorandum" submitted by the Vientiane régime under item 34 of the agenda of the General Assembly on the so-called "question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia" will undoubtedly suffer the same fate as the other proposals put forward earlier by the Hanoi authorities with a view to misleading international public opinion. However, this "memorandum" does have the merit of reminding all the peoples who care for peace and justice that the Hanoi expansionists will not hesitate to use any means, no matter how treacherous and arrogant, in order to carry out their expansionist strategy and that of their Soviet master.

New York, 7 October 1981
