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IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 7 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand concerning the return by the Royal Thai Government to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam of the Vietnamese military aircraft which crash-landed in Thailand on 11 February 1982 after having intruded into Thai airspace from Kampuchea.

I would be grateful if this note and its enclosure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

Thai Government returns Vietnamese military aircraft which
crash-landed in Thailand after intrusion of airspace

1011-1100-23/1111

On 1 October 1982 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the Deputy Director-General of the Political Department and the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Bangkok signed documents signifying completion of the return of Vietnamese aircraft, type Antonov-26, which crash-landed in Thailand on 11 February 1982.

The Vietnamese aircraft had intruded into Thai airspace from Kampuchea on 11 February 1982. After being intercepted by two Thai fighter planes, the Vietnamese aircraft took evasive action and crash-landed in Sra Kaeo district, Prachinburi province, approximately 75 kilometres inside Thai territory. On board were thirteen Vietnamese military personnel. Three were injured and taken to hospital by Thai authorities. One of the injured later died from his wounds. A special committee was established by the Thai Government to investigate the incident. It determined that the aircraft which belonged to the Vietnamese Air Force had clearly headed towards Thailand from the start of its flight out of Phnom Penh in Kampuchea; that all equipment on board were in operational order; and that the aircraft had been modified for bombing purposes with aiming devices installed on board. The committee concluded that the Vietnamese aircraft had intentionally violated Thai sovereignty and airspace.

The Royal Thai Government - out of humanitarian consideration and maintaining the desire to entertain good relations with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and after receiving due apology and pledge that such incidents will not recur - officially handed over to representatives of the Vietnamese Government, on 21 May 1982, the twelve captured Vietnamese military personnel and the remains of the dead airman. Subsequently the Vietnamese AN-26 military aircraft was moved by Thai technicians from the crash site and returned to Vietnamese authorities, in recognition of which documents were signed by representatives of the two countries, on 1 October 1982, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, Thailand.