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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-eighth session
Items 23 and 61 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 21 March 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

With reference to General Assembly resolution 37/98 D of 13 December 1982, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the statement of 16 March 1983 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea denouncing and condemning the intensified use of chemical weapons by the Vietnamese aggressors against the Kampuchean civilian population, together with the attached photographs.

I should be very grateful if you would bring this declaration and the attached photographs to the attention of the Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and have them circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 23 and 61 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Prasith THIOUNN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Democratic Kampuchea

* A/38/50.



S T A T E M E N T
BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA
DENOUNCING AND CONDEMNING
THE INTENSIFIED USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
BY THE VIETNAMESE AGGRESSORS
AGAINST THE KAMPUCHEAN CIVILIAN POPULATION

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In order to escape from their being bogged down each day deeper and deeper due to the struggle waged by the National Army and guerrillas of Democratic Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people, and in order to make up for the loss of their effectives on the battlefields, the Vietnamese aggressors have been intensifying during the present 1982-1983 dry season the use of chemical weapons. They have taken advantage of the dry season when there is little water left to spread toxic chemicals on the few sources of water: ponds, lakes and rivers on which depends the population's survival.

The Vietnamese aggressors have in addition used their artillery to fire shells of toxic gas and have even gone so far as to spread toxic chemicals from aircrafts on the densely populated regions. They do not scruple to spread toxic gas even on the border areas with Thailand resulting in some Thai villages being affected by the fall of toxic chemicals. In Kampuchea, these products have been spread on the roofs of the houses, on fruits and vegetables as well as on tree leaves. People who have eaten these fruits and vegetables and some children who inadvertently and just for fun have put these contaminated leaves into their mouths have died.

Besides, after drying up, these toxic chemicals will blow from the roofs or the tree leaves. Their contact causes skin burning to the victims and if they infiltrate into their noses or mouths, they will then lead to a certain death.

To mention only the most recent cases, on 6 March 1983 at 7.30 p.m., a Vietnamese plane flew several times over the Southern Sisophon region, in Battambang province. In the morning, toxic chemicals, yellow or white

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in colour, covered the roofs of the houses, plastic sheets, fruits and vegetables and tree leaves. Since then, hundreds of persons have been intoxicated, women and children included. On the first account, 46 persons were seriously intoxicated and 5 died so quickly that no medical treatment was possible. At present, people still continue to be contaminated by these toxic chemicals.

Again, on 9 March 1983, in Pailin region, in the same province of Battambang, hundreds of persons have been intoxicated, women and children included. On the first account, there were 36 seriously intoxicated and 2 dead.

The Vietnamese aggressors have also used toxic chemicals in other regions of Kampuchea, such as the regions of Samlot, West Leach, Koh Kong, against the Kampuchean civilian population.

The victims show the following syndrome: breaking out of bubbling rash in the buccal cavity and all over the body which burst afterwards, blood vomiting and anuria.

It should be moreover stressed that there have been many cases of indirect contagious intoxication of persons who have helped carry or take care of the victims. Despite emergency medical treatment, even those who were intoxicated through contagion did not survive.

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea had on several occasions denounced and condemned the Vietnamese aggressors before the international public opinion, for having used chemical weapons in their most barbaric genocidal war cynically committed against the people of Kampuchea. As for the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, it has been denouncing and condemning most vigorously those Vietnamese monstrous crimes. It calls on all peace- and justice-loving countries the world over, and more particularly the United Nations, to more strongly reiterate their denunciation against and condemnation of those crimes of genocide committed by the Vietnamese aggressors, and to take effective measures so as to put a definitive halt to those crimes.

Democratic Kampuchea, 16 March 1983

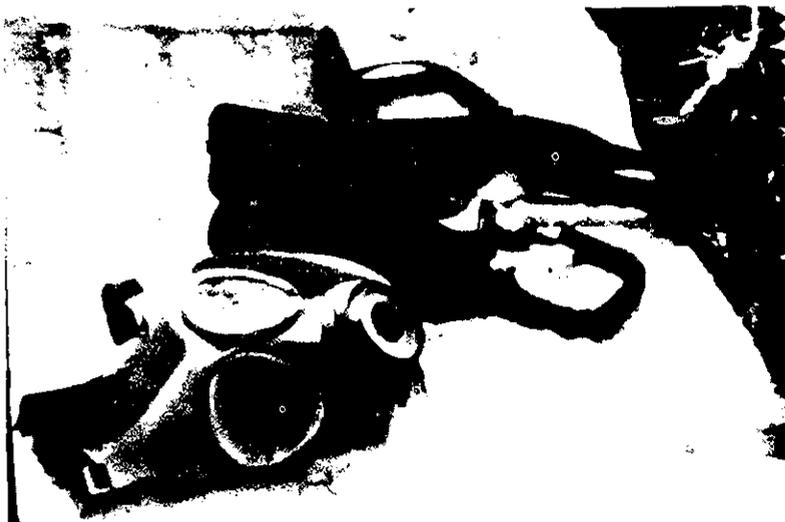
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Coalition Government
of Democratic Kampuchea

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APPENDIX



A Vietnamese soldier wearing a gas mask captured by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea on Pailin front, Battambang province (12-13 January 1983).



Vietnamese aggressors' gas mask, transmitter-receiver and military map seized by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea on Pailin front (12-13 January 1983)