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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEASECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth yearQUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Letter dated 6 October 1983 from the Permanent Representative
of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government and further to my letter dated 6 May 1983 (A/38/185-S/15751), I have the honour to inform you that, since the serious incidents of April 1983 when Vietnamese forces launched military attacks against Kampuchean refugee camps, resulting in considerable casualties to civilians, another flow of displaced persons into Thailand and incursions of Vietnamese troops into Thai territory, Vietnamese forces have on over 60 separate occasions, during the period from May to August 1983, violated Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity. These violations resulted in loss of life and serious injuries, endangered the lives of innocent Thai villagers and also caused damage to their properties. The major violations committed by Vietnamese forces during this period were:

1. During May 1983, Vietnamese forces fired more than 100 artillery shells into Thai territory in nine separate incidents, destroying a Government building, a public hall and a number of houses of Thai villagers. On 25 May 1983, while escorting a Thai villager's boat which was dispatched to deliver drinking water to a village nearby, a Royal Thai Navy patrol boat was fired at by Vietnamese forces at Klong Yai District, Trat Province.

2. During June 1983, more than 100 artillery shells were fired by Vietnamese forces into Thai territory on 12 separate occasions. Vietnamese forces also made three incursions into Thai territory, killing a Thai soldier and seriously injuring another. On another occasion, Vietnamese troops held up Thai villagers and robbed them of their belongings. In the same month, Viet Nam violated Thai airspace nine times.

3. During July 1983, more than 200 artillery shells were fired into Thai territory by Vietnamese forces on 17 separate occasions. Many Thai villagers were injured, some seriously; some livestock was killed and property was badly damaged. Vietnamese vessels also violated Thai territorial waters five times. On one occasion, a Vietnamese vessel fired at a Thai fishing boat, killing one crew member and seriously injuring several others. The Thai boat was then illegally seized.

4. During August 1983, Vietnamese forces directed heavy fire at Thai villagers in two separate incidents. In the first incident, a number of Thai villagers working in fields at Ban Nong Kok village, Pong Nam Ron District, Chantaburi Province, were fired at by heavy-calibre machine-guns. In the second incident, 30 Thai villagers from the same village who were catching fish in a canal were also fired at. As a result, eight villagers were seriously injured. In the same period, Vietnamese forces made three incursions into Thai territory and, on one occasion, clashed with Thai troops. Fortunately, no Thai soldiers were hurt.

These recorded incidents once again demonstrate that Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea continue to violate blatantly Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Their illegal presence in Kampuchea remains a serious threat to the security of Thailand. Their military operations and premeditated incursions across the Thai border have endangered the safety of innocent Thais. The Thai Government strongly protests these acts of extreme provocation and deliberate aggression committed by Vietnamese forces.

Thailand reaffirms its legitimate right to employ all necessary measures against foreign aggressors in order to defend itself and to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity, including the provision of security to the Thai people. The root cause of the lack of safety and security is the ongoing conflict in Kampuchea, resulting from the continued occupation of that country by 180,000 Vietnamese troops in overt and continued violation of United Nations resolutions, the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in callous opposition to world opinion. Thailand wishes to draw the world's attention to these condemnable acts of aggression committed by a State Member of the United Nations in gross violation of the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter.

I have the honour to request that the text of this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 23 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI
Permanent Representative
