

EMBASSY  
of the  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM  
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PRESS RELEASE

ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION ALONG THE VIETNAM-CHINA  
BORDER

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT REJECTING THAI  
AUTHORITIES' SLANDER

Over the past few days, the Thai authorities have repeatedly spread the slander that the Vietnamese army volunteers in Kampuchea had intruded into Thai territory and attacked civilians.

This is a trick of thief shouting thief. As is known to all, over the past five years, the Thai authorities have let the Pol Pot remnants, China's instrument, use Thai territory as their sanctuary to oppose the Kampuchean people's revival.

According to the Kampuchean News Agency, SPK, since early March 1984 Thailand has helped the Pol Pot remnants from their sanctuaries labelled "refugee camps" in Thai territory conduct sabotage activities against Kampuchea's populated border areas, committing many crimes including destruction of houses and market-places and killing a number of civilians.

What is particularly serious is that in the later half of March 1984 many units of Thai armed forces directly supported the above-mentioned sabotage activities. In the week ending March 15 alone, Thai aircraft four times violated Kampuchean airspace, Thai vessels intruded into Kampuchean waters for 48 times (in Koh Kong, Koh Tang and Poulo Vay areas), and Thai ground forces 75 times fired artillery shells on Kampuchean territory (in Choeung Khsan, Anlong Venh, Romiet, Phma Puoch, Tasaing and Santden areas). In the week ending March 22, the Thai air force conducted 32 sorties into Kampuchean airspace (over Preah, Vihear, Anech, Poipet, Maokhuang, Kaomelai, Kong Rieng areas). Thai warships intruded into Kampuchean waters on 80 occasions (in Koh Tang, Koh Kong and Poulo Vay areas) and Thai ground troops 52 times fired artillery shells on Kampuchean territory.

These are premeditated war acts which crudely violate the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and are an encroachment upon international law.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam flatly rejects the Thai authorities' slander. While firmly supporting the legitimate right of the Kampuchean people and their armed forces to punish the genocidal Pol Pot gang and their accomplices, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam reiterates once again its consistent policy of respecting the independence and sovereignty of Thailand. The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam demands that the Thai authorities immediately stop lending a hand to Beijing and the Pol Pot gang in opposing the Kampuchean people's revival, at variance with the Thai people's interests and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Hanoi, 31 March 1984.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT  
DENOUNCING THE CHINESE SHELLINGS OF VIETNAM TERRITORY

On April 2, 1984, the Chinese authorities ordered their armed forces to fire thousand of artillery shells on eight places in the Vietnamese border provinces of Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Cao Bang, Ha Tuyen and Lai Chau, and called this shelling a "self-defence" act in retaliation against Vietnam's armed provocations against Chinese border areas.

This is a well-known manoeuvre of China over the past five years aimed at covering up its collusion with the Thai authorities to support the genocidal Pol Pot gang against the Kampuchean people's revival and against the three Indochinese countries as a whole.

In the past five years, whenever the Pol Pot remnants launched attacks from their sanctuaries in Thailand into Kampuchean territories, China simultaneously conducted artillery shellings to cause tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

Since the beginning of this year, the Chinese and Thai authorities have been trying to encourage the Pol Pot clique's sabotage activities, but when the Kampuchean armed forces, with the assistance of Vietnamese army volunteers punished the saboteurs, China, in chorus with Thailand, concocted so-called "Vietnamese violations of Thai sovereignty" and conducted fierce artillery shellings of Vietnam's Northern border areas.

It is known that the situation along the Vietnam-China border has been relatively calm lately. China's so-called "self-defence act" is clearly a calculated act aimed at putting pressure on Vietnam from two sides in order to save the genocidal Pol Pot gang from the punishing blows of the Kampuchean army and people, creating tension and undermining the developing trend toward dialogue between Indochinese and ASEAN countries.

This act of the Chinese authorities blatantly violates Vietnam's sovereignty, disturbs the security and disrupts the normal life of the Vietnamese people in border areas. The Vietnam army and people in Northern border provinces, with their high vigilance, have duly punished the Chinese expansionists for their criminal acts.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam strongly condemns and denounces to the world public and the Chinese people, the Chinese authorities' policy of nurturing and supporting the genocidal Pol Pot gang who keeps committing crimes and resolutely demands an immediate end to their hostile acts toward the three Indochinese countries, acts which run counter to the interests of the Chinese people as well as of peace and stability in South-east Asia.

Hanoi, 3 April 1984.

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#### FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON GENERAL ARTHIT'S DECLARATION

On March 31, 1984, General Arthit Kamlang-ek, Supreme Commander of the Thai Armed Forces, declared that a Thai air force A.37 jet had staged two bombing runs on an ammunition dump of the Pol Pot clique after it had fallen into Vietnamese and Kampuchean hands.

This is obviously an acknowledgement of Thailand's direct military involvement in support of the Pol Pot remnants, Beijing's henchmen, to oppose the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

This act of Thai authorities seriously undermines peace and stability in this region. They have exposed the real purpose of their slanders against Vietnam, which is to cover up their own criminal actions.

The Thai authorities must immediately end all their support for the genocidal Pol Pot junta and all their war acts against the People's Republic of Kampuchea. They must also bear full responsibility for all their acts.

Hanoi, 4 April 1984.

Commenting on this statement, the Voice of Vietnam on the same day said that :

This is the clearest and most open confession so far by the Thai authorities of their support and assistance to the Pol Pot remnants, the Beijing instrument, the cruelest genocidal gang that the people of the world and of South East Asia demand for its elimination.

The Thai authorities said that Thailand's air force staged bombardment on the lost ammunition dump of the Pol Pot gang to avoid its falling into their adversary's hands. But where is located that ammunition dump? Why do the Thai authorities dare not point out its location? If it is in Kampuchea's territory then the Thai authorities brazenly violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people have the right to self-defence. If the ammunition dump is inside Thailand's territory then it is clear that the Thai authorities in collusion with Beijing, have built up such big ammunition dump right inside Thailand for the Pol Pot gang to perpetrate their crimes against the Kampuchean people. Such an act runs counter to international law and the interests as well as the prestige of the Thai people. If the Thai authorities still follow Beijing in nurturing the Pol Pot gang they will get themselves involved in many troubles that do not serve the interests of the Thai people.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT  
ON VIETNAMESE REACTIONARIES' RADIO STATION  
IN THAILAND

A radio station said to be run by Vietnamese reactionaries has recently appeared in Thailand, daily broadcasting anti-Vietnam programs and calling for armed struggle to topple the Socialist system in Vietnam.

This is an extremely serious action violating Vietnam's sovereignty, undermining the friendship between the Vietnamese and Thai peoples, contravening international laws, and running counter to the interests of peace and stability in this region.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam strongly condemns this action of the Thai authorities and firmly demands that they immediately end this illegal action. The Thai authorities must bear full responsibility for the consequences of their action.

Hanoi, 5 April, 1984.

SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT  
ON THE CHINESE TROOPS' ATTACKS AND LAND NIBBLES ON  
VIETNAM TERRITORY

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On April 6th, 1984, from 09.00 to 12.00 a.m. (local time) the Chinese authorities used many infantry battalions to attack and land nibble at hills 829, 636 in Quoc Khanh village, Trang Dinh district, Lang Son province. The local people and armed forces, with constant vigilance, fought courageously, drove back all enemies' attacks and firmly safeguarded the frontiers of the fatherland. Following the continuous artillery shellings on the populated and economic areas in the 6 border provinces of Vietnam since April 2nd, this is a blatant act of war violating the territorial sovereignty of Vietnam, exposing clearly the aggressive nature of the Beijing expansionist and hegemonist ruling circles, and adding new crimes against the Vietnamese people.

These are efforts to consolidate the demoralized spirit of the genocidal Pol Pot gang who has been punished by the people and armed forces of Kampuchea and has been condemned by world opinion, and to rescue the so-called "tripartite coalition government" from collapsing.

This is a serious challenge to world public opinion and that of Southeast Asia which strongly demand for the relaxation of tension, the restoration of peace and security in this part of the world.

This criminal act has exposed the real nature of the Beijing authorities who are preaching peace but in reality are stepping up their collusion with the U.S. imperialists and intensifying the many-sided war of sabotage against the three Indochinese peoples, against the interests of the Chinese people and against peace, stability in Southeast Asia.

The people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam energetically condemn and denounce to the world public the above-mentioned manoeuvre and criminal acts of the Chinese authorities and strongly demand an immediate end to these acts.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam holds the consistent policy of settling peacefully all problems concerning relations with China and at the same time is determined to strike back all acts of aggressive war for the defence of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. If the Chinese authorities stubbornly continue their criminal acts of war they will surely suffer humiliated defeat.

No effort can save the Pol Pot genocidal clique and its accomplices. No pressure can prevent the solidarity and support from the Vietnamese people to their fraternal Kampuchean people to defend and build their country.

Hanoi, 7 April 1984.

VNA'S INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

NGUYEN CO THACH

Question 1 : What is the truth about the military situation along the Kampuchean-Thai border ?

Answer : In the first three months of this year, China, Thailand and the Khmer reactionaries on the one hand called on the world public to prevent what they described as the "dry season campaign" of the People's Republic of Kampuchea armed forces and Vietnamese army volunteers against the Pol Pot-commanded Khmer reactionaries and, on the other, ballyhooed about the so-called "resounding" victories of these reactionaries.

Curiously enough, some sections of the Western public have chimed in with those who praised the genocidal Pol Pot gang's crimes against the Kampuchean people's revival.

Since late March 1984, the PRK armed forces and Vietnamese army volunteers have staged mopping up operations to punish the genocidal Pol Pot clique and their accomplices along the Kampuchean Thai border. The Pol Pot reactionaries fled back to Thai territory but the Kampuchean armed forces and Vietnamese volunteers have shown respect for Thailand's territorial sovereignty. The Thai authorities, however, have falsely charged Vietnam with violating Thai territory with the aim of covering up their criminal coordination with the Pol Pot reactionaries in opposing the Kampuchean people and letting them use Thai territory as a base to oppose the Kampuchean people and a sanctuary to escape punishment.

On March 31, 1984, General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, Supreme Commander of the Thai armed forces, declared that a Thai air force A.37 jet had staged two bombing runs on an ammunition dump of the Pol Pot gang after it had fallen into Kampuchean and Vietnamese hands.

This statement has borne out the PRK's denunciations of the Thai army's operations in direct support of the Pol Pot reactionaries' activities against the Kampuchean people in the first three months of this year and the Thai authorities' allowing the Pol Pot clique to use Thai territory as a base to oppose the Kampuchean people.

Question 2 : What, in your opinion, is the truth about the military situation along the Vietnam-China border ?

Answer : People still remember that three months after the Chinese shelling of Vietnamese areas along the common border in April 1983, the Chinese authorities permitted 44 foreign correspondents to visit Ping Meng, in Guang Xi province, near the Sino-Vietnamese border, which the Chinese side described as the scene of one of the fiercest attacks of the Vietnamese army.

According to a story by A. Bennett, a U.S correspondent, published in the Wall Street Journal on August 9, 1983 Chinese News Agency reported in April 1983 that a public office, a school and a hospital in Ping Meng had been destroyed but this correspondent noted that these institutions still remained intact. On this drive of Chinese shellings,

Western pressmen have commented that each time the Vietnamese intensified military operations in Kampuchea, especially in areas bordering on Thailand, border clashes would almost certainly flare up between Vietnam and China (according to a VOA broadcast on the morning of April 3, 1984). Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said that the Chinese action was designed to pressure Hanoi as the Vietnamese were conducting an offensive against Cambodian resistance forces along the Thai-Cambodian border (AFP, Beijing, April 4, 1984). Obviously, this is a mere repetition of the hackneyed trick used by China over the past five years to slanderously charge Vietnam with provocation in order to carry out military operations in coordination with the activities of the Pol Pot reactionaries and the Thai authorities along the Kampuchean-Thai border.

Question 3 : Could you please assess China's and Thailand's policies through events along Vietnam's Northern border and Kampuchea's Western frontier ?

Answer : China and Thailand share common interests in cooperating with Pol Pot to oppose the Kampuchean people's revival. They use the so-called "war-like policy" of Vietnam along their border areas to whitewash their crimes. If they really aspired for peace along the Vietnam-China and the Kampuchea-Thailand borders why then have they all the past five years rejected the proposals for peace and security along the Vietnam-China border as well as the proposals for peace and security along the Kampuchea-Thailand border ? The truth is that they do not want to be bound by peace agreements, and that they want to be free in causing tension in order to support the Pol Pot reactionaries. No wonder therefore that China and Thailand have teamed up with each other on the propaganda front as well as on the military front against Vietnam and Kampuchea.

Question 4 : Could you please elaborate on the proposal for peace along the Vietnam-China border ?

Answer : In the past five years, we have time and again proposed a ceasefire along the Vietnam-China border and the resumption of negotiations between the two countries. But China has turned down all proposals for ceasefire. This shows that China does not want any agreement guaranteeing peace along the border and that it wants to be free in creating tension along the border at any time.

Question 5 : Could you please elaborate on the proposal for peace along the Kampuchea-Thailand border ?

Answer : In 1980, the three Indochinese countries proposed to Thailand the signing of a Treaty of Non-aggression and Non-intervention, the establishment of a demilitarized zone along the Kampuchea-Thailand border under international supervision. Thailand rejected the signing of a Treaty of Non-aggression, arguing that there was no threat of aggression. Thailand also rejected the establishment of a demilitarized zone, contending that this is tantamount to urging Thailand to withdraw its troops from part of its territory, which is contrary to Thailand's territorial sovereignty.

In 1982 taking Thailand's position into consideration, the People's Republic of Kampuchea proposed the formation of a safety zone along the common border between the two countries. In the safety zone on either side of the common border, the Thais as well as the Kampucheans - both civilians and military - have full sovereignty on

//At the same time, the People's Republic of Kampuchea proposed/

their own territory, and foreigners involved in political and military activities on one side of the border against the other side and refugee camps should be barred from the safety zone.

Thailand also rejected this proposal, under the pretext that it is a violation of its sovereignty. It is absurd that while rejecting the establishment of a demilitarized zone and a safety zone along the common border between the two countries as a violation of its sovereignty, Thailand called for the establishment of a demilitarized zone and a safety zone on Kampuchean territory.

Thailand's rejection of the proposals for peace and security along the Kampuchea-Thailand border shows that it has nothing to worry about its own peace and security and that it is only interested in cooperating with Pol Pot to oppose the Kampuchean people's revival.

We call on Thailand to respect the interests of peace and security of its neighbours as well as its own interests, and to respond positively to the proposals for peace and security along the Kampuchea - Thailand border.

Question 6 : Could you please tell us about the refugee camps on the Kampuchean-Thai border ?

Answer : It is known that the refugee camps along the Kampuchean-Thai border are all controlled by the Khmer reactionaries. In fact, these are bases used to oppose the Kampuchean people's revival. It is also known that most of the West's humanitarian aid for the Kampuchean people has been poured into these refugee camps, this clearly is aimed at supporting the Pol Pot gang and at the same time encouraging Kampuchean civilians to flee to the refugee camps.

People of conscience think that for humanitarian reasons these camps should be removed from the border areas where fighting often occurs. But the Thai authorities not only are strongly opposed to this idea but, moreover, have brought refugees from other areas inside Thailand to the Kampuchean-Thai border region. They want to use the label of humanitarianism to cover up Pol Pot's crimes and to use the refugees as hostages in order to commit crimes against the Kampuchean people.

It is known that the Thai authorities have ordered the removal of "refugee camp" either to areas deep inside Kampuchea or into Thai territory according to seasons of military activities. In the rainy season, they seek to push these camps into Kampuchean territory using them as shields for the Pol Pot gang, and during the dry season they leave the borders open for the Polpotists, who are under hot pursuit, to escape to refugee camps already removed into Thai territory.

Question 7 : What are the prospects for the Vietnam-China relations ?

Answer : The history of Vietnam-China relations is 2,000 year old. The peoples of the two countries have been bound by a long-standing friendship. Yet, Vietnam was ruled by the Chinese two times, for more than 1,000 years altogether and was invaded by them ten times. On the other hand, there have been between Vietnam and China six periods of peace which lasted each from 50 to 350 years. The greatest thing drawn from the 2,000-year relationship between Vietnam and China is that the Chinese rulers succeeded in conquering many countries, but they failed in conquering Vietnam and that whenever their hegemonistic and expansionist policy failed the Chinese authorities had to accept peace with



Vietnam. Vietnam's highest interest is to live in peace and friendship with China on the basis of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty.

I firmly believe that sooner or later the relations between the two countries will be normalized. In the immediate future, we, as stated time and again, are prepared to resume negotiations with China at any level and anywhere, and we are willing to consider all of China's proposals provided, China also considers ours.

Question 8: What do you think are the prospects for the Vietnamese-Thai relations ?

Answer: Thailand came into being in the 13th century. In its history, Thailand has owed its existence to the fact that Vietnam and Burma have been subject to Chinese invasions and, at the same time, have been a dyke protecting Thailand from Chinese aggression. By contrast, the Thai authorities has in the past coordinated with China in its invasions of Vietnam and Burma. Thailand has brought about the fall of the Kingdom of Angkor, and has ruled the Khmer Kingdom, Laos and Malacca.

In the 19th century, Thailand colluded with Britain to invade Burma and Britain shared to Thailand parts of the Burmese and Malaccan territories. At the same time, Thailand and France reached an agreement to let the French rule Indochina and Thailand occupy part of the Lao and Kampuchean territories. In the Second World War, Thailand was the only Asian country allying with Japan to fight against the United States and Britain, thus provoking the Pacific war. Japan awarded Thailand parts of the territories of Laos, Kampuchea, Burma and Malaysia.

In 1954, Thailand joined the US - rigged SEATO alliance against the three Indochinese countries and from then served as headquarters of this aggressive bloc.

Thailand sent its troops to intervene in Laos in 1960-1962, opposed Kampuchea's neutrality, and supported Ngo Dinh Diem, agent of the United States, against the Vietnamese people. Since the early 60's, Thailand has become a military base of the U.S. in opposing the three Indochinese countries.

During the U.S. war of aggression against Indochina, Thailand sent two divisions to join the U.S. forces in fighting in South Vietnam. Today, Thailand has become a base of China and the Indochinese reactionary forces to oppose the three Indochinese countries. From the 13th century to the start of the 20th century, the Thai authorities obtained some benefits resulting from their collusion with foreign countries to the detriment of all its neighbours in Southeast Asia. Since the Second World War, however, Thailand's collusion with the Japanese militarists and the U.S. imperialists has all failed. like-wise, its current collusion with China and Pol Pot is failing and is doomed to failure. The situation in Southeast Asia has changed since World War II, we hope that Thailand will cease its policy of siding with outside forces to oppose its neighbours and we think that it is necessary for it to adopt a friendly policy towards all its neighbours. This is because of the long-standing interests of the Thai people and of the other countries in this region.

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In history, Thailand has invaded Vietnam seven times whereas Vietnam **has never invaded Thailand**. Never the less Vietnam is willing to let bygones be bygones and look to the future, provided Thailand end its policy of colluding with foreign countries to counter the three Indochinese countries.

The peoples of Vietnam and Thailand are both victims of the Thai authorities' erroneous policy and the peoples of the two countries have so far been bound by a time-honoured and lasting friendship./.

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