

2/7/80

EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

12 Victoria Road - London W8-Tel. 01 937 1912

No. 07780
29th June, 1980

C O N T E N T S

- 1- STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ON THE
TENSION ON THE KAMPUCHEAN-THAI BORDER.
- 2- KAMPUCHEAN STATEMENT ON KAMPUCHEA - THAILAND
BORDER SITUATION.

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S T A T E M E N T

by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the
tension on the Kampuchean-Thai border

Over the last few days running the Thai authorities have spread the news that Vietnamese troops have crossed the Kampuchean border in violation of their territory. China and the United States have left no stone unturned in their efforts to incite public opinion and slanderously accused Viet Nam of committing aggression against Thailand. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Kuala Lumpur also echoed this allegation.

It is a trick to mislead public opinion on the real cause of the current tension reigning on the Kampuchean-Thai border, and to cover up the fact that China, ganging up with the United States and enjoying Thai assistance, is intensifying its hostile activities against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Entertaining an illusion of a military victory in this raining season, hoping for a change in their favour, China and the United States have for a long time now strived to rally, feed and equip the remnants of the Pol Pot clique and other Khmer reactionaries and sought to smuggle them back into Kampuchea from Thailand to carry out sabotage activities. In the implementation of their plan, part and parcel of this design is the so-called "voluntary repatriations" which is in fact aimed at illegally driving the people in masse back to Kampuchea, in the course of which the Khmer reactionary forces have also been brought back thus creating difficulties for the revolutionary administration.

Following repeated hostile armed actions which took place from June 16 to June 20, 1980 such as shelling, rocket firing and sending spies to the Kampuchean territory at Puoc Xat and Battambang border provinces, on June 22 and 23 the Thai authorities sent Khmer reactionary groups to infiltrate Kampuchean territory and supported by Thai artillery infantry,

tanks and air force opened fire in the Kampuchean border guards. This action by Thailand resulted in the hostilities breaking out on the border line extending from 20 to 30 kms at the Northeastern part of Poi Pet.

The slanderous allegations accusing Viet Nam of invading Thailand will in no way cover up the above-mentioned fact. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is determined to expose to world public opinion the above-said dark manoeuvres and tricks of the U.S. imperialists, the Beijing reactionaries and the Thai authorities.

In order to carry out their expansionist designs in Southeast Asia, the Beijing reactionary rulers are trying to sow division among the countries in this area and oppose the tendency of promoting mutual understanding between them in the interests of each country and for the sake of peace and stability of the area, Thailand and the other ASEAN countries should refrain from falling in their designs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam reaffirms that the consistent policy of Vietnam is respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand. It also reiterates the determination of the Vietnamese people and government to continuously strengthen the militant friendship with and mutual support to Kampuchea and Laos in defence of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country.

The Vietnamese people and government always desire to build and develop the peaceful relationship, friendship, cooperation and good neighbourliness with Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia on the basic of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, so as to build together a peaceful, stable and prosperous Southeast Asia, thus contributing to the maintenance of world peace.

Hanoi, June 27, 1980.

KAMPUCHEAN STATEMENT ON KAMPUCHEA-THAILAND BORDER SITUATION

Hanoi VNA June.- S.P.K. today released statement of the Kampuchean Foreign Ministry concerning the present situation at the Kampuchea border with Thailand.

The statement reads :

Over recent days the Thai authorities, the Thai and Western press have grossly distorted happenings along the Kampuchea-Thailand border. The Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Kampuchea deems it necessary to make clear the truth about these happenings.

1- Since the birth of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council has clearly expounded its foreign policy of peace, friendship and cooperation with all countries regardless of their political systems, article 10 of the political programme of the National United Front for the Salvation of Kampuchea also advocates the settlement of differences with neighbouring countries through peaceful negotiations, on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity ... To restore the relations of friendship, cooperation and good neighbourliness with the Southeast Asian countries, and contribute to the building of a peaceful, independent, free, neutral, stable and prosperous Southeast Asia.

Loyal to that correct foreign policy, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council has many times proposed contacts with Thailand, a neighbour country having common borders with Kampuchea so as to settle problems concerning the two countries including the problem of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand. On June 6 and 13, 1980 the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Kampuchea again proposed to solve the tension at the border and other questions of mutual concern. The Thai Red Cross has proposed a meeting in Phnom Penh, Bangkok or a place at the border to settle the problem of repatriation of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand.

The Kampuchean side does not consider the recognition of Kampuchea by Thailand as a condition for such contacts.

It is regrettable that the fair and reasonable proposal of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have been rejected by Thailand.

2- Meanwhile, though professing neutrality, the Thai authorities, have closely colluded with the Beijing expansionists, the U.S. imperialists and other reactionary forces in training and equipping the Pol Pot remnants and other reactionary forces, allowed Beijing to transport weapons through Thailand to supply to those elements, and use Thai territory as a starting place to infiltrate into Kampuchea to massacre Kampuchean people and sabotage their peaceful life and peaceful construction.

The Thai authorities have also used "humanitarian aid" to entice Kampucheans living near the border to flee to Thailand. This is aimed on the one hand at creating instability in Kampuchea, and on the other, at using these people as a reserve force to replenish the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary armed gangs and other reactionary groups.

To lend a hand to the Beijing expansionists and other reactionaries for carrying out the "rainy season campaign" and under the "voluntary repatriation" signboard, they recently sent thousands of remnant troops of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary and reactionary Sereika armed gangs - trained and equipped - back to Kampuchea for sabotaging activities.

More blatant still, Thailand has repeatedly sent aircraft deep into Kampuchea for spying activities, even to fire rockets and bomb on Kampuchean people. Thailand - based mortars and artillery have on many occasions shelled densely populated areas of Kampuchea, Thai ships carrying weapons and reactionary commandoes have landed on the Kampuchean coast.

It is clear that the Thai authorities continue to systematically violate the independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Their collusion with Beijing and

the U.S. has caused permanent tension at the border between the two countries and posed direct and dangerous threats to the security of Kampuchea, and is sabotaging peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

To defend the national sovereignty and the peaceful life of the people is a sacred and legitimate right of every nation. The Kampuchean armed revolutionary forces have the right and obligation to counter-attack the armed reactionaries and to wipe them out. The People's Republic of Kampuchea always respects Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but it is resolved not to allow anybody to trample upon its sovereignty, infringe upon its territory and interfere in Kampuchea's internal affairs.

The Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of Kampuchea categorically rejects the "thief crying stop thief" allegations of the Thai authorities. It once again calls on the Thai authorities to stop immediately their adventurous and criminal acts against the People's Republic of Kampuchea, respond to the latter's goodwill proposals, hold talks with it to settle problems concerning the interests of the two neighbour countries, and build a border of peace and friendship in keeping with the fine traditions marking the relations between the two peoples ./.
