

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/7279
3 May 1966
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 23 APRIL 1966 FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF CAMBODIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that on 3 April 1966 at about 7.30 p.m., a unit of the Thai Armed Forces about 100 strong attacked and burned the Cambodian post held by nine guards appointed to watch over the temple of Preah Vihear. The aggressors captured five of these guards and occupied the temple.

On 6 April 1966, the Khmer Armed Forces recaptured and reoccupied the temple after stiff resistance from the Thais who, as they withdrew, killed the five captured men on the spot.

Withdrawing, the Thai Armed Forces positioned themselves opposite the temple of Preah Vihear and kept up an incessant mortar harassment of the dispositions of the Royal Khmer Armed Forces.

On 11 April 1966 at about 5 p.m., some thirty shells were launched at the temple. Two shells fell near the Khmer dispositions.

On 12 April 1966, in the morning and in the afternoon, the Thai forces again opened fire with heavy weapons, landing two shells in the temple precincts.

On the night of 14-15 April 1966, a large element of Thai forces estimated at some 700 men arrived to reinforce the Thai positions.

On 15 April 1966 at about 7.20 a.m., mortar fire was resumed in the direction of Preah Vihear, slightly wounding one of the defenders.

On 17 April 1966 at about 7 a.m., mortar fire was again resumed, seriously wounding two defenders of the temple. On the same day, at about 5.10 p.m., the Thai forces again opened mortar and automatic fire, inflicting light wounds on three men, including two soldiers and one member of the National Defence Forces.

On 19 April 1966 at about 4.20 p.m., Thai Armed Forces estimated at battalion strength attacked the Khmer positions at Preah Vihear with the support of heavy mortar fire and armoured vehicles. The Thai forces three times tried to take the temple by storm. The attack lasted about two hours.

It should be stressed that these attacks and the occupation by force of Preah Vihear, and the various attempts to reoccupy the monument, follow a long series of incursions into Khmer territory, with murder and pillaging, perpetrated by Thais in the course of recent months. The recurrence of these provocations seems likely, as in September 1940, to be the prelude to a large-scale attack on Cambodia.

I venture once again to draw your attention and that of the Security Council to the following:

On the night of 16-17 November 1965 at about 3 a.m., a Thai unit of fifty men attacked the Cambodian post of Chhné Khsach, in the Province of Koh Kong, 800 metres from the Thai frontier post of Hat Lek, an attack which was launched from the Hat Lek post and cost Cambodia three dead and nine wounded.

On 30 and 31 December 1965, a Thai unit of 200 men, supported by aircraft, attacked the Cambodian post of O-Smach, in the Province of Oddor Meanchey, 1,500 metres inside our territory, costing the defenders seven dead (including a captain) and eight wounded (including the Governor of the Province), as well as causing considerable material damage.

On 3 April 1966 at about 8.50 a.m., a jeep of the Khmer Defence Forces was blown up by a mine laid by infiltrated elements of the Thai Armed Forces, in the vicinity of O-Momeang on the Chrung-Paong road, four kilometres south-east of the Phum of Chrung, Srok of Samrong, Province of Oddor Meanchey. This criminal act resulted in four dead, including a Major of the Royal Khmer Armed Forces.

In addition, it should be noted that since the first attack on the night of 16-17 November 1965, the Thai Armed Forces have kept up incessant mortar and gun fire on the regions of O-Smach, Chhné Khsach and Cham Yeam, with air and naval support.

These acts of aggression have all been the subject of the most vigorous protest by the Khmer authorities.

In consequence, the Royal Government of Cambodia is obliged to bring before the Security Council a complaint against the Royal Government of Thailand for its repeated aggressions against Khmer territory and the occupation by force of the temple of Preah Vihear, all acts constituting violations of the United Nations Charter and the judgement of the International Court of Justice at The Hague of 15 June 1962 confirming that the temple of Preah Vihear is situated in territory

under the sovereignty of Cambodia. To this effect, it is appropriate to quote a passage from the statement by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State, made at Choam Ksan on 4 January 1963. "... The Thais have finally, after much prevarication and many delaying manoeuvres, evacuated Preah Vihear. That has unfortunately not prevented them from 'making good the loss' by further expansionism: they have drawn a new frontier line, to our disadvantage, in the neighbourhood of Preah Vihear itself. In particular, they have laid barbed wire and set up military or police posts which in certain places encroach to a considerable depth on our territory, thus scorning the judgement of the International Court of Justice."

It is moreover, clearly stipulated in Article 92 (2) of the Charter that "If any party to a case fails to perform the obligations incumbent upon it under a judgement rendered by the Court, the other party may have recourse to the Security Council, which may, if it deems necessary, make recommendations or decide upon measures to be taken to give effect to the judgement."

The Royal Government of Cambodia wishes, lastly, to draw the Security Council's attention to the gravity of the situation on the Khmer-Thai frontier and to the threat presented by this situation to the peace and stability of this part of the world.

Accept, Sir, etc.

(Signed) NORODOM KANTOL
Chairman of the Council of Ministers
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Royal Government of Cambodia
