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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

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Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 7 January 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 8 December 1982 (A/37/729-S/15517) and upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the latest incident perpetrated by the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea against the Thai people and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand. This incident occurred on 31 December 1982 at 2.20 p.m. while the local Thai citizens were going about their daily business in peace at Ban Danpattana, Kap Choeng District, Surin Province; they became unwitting victims of several barrages of artillery fire which continuously took place for more than an hour until the Thai forces, stationed inside Thai territory, in exercise of the legitimate right to self-defence, returned fire. The Thai military authorities gave the following documented report of the incident:

Over 30 artillery shells exploded in Ban Danpattana, a village about 7 kilometres inside the border, destroying private houses, farms and livestock as well as damaging several public structures and facilities. Most tragic were the deaths of four Thai children. Eight others were seriously injured.

The Royal Thai Government condemns in the strongest terms this indiscriminate shelling over the Thai-Kampuchea border by the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea. The deaths of the four Thai children are directly the responsibility of the Vietnamese authorities. They must bear the full consequences of their actions.

The Royal Thai Government once again wishes to reaffirm its intention to invoke every means available to protect the lives of innocent Thai citizens and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Thailand from these hostile acts perpetrated by foreign forces illegally occupying Kampuchea.

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I have the honour to request that the text of this note be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "The situation in Kampuchea" and "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI
Permanent Representative
