

**Small files: Cambodia  
1958-1961, Cyprus 1957-1960:  
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Dag Hammarskjöld's saml.

Cambodia

Dec. 58 - Feb. 59

Wan Waithayakon (Prince, Perm. Representative  
of Thailand to the U.N.)

- 3 letter to D.M.
- 3 letter from D.M.
- 1 encl. (communication of Cambodian Delegation)

UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY  
COUNCIL



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 8 DECEMBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 29 November 1958 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia addressed to Your Excellency, enclosing a communication from the Royal Government of Cambodia, dated 28 November 1958 (Document S/4121), alleging that troops on a war footing and large amounts of military equipment are being concentrated by the Government of Thailand on the Cambodian frontier and that this constitutes a threat to peace in that part of the world.

Under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that the above allegations are completely false and untrue and that Thailand is prepared to welcome any United Nations representative to observe the situation in the border area between Thailand and Cambodia. If, for instance, Your Excellency should consider the present case as falling within the purview of Article 99 of the Charter, my Government would be happy to welcome your representative to Thailand and would afford him every possible facility to inspect our border area.

I am to point out that what Thailand has done has been to increase police reinforcements along the border posts in order to prevent unwarrantable entry and armed raids conducted by Cambodia and, in particular, infiltrations into Thailand by undesirable elements from Cambodia but no concentration whatever of troops or military equipment has been undertaken.

S/4126  
English  
Page 2

With regard to the communication from the Royal Government of Cambodia above referred to, I am enclosing herewith a memorandum in reply.

I am instructed to request that this matter be brought to the attention of the States Members of the United Nations.

Accept, etc.

(Signed) Wan Waithayakon

Prince Wan Waithayakon  
Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations

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MEMORANDUM

In reply to the Communication from the Royal Government  
of Cambodia, dated 29 November 1958

1. Severance of Diplomatic Relations. - On 24 November 1958, the Cambodian Ambassador in Bangkok handed a Note to the Acting Foreign Minister of Thailand, suspending the diplomatic mission of Cambodia in Thailand provisionally until further notice as from 1 December 1958, thus taking the initiative in severing diplomatic relations with Thailand.
2. The Temple of Phra Vihar (Presh Vihear). - This is an ancient shrine on the Thai side of the watershed frontier line as defined in the treaties and Thailand has been in possession of it long before Cambodia became independent and not since 1953 as alleged by the Government of Cambodia.
3. Negotiations. - The Government of Cambodia admits that the Government of Thailand took the initiative in proposing negotiations not only for the settlement of the question of Phra Vihar but for the promotion of good neighbourly relations as well. This is the general policy of the Thai Government vis-a-vis its immediate neighbours. In fact, Thailand's relations with Burma, Laos and Malaya are excellent.
4. Frontier Traffic Agreement. - The Thai Government felt that its frontier traffic agreement with Laos and with Cambodia should be uniform, for this would be in the interests of the populations concerned, and so negotiations were undertaken accordingly. Thus it was not a case of mere denunciation but termination to be followed by a new uniform agreement. This was explained to the Cambodian Delegation.
5. Thai Armed Forces. - There has been no concentration of troops or military equipment along the Thai-Cambodian frontier. There have only been police reinforcements along the border posts, as occasion requires, in order to prevent unwarrantable entry and armed raids conducted by Cambodia and, in particular, infiltrations into Thailand by undesirable elements from Cambodia.
6. Demonstration. - The Cambodian Delegation broke up the negotiations and there was a demonstration after they left but it certainly was not inspired by a member of the Thai Government: there had been a demonstration at Pnom Penh earlier.

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7. Willingness to Negotiate. - The Thai Government has repeatedly declared its willingness to negotiate and has many times invoked Article 33 of the Charter.
8. Press Campaign. - Virulent attacks against Thailand have come from the Cambodian press and even from official quarters, including abusive statements made by members of the Cambodian Government.
9. Foreign Hostile Elements. - Foreign elements hostile to Thailand exist in Cambodia and it is natural that Thailand should maintain a cautious and watchful attitude on its border.
10. Border Raids by Cambodian Gangs. - The Thai authorities have shown great restraint in connexion with such raids, as a result of which many Thai nationals and properties have considerably suffered. For instance, on 20 November 1958, 32 Thai nationals, 18 men, 8 women and 6 children, were forcibly taken into Cambodia by the Cambodian police and they have not been returned yet. Again, on 27 November, fourteen more Thai nationals were forcibly taken into Cambodia by the Cambodian police but they were subsequently allowed to return.
11. Severance of Diplomatic Relations Unjustified. - No valid reason has been given by the Government of Cambodia to justify the severance of its diplomatic relations with Thailand. Indeed, it is unjustifiable.
12. Thailand Ready to Resume Diplomatic Relations. - The Government of Cambodia has proposed that diplomatic relations be resumed at the Chargé d'Affaires level. The Government of Thailand, however, maintains that normal diplomatic relations should be resumed at the Ambassadorial level. The Government of Cambodia was also informed that Thailand considers the release and return to Thailand of the thirty-two Thai nationals who have been forcibly taken into Cambodia and are still detained by the Cambodian authorities as essential for the restoration of normal relationships. Finally, Thailand assured the Government of Cambodia that once these steps have been taken, the Thai authorities will promptly consider the withdrawal of the precautionary measures which have been taken with a view to ensuring the safeguard of security and protection of the Thai people.

Permanent Mission of Thailand  
New York, 8 December B.E. 2501 (1958)

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Services  
Office of Public Information  
United Nations, N.Y.

(For use of information media -- not an official record)

Press Release SG/784  
6 February 1959

CABLE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FROM THE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THAILAND

Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold received today the following cable, sent from Bangkok by Prince Wan Waithayakon, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations:

"On this happy occasion of the agreement for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Cambodia, may I, on behalf of the Thai Government and myself, express to Your Excellency our profound appreciation and thanks for the effective and successful good offices of His Excellency Ambassador Baron Johan Beck-Friis, your Special Representative. Thanks to your wisdom in sending him, and thanks to his efforts, the two countries will be encouraged to live together in peace with one another as good neighbors.

"With warm personal regards,

"Wan Waithayakon, Permanent Representative Thailand."

\* \* \* \* \*

17 December 1958

Excellency,

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I have the honour to transmit to you  
a copy of a communication received from  
the delegation of Cambodia.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of  
my highest consideration.

Dag Hammarskjöld

H.E. Prince Wan Waithayakon,  
Permanent Representative of  
Thailand to the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Thailand  
to the United Nations,  
20 East 82nd Street,  
New York, N.Y.

C O P I E

New York, le 11 décembre 1958

Excellence,

En me référant à votre transmission en date du 9 décembre de la lettre du Représentant permanent de la Thaïlande et à ma lettre du 29 novembre 1958, relative à la concentration de troupes et de matériel de guerre faite par le Gouvernement de la Thaïlande à la frontière du Cambodge j'ai l'honneur, sur les instructions de mon Gouvernement, de vous faire parvenir un mémorandum énumérant un certain nombre de faits que les autorités, la presse et la radio thaïes ont volontairement déformé ou inventé pour rejeter la responsabilité sur le Gouvernement cambodgien et pour justifier les mesures prises ou à prendre éventuellement contre le Cambodge.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Excellence, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

Son Excellence  
Monsieur Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secrétaire général des Nations Unies  
Nations Unies  
New York

(s) Nong Kimny  
Représentant permanent du Cambodge

COPIE

MEMORANDUM

A la suite de la décision prise par le Gouvernement de la Thaïlande de concentrer des troupes et du matériel de guerre à la frontière du Cambodge, les autorités, la presse et la radio thaïes ont mené une campagne pour déformer et inventer des faits dans le but de rejeter les responsabilités sur le Gouvernement cambodgien et de justifier son attitude envers le Cambodge.

C'est ainsi que la presse thaïe a propagé la nouvelle que le Cambodge a entretenu des troupes chinoises à la frontière. Ceci est une pure calomnie: il n'y a pas un seul soldat chinois dans le territoire du Cambodge.

Les autorités et la presse thaïes ont prétendu que la décision prise par le Cambodge de suspendre les relations diplomatiques avec la Thaïlande a été prise sous l'influence des puissances communistes en vue de créer des désordres dans le Sud-Est Asiatique et de permettre aux Communistes d'intervenir dans cette région. Cette nouvelle est une pure spéculation. Le Cambodge a agi en toute indépendance et sa décision a été imposée par l'attitude inamicale du Gouvernement de Thaïlande. Aucune influence extérieure n'a été exercée sur le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge.

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Après la fermeture de la frontière par le Gouvernement de Thaïlande, le 25 novembre 1958, les autorités thaïes ont accusé la police cambodgienne d'avoir emmené de force trente et un nationaux thaïs. En vérité ces trente et un citoyens thaïs ont d'eux-mêmes franchi clandestinement la frontière et ont volé du paddy sur pied dans le village de Komrieng situé à quatre kilomètres à l'intérieur du territoire cambodgien. Ces voleurs thaïs étaient armés de dix fusils de fabrication locale.

La station de radiodiffusion thaïe a diffusé ces derniers jours les nouvelles suivantes: deux unités khmères ont tiré des coups de fusil le 25 novembre sur la Thaïlande à huit cents mètres du village frontière d'Aranya; le 26 novembre, près du même village, un pillage a été commis par une bande khmère armée de fusils de guerre au cours duquel un piqueur khmer a été tué; cinq paysans et cinq enfants thaïs ont été arrêtés par des soldats cambodgiens s'infiltrant dans la province de Trad. Ces nouvelles sont absolument dénuées de toute vérité.

Récemment, l'ancien Vice-Ministre des Affaires étrangères thaï a déclaré au cours d'une conférence de presse que nous nuisons à la Thaïlande et la discréditons sur la scène internationale par notre demande d'envoi d'observateurs de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

à la frontière entre le Cambodge et la Thaïlande. Si le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge envisageait une demande d'envoi d'observateurs de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, il le ferait uniquement en vue de sauvegarder la paix et la sécurité internationales, comme il en a le droit aux termes des articles 39 et suivants de la Charte des Nations Unies et devant la menace causée à sa sécurité par les concentrations de troupes et d'équipement militaire à sa frontière. A cet égard, le Gouvernement de Thaïlande a reconnu qu'il a envoyé des renforts de police aux postes situés le long de la frontière. Or il est connu que les forces de police thaïes sont aussi bien armées et équipées que l'armée thaïe elle-même.

Immédiatement après la fermeture de la frontière décidée par le Gouvernement de la Thaïlande le 25 novembre 1958, le Gouvernement de la Thaïlande a proposé au Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge l'installation de Chargé d'affaires à Bangkok et à Phnom-Penh. Le Gouvernement du Cambodge a accepté cette proposition et a même donné le nom du fonctionnaire cambodgien désigné comme Chargé d'affaires du Cambodge à Bangkok. Mais le Gouvernement thaï s'est rétracté et demande maintenant la reprise des relations diplomatiques au niveau d'Ambassadeur. Par la même occasion, le Gouvernement thaï demande la libération des trente et un prisonniers comme condition préalable à la reprise des relations diplomatiques normales.

Toute cette campagne de fausses nouvelles vise à montrer à l'opinion internationale que le Cambodge est le provocateur, et a nettement pour objectif de justifier les mesures prises ou à prendre éventuellement par la Thaïlande contre le Cambodge.

En ce qui concerne la reprise des négociations pour le règlement de la question du temple cambodgien de Preah Vihear, le Gouvernement Royal du Cambodge, conformément à ses déclarations, attend en vain depuis trois mois les contacts annoncés au début de Septembre 1958 par la Thaïlande.

Le Gouvernement du Cambodge assure le Gouvernement de Thaïlande qu'il est prêt à reprendre les relations diplomatiques normales dès que la Thaïlande aura retiré ses forces militaires et de police de la région frontière, et aura donné des preuves de son désir d'entretenir avec le Cambodge des relations pacifiques d'amitié et de bon voisinage dans l'intérêt des peuples intéressés.

*Seeger*

RECEIVED  
FEB 6 1959  
TELETYPE UNIT

96 (UN2) SSS NY 108/105 6 1818Z \*

HRH PRINCE WAN WAITHAYAKON

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BANGKOK (THAILAND) \*

I WARMLY THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS CABLE WHICH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED STOP IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOR MY REPRESENTATIVE TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND IN THE EFFORT TO REESTABLISH GOOD \*

P2/58/53 \*

NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA STOP I EXPRESS ON MY OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF BARON BECK-FRIIS OUR HIGH APPRECIATION FOR THE CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION WHICH WE HAVE ENJOYED STOP I WISH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY THE GREATEST SUCCESS IN YOUR CONTINUED WORK FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS FOR THE COUNTRY \*

DAG HAMMARSKJOLD SECRETARYGENERAL UNATIONS NEWYORK +

CFM NIL +

UNITED NATIONS  
1959 FEB -6 PM 1:29  
TELEGRAPH UNIT

Mission  
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No. /2501

17 December 1958

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 16 December, in which, replying to my letter of 8 December, you asked me whether, on an informal good-offices basis, my Government would be willing to welcome a representative of the Secretary-General to visit the border area on both sides of the frontier within the near future.

Under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that inasmuch as the matter of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries appears to reach a deadlock, it would seem to them advisable for the Secretary-General to send his representative to observe the border area in order to prevent deterioration along the frontier.

I am, therefore, happy to return an affirmative reply to your inquiry above referred to.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

Prince Wan Waithayakon  
Krommün Maradhip Bongaprabandh  
Permanent Representative of Thailand  
to the United Nations

His Excellency  
Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld  
Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
United Nations  
New York, New York

96 (UN2) SSS NY 108/105 6 1818Z \*

HRH PRINCE VAN WAITHAYAKON

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

BANGKOK (THAILAND) \*

I WARMLY THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS CABLE WHICH I HAVE JUST RECEIVED STOP IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AND FOR MY REPRESENTATIVE TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND IN THE EFFORT TO REESTABLISH GOOD \*

P2/58/95 \*

NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA STOP I EXPRESS ON MY OWN BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF BARON BECK-FRIIS OUR HIGH APPRECIATION FOR THE CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION WHICH WE HAVE ENJOYED STOP I WISH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND COUNTRY THE GREATEST SUCCESS IN YOUR CONTINUED WORK FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS FOR THE COUNTRY \*

DAG HAMMARSKJOLD SECRETARYGENERAL UNATIONS NEWYORK +

CFM NIL +

SECRETARIAT  
503 FEB -6 PM 1:29  
UNITED NATIONS

16 December 1958

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 8 December, 1958, which has been circulated as a document of the Security Council. I note that in that letter you have said that if I should consider the present case as falling within the purview of Article 99 of the Charter, your Government would be happy to welcome my representative to Thailand and would afford him every possible facility to inspect your border area.

I do not consider it possible for me to pass any judgment on the substance of the case in point, but on the basis of the information available to me, I do not feel that it would fall within the purview of Article 99 of the Charter. However, noting the interest of the Government of Cambodia in a visit by a representative of the Secretary-General, and noting, further, the spirit of your statement as referred to above, I feel that a visit by a representative on a non-official basis should not be excluded because of the fact that Article 99 does not apply.

My own feeling is that such a visit might prove helpful in order to re-establish confidence. In these circumstances I would like to ask you whether, on an informal good-offices basis, your Government would be willing to welcome a representative of the Secretary-General to visit the border area on both sides of the frontier within the near future.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

D. H.

H.R.H. Prince Wan Waithayakon,  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations,  
Permanent Mission of Thailand to the  
United Nations,  
20 East 82nd Street,  
New York, N.Y.