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LETTER DATED 13 OCTOBER 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the members of the Security Council, the following message from Marshal Lon Nol, President of the Khmer Republic. It contains information on the raid, by a commando of sappers and frog-men of the Viet-Cong and North Viet-Nameese armed forces, on the M.113 tank base and the Chruai Changvar bridge in Phnom Penh, which took place on 7 October 1972 at about 2.30 a.m.

"1. Enemy losses, recorded at 2.30 a.m. after the bridge had been mined with plastic explosives, totalled 81 Viet-Cong and North Viet-Nameese killed and 6 Viet-Cong and North Viet-Nameese sappers captured. Among the prisoners were Captain Nguyen Van Phong, deputy commander of the entire operation, who was seriously wounded and is now in hospital, and Lieutenant Nguyen Van Chan, commander of Group A, who was wounded and taken prisoner by our defence forces.

2. According to information given by the Lieutenant, three groups of specialized Viet-Cong and North Viet-Nameese took part in the operation. All of them belonged to sapper group 367, and there were two Chinese guides from Phnom Penh.

Group A, commanded by the Lieutenant, consisted of 26 men, all sappers, plus 15 drivers, all North Viet-Nameese, trained specially to drive M.113 tanks. Its mission was to attack and take over the M.113 tanks in the municipal stadium.

Group B, composed of 25 men, all sappers, was commanded by Lieutenant Hong Son, seconded by Lieutenant Tran Van Nhut. The latter died in hospital as a result of his wounds. Like Group A, its mission was to attack M.113 tanks.

Group C, numbering 35 frog-men and commanded by Captain Nguyen Van Phong, was to place plastic explosives on the Chruai Changvar bridge, in the electric power plant and the petrol storage area at Russei Keo in the suburbs of Phnom Penh.

Thus the enemy had 103 men in all, 101 sappers and 2 Chinese guides.

3. The attacks were carefully prepared two months in advance and the final briefing took place on 5 October 1972. On 6 October at 5.30 p.m., the three groups left their attack base at Anlong Sleng, some 15 kilometres north-east of Phnom Penh.

The enemy lost 81 dead and 6 prisoners; in other words, 87 men out of a total force of 103 were left behind out of action.

4. Thus the North Viet-Nameese and the Viet-Cong are still riding roughshod over our independence by attacking us and interfering in Khmer affairs, killing Buddhist priests, old people, men, women and children, as well as soldiers. It is they who force certain Khmer citizens whom they have in their power to attack the Khmer people and to serve the cause of North Viet-Nameese and Viet-Cong imperialism and expansionism in the Khmer Republic and South-East Asia.

5. On this occasion these barbarous acts cost the lives of 13 Khmer soldiers and 13 Khmer civilians (7 women and 6 children). Furthermore, 58 soldiers were wounded. The material damage includes 10 M.113 tanks and 10 houses destroyed and an important bridge partially demolished.

6. These attacks occurred soon after those made by the same North Viet-Nameese and Viet-Cong aggressors with their tanks, near Kompong Trabek and Svay-Rieng and other places in the Khmer Republic.

7. In view of the preceding information, the Government of the Khmer Republic reserves the right to claim damages from the North Viet-Nameese and the Viet-Cong, at the end of hostilities, for all the damage and losses caused by them since their invasion of the Khmer Republic. Signed: Lon Nol."

I should be grateful if you would have this communication circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) TRUONG CANG
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Khmer Republic to the
United Nations

