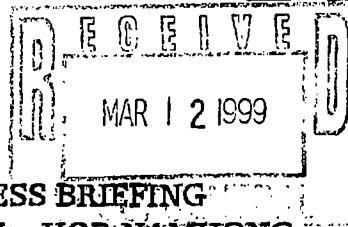


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PRESS BRIEFING
OF H.E. MR. HOR NAMHONG
SENIOR MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
ON MARCH 12, 1999

C
 cc Mr. Corell
 Mr. de Soto
 ST
 [Signature] 12/3

(R#20)

The Foreign Minister informed the Secretary General as follows :

- The letter of the two Co-Prime Ministers dated 21 June 1997 addressed to him have not been met until last November 1998.

- From March 1998, there were mass defection of the Khmer Rouge Officers and its rank and file culminated by the defection of the Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea on 25 December 1998. With these defections, the full peace prevails over all the country permitting the Royal Government of Cambodia to carry out rehabilitation, economic development for the sake of the Cambodian people.

- While peace is sine qua non condition for implementing the political program of the Royal Government of Cambodia, we share the view that justice should be found for the Cambodian people.

- Therefore according to article 6 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of the Genocide and article 33 of the Cambodia's Constitution a national tribunal will trial Ta Mok, the most barbarous top Khmer Rouge leader, we arrested on the 6th of March 1999.

- The Foreign Minister HOR NAMHONG believes that the National Tribunal would accept assistance from foreign experts and summon others people who were responsible for crime of genocide.

- It should be recalled that the culprits are Cambodians, the victims were Cambodians and the crimes of genocide were committed in Cambodia.

- Finally, H.E. Mr. HOR NAMHONG has, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, expressed his deep thanks to the Secretary General for his assistance to Cambodia, especially for the organization of the last July elections. He also invites the Secretary General to pay an official visit to Cambodia./.

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