The Cambodian people have valiantly withstood this aggression, have dispersed and expelled the aggressor forces of the SRV who are violating their territory, and have inflicted upon them a series of defeats on the battlefields.

(2) Why have the armed forces of the SRV carried out these acts of aggression, destruction and plunder in the territory of Democratic Cambodia and against the innocent Cambodian people; innumerable pieces of evidence prove, and a consideration of Vietnam's strategic political line shows, that the causes are as follows:

The immediate cause is that the aggressive Vietnamese forces have carried out these acts of violation and aggression against Cambodia in order to plunder rice and livestock from the Cambodian people as a solution to their hunger problem. The instructive SRV slogan addressed to its armed forces says: "If you do not attack Cambodia, you will starve to death; if you want to live, you must attack Cambodia". At the same time, the aggressive Vietnamese forces destroyed food crops, villages and co-operatives of the Cambodian people and have created all kinds of obstacles to prevent Democratic Cambodia from living in peace and to prevent the Cambodian people from improving their living conditions and building the country independently and self-reliantly, so that it will be easy for the SRV, now and in the future, to commit aggression against Cambodia and to launch offensives to annex and swallow up Cambodian territory.

But the fundamental cause is that the SRV has for a long time harboured a strategic desire to make Cambodia a member of the Vietnam-dominated Indochinese federation. Adhering to this strategic political basis, Vietnam has for many years carried out activities to exert pressure, to force and to provoke Cambodia in order to prevent Cambodia from existing in independence and sovereignty. It has tried to force Cambodia to become a member of the SRV's Indochinese federation so that Vietnam can annex Cambodia in a set period of time. The SRV thinks that if this aim could be achieved, in 30 years at the most, Vietnamese nationals would become the majority in Cambodia, for it would be possible to send from 500,000 to 1,000,000 Vietnamese nationals into Cambodia.

(3) In the face of these above-mentioned acts of aggression by the SRV, Cambodia has always maintained its time-honoured position of trying to strengthen solidarity with Vietnam with a view to coexisting as true friends. But at the same time Cambodia has constantly adhered to the stand of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance and has firmly upheld the honour of the nation and people. Because of this correct stand of Cambodia, Vietnam has carried out many manoeuvres and has committed several criminal acts, such as organizing a group of traitors to found a new party which was its instrument to sabotage the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK). When they set up their puppet authorities on Cambodian territory - since 1965 and especially from the period that followed the 18th March 1970 coup d'état - Vietnam secretly organized a group of hooligans into a separate Cambodian army as its instrument of Cambodian soil and created a separate Cambodian state administration to oppose and attack the Cambodian revolutionary state power under the leadership of the CPK, to divide and destroy the Cambodian revolutionary army, and so forth. However, these plans of Vietnam
were successfully defeated by the Cambodian people and the Cambodian revolutionary army from 1965 to 1975 until the Cambodian people and the Cambodian revolutionary army under the correct leadership of the CPK won total and definitive victory on 17th April 1975.

However, immediately after Cambodia was liberated, the Vietnamese forces stealthily took away Cambodia's Pou Hoi island and at the same time created provocations to seize Cambodian territory, ranging from areas of square inches to dozens of square kilometer, as dictated by their expansionist and annexationist features; and continuously and relentlessly strafed and shelled the border areas of Democratic Cambodia, expanded their territory and shamelessly set up bases on Cambodian soil in several areas such as in Ratanakiri and Mondolkiri, in the Eastern Region and in the South-Western Region. Actually, these territories belong to Cambodia and were sanctuaries begged as refuge on Cambodian soil from 1965 to 1975 when they had nowhere to stay in South Vietnam. This shows how ungrateful they are.

With regard to these questions, for generations since the time of the struggle against French colonialism, Vietnam has educated its cadres and troops that Cambodia has to be included in the Indochinese federation at all costs, otherwise Vietnam could not become a great power in South-East Asia. At present, its thrust being instilled that Cambodia is Vietnam's number one enemy, which must thus be taken by force. This is the stand and political line of the Vietnamese Party itself. In 1975 and 1976 Vietnam continuously conducted aggression and carried out criminal activities in an attempt to stage a coup d'etat overturning Democratic Cambodia through a handful of traitorous forces which were Vietnam's agents.

Towards all these acts, Democratic Cambodia has always shown tolerance and has constantly sought friendly solutions. However, Vietnam's response to the friendship and solidarity displayed by Democratic Cambodia was to believe that Cambodia was afraid of it, and it looked for means to cow and threaten Cambodia through all kinds of criminal methods.

(4) Moreover, Vietnam conducted many diplomatic manoeuvres in the international arena in 1975, 1976 and 1977, making the slanderous allegation that Democratic Cambodia was the provocateur aggressor against Vietnam. Vietnam did this with the intention of misleading world public opinion beforehand and in accordance with the plan of preparing world public opinion to isolate Cambodia, in order to facilitate its military aggression against Cambodia.

(5) Towards all the above-mentioned criminal acts, Democratic Cambodia has always maintained its stand of constantly searching for peace with Vietnam and has done its best to solve the problem peacefully, for Democratic Cambodia holds that this is the only way of settling the problems between the two countries.

In June 1975, immediately after the liberation of Cambodia, despite the fact that all that time Vietnam was seizing Cambodia's Pou Hoi island and although Cambodia was faced with many urgent problems, the Comrade Secretary of the CPK, the Comrade Deputy Secretary of the CPK and the Comrade Deputy Pre-
In 1977, the Vietnamese Ambassador accredited to Democratic Cambodia did not stay in Democratic Cambodia; only a charge d'affaires is left in residence. Whereas Cambodia has maintained the presence of its Ambassador in Hanoi up to the present as proof of its goodwill towards Vietnam, because Democratic Cambodia desires to solve the border problem on the basis of friendship and the principles of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Adopting the above-mentioned stand and in the situation where the Cambodian people and revolutionary army have to rise up against the ferocious and barbarous aggressive offensive launched by the aggressor Vietnamese forces, and with the approval of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Representative Assembly, which met in special session on 25th December 1977 under the chairmanship of Comrade Nuon Chea, the Government of Democratic Cambodia decides to issue this statement for the information of all friends of Democratic Cambodia and world public opinion so that they can clearly see the aggression launched by the armed forces of the SRV against Democratic Cambodia and clearly recognize Vietnam's expansionist and annexationist intentions against Cambodia.

It is the sacred aspiration of the Cambodian people to live in peace with honour in Cambodia which is independent and sovereign and which has territorial integrity. The cause defended by the Cambodian people is a just one, because the Cambodian people are opposing new acts of injustice and have refused to become the satellite or slave of anybody.

The Government of Democratic Cambodia is convinced that friends, near and far, of Democratic Cambodia and all independence and peace-loving world public opinion - all except the imperialists, reactionaries, expansionists and their supporters - will stand on the side of the Cambodian people's just cause. The Cambodian people will certainly triumph over the unjust aggression by the aggressor Vietnamese forces.

During the 1977 Vietnamese offensive against Democratic Cambodia, some foreign nationals have acted as advisers, experts and commanders in artillery regiments and tank squadrons which they gave to the Vietnamese forces. These people have acted as commanding officers in the battlefields on the border and in Cambodian territory close to the border where the forces of the SRV set up bases.

The Government of Democratic Cambodia holds that any foreign government and foreign nationals have every right to help and to become advisers and economic, cultural, technical, scientific and military experts in any country in accordance with the sovereignty of the country concerned; however, if these foreign nationals as advisers, experts and direct commanders participate in the aggression against Democratic Cambodia, these foreign nationals and their government are regarded by the Democratic Cambodian Government as having committed direct aggression against Democratic Cambodia and the Cambodian people.

For this reason, the Government of Democratic Cambodia strongly warns that all these foreign nationals and their government must put an immediate end to all acts of interference and aggression against Democratic Cambodia because the Government of Democratic Cambodia and the Cambodian people have never provoked
them. Otherwise they will be entirely responsible for the consequences.

(9) Democratic Cambodia constantly adheres to its foreign policy as stipulated in its Constitution that:

Democratic Cambodia strongly desires close friendly bonds with all countries sharing borders with it and with all countries, near and far, in the world based absolutely on the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Democratic Cambodia constantly adheres to the policy of independence, peace, neutrality and non-alignment, and allows no foreign country to set up a military base in Cambodia. It resolutely opposes all forms of outside interference in Cambodia's internal affairs and all forms of subversion and aggression directed from abroad against Cambodia, whether military, political, cultural, economic, social, diplomatic or under a humanitarian guise.

Democratic Cambodia will certainly not interfere in any country's internal affairs.

Democratic Cambodia resolutely respects the principle that each country can enjoy sovereignty and has the full right to manage and decide its own national affairs without outside interference.

Democratic Cambodia resolutely stays with the great family of the non-aligned.

Democratic Cambodia is making efforts to increase solidarity with the peoples of the Third World countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and with all peace- and justice-loving people in the world; actively supports them in the struggle against imperialism and old and new colonialism for the sake of genuine independence, peace, friendship, democracy, justice and progress in the world.