Peking, December 31, 1977 (IHSUUA) -- Pich Chean, ambassador of Democratic Kampuchea to China, read at a press conference here this morning the full text of a statement of the government of Democratic Kampuchea which was issued on December 31, 1977, in Phnom Penh. The statement gave an account of the Kampuchea-Vietnam border armed conflict and expounded the stand of the Democratic Kampuchean government.

The statement says: Since September 1977, the army of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, including many divisions of infantry dispatched from Hanoi with many hundreds of armoured cars and many hundreds of pieces of heavy artillery, with sometimes air support, has launched systematic and large-scale aggressions of invasion against Democratic Kampuchea with intent to loot paddy crops in the east region, at Trappeang Phlong, Stung Kreak, Memot. After that, in November 1977, the army of Vietnam has launched aggressions of invasion against the provinces of Svay Rieang and penetrated deeply on dozens of kilometers into the districts of Rongdul, Preah Srai, Kompong Chnang, and Chantrea. In December 1977, it has launched again large-scale aggressions of invasion against the province of Takeo, in the districts of Koh Andet and Kirivong and against the province of Kampot in the districts of Kompong Trach. At the same time, the army of Vietnam has harried, shelled, fired with machine-gun at all places in the territory of Democratic Kampuchea as in the provinces of Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Kandal, Prey Veng and Kandal, in the regions contiguous or near to the Kampuchea-Vietnamese frontier. The army of Vietnam has looted paddy crops on 2,000 to 3,000 hectares belonging to the people of Kampuchea at Trappeang Phlong, Stung Kreak, Memot, on more than 4,000 hectares in the province of Svay Rieang, and more than 2,000 hectares at Koh Andet and Kirivong in the province of Takeo. Besides, the Vietnamese aggression army want to sabotage the economy of Kampuchea in destroying rubber plantations and setting fire on forests.

Referring to the cause of the above-mentioned acts committed by Vietnam, the statement says: The fundamental reason is that Vietnam has for a long time cherished the strategic aim to make Kampuchea participate in an "Indochina federation" under the Vietnamese thumb.

It says: "With regard to these acts perpetrated by Vietnam, Kampuchea with its desire to live in good neighborhood as genuine friends, has kept a stand of maturity and wisdom and has worked for solidarity with Vietnam, but at the same time, it has always firmly abided by the position of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance, the honour and dignity of its nation and people."

Recalling the history of the relations between Kampuchea and Vietnam and the Democratic Kampuchean government's efforts to seek a friendly settlement of the question, it says: "Democratic Kampuchea has steadfastly abided by its position of consistently seeking friendship with Vietnam and has always striven to seek solutions in the spirit of friendship. Indeed Democratic Kampuchea considers that only such a position can lead to a solution to the problem between the two countries. "But the Vietnamese side chose not to take into consideration the goodwill of Democratic Kampuchea."

The statement says: "If the foreigners, advisers, experts or commanding officers take part in the attacks, aggression or invasion against Democratic Kampuchea, the government of Democratic Kampuchea considers them and their governments as direct aggressors against Democratic Kampuchea and its people." The statement issues a warning to them: "To immediately stop their acts of interference and aggression against Democratic Kampuchea."

It reiterates Democratic Kampuchea's foreign policy as follows:

"Democratic Kampuchea is endowed with goodwill and is firmly determined to maintain close and friendly relations with all countries having common borders with her, and with all countries near or far throughout the world on the strict basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Democratic Kampuchea abides by a policy of independence, peace, neutrality and non-alignment. No foreign country whatever is allowed to establish military bases on her territory. She resolutely stands against any foreign interference in her internal affairs and resolutely fights against all subversive and aggressive acts from outside whether they are military, political, cultural, economic, social, diplomatic or those so-called humanitarian acts.

"Democratic Kampuchea never interferes with the internal affairs of any other country. She scrupulously abides by the principle that every country is sovereign and has the right to dispose and decide by itself its internal affairs without any foreign interference."
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"Democratic Kampuchea resolutely places herself in the great family of non-aligned countries."

"Democratic Kampuchea does her utmost to develop her solidarity with the third-world peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America and with all peace-and-justice-loving peoples in the world, and to promote active mutual aid and support to the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for genuine independence, peace, friendship, democracy, justice and progress in the world."

Ambassador Pich Cheang also answered questions raised by newsmen. End item