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LETTER DATED 7 FEBRUARY 1980 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF VIET NAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, the  
1 February 1980 report of the Viet Nam News Agency on United States Congressman  
Lester Wolff's allegation that Viet Nam was still retaining the remains of  
400 Americans missing in the Viet Nam war and kindly request you to have this  
report and this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) NGUYEN NGOC DUNG  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Annex

PAPER REJECTS LESTER WOLFF'S SLANDER

Ha Noi, VNA 1 February - Lester Wolff's statement at a press conference in Washington on 30 January was nothing but a cynical slander, Nhan Dan says in a commentary today.

The paper was commenting on the United States Congressman's allegation that Viet Nam was still retaining the remains of 400 Americans missing in the Viet Nam war, and on his serial photographs of a Ha Noi building where, he said, these remains were kept in boxes ... The paper points out:

On 15 January, during his visit to Viet Nam, Lester Wolff raised this "question" with Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Phan Hien, who rejected it; after that, on 18 January, he requested a return to Ha Noi to follow up "this question". But once again he was given the clear and firm reply that the allegation was just an outright fabrication.

However, Mr. Wolff clung stubbornly to this false claim and held a press conference aimed at slandering Viet Nam.

After recalling Viet Nam's humanitarian policy and its goodwill in the search for information about Americans missing in the Viet Nam war, which has been demonstrated time and again and most recently, expounded in Phan Hien's message of 18 January to Mr. Wolff, Nhan Dan says:

"It is quite absurd that Lester Wolff has produced as his only evidence a statement made by a Vietnamese refugee of Chinese origin, whereas his colleague, Congressman George Danielson, who also visited Ha Noi, frankly said at the press conference that he was not convinced there were any remains and that there was no evidence.

"This is not the first time that hostile forces in the United States use refugees who have spread fabrications about Americans missing in Viet Nam to sling mud at Viet Nam and obstruct the normalization of relations between the two countries", the paper notes. It says:

"Once again, we categorically affirm that the sensational 'report' spread by Lester Wolff was nothing more than a blatant fabrication compatible with the sinister designs hatched by the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists who are seeking to hinder and sabotage American-Vietnamese relations, and even accelerated Sino-American collusion against Viet Nam."

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