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Letter dated 29 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the statement dated 25 September 1982 by the Viet Nam News Agency protesting against the signing of contracts between the Chinese authorities and foreign oil companies for the prospection and exploration of oil and gas in the eastern part of the Bac Bo (Tonkin) Gulf.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency could have this note and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

STATEMENT BY VIET NAM NEWS AGENCY

HANOI VNA SEPT 25 -- According to foreign sources, the Chinese authorities have made contracts with foreign oil companies for the prospecting and extraction of oil and gas in the Eastern part of the Bac Bo (Tonkin) gulf and will conduct geological surveys around the Vietnamese archipelagoes of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa.

Viet Nam News Agency is authorized to declare the following : the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, basing on valid historical and legal grounds has many times affirmed its sovereignty over Hoang Sa and Truong Sa and the entire territorial waters and continental shelf of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam will firmly defend its sacred sovereignty, and will not tolerate any encroachment on the resources held in its territorial waters and continental shelf.

Those foreign companies prospecting for oil in Viet Nam's territorial waters and continental shelf without permission from the Vietnamese Government will have to bear full responsibility for all consequences arising from their illegal activities.
