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Agenda item 11

REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 29 November 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement dated 28 November 1982 by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the circulation of this letter and its enclosure as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LING Qing  
Permanent Representative of  
the People's Republic of China

ANNEX

Statement dated 28 November 1982 by the spokesman of the Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

In its "Declaration on base line of Vietnam's territorial waters" issued on 12 November 1982, the Vietnamese Government groundlessly declared that the Boundary-Delimitation Convention signed between China and France in 1887 "had defined" the maritime boundary line in the Beibu Gulf, and even described China's Xisha Islands and Nansha Islands as Viet Nam's islands, announcing that base lines would be drawn for their territorial sea. This is a wilful distortion of the historical Sino-Vietnamese Boundary-Delimitation Convention and a gross violation of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

It must be pointed out that the Sino-Vietnamese boundary-Delimitation Convention signed between China and France in 1887 did not in any way delimit the maritime area in the Beibu Gulf. Therefore, no maritime boundary line has ever existed in the sea of the Beibu Gulf. On 26 December 1973, the Vietnamese Government formally stated to the Chinese Government that "owing to the fact that Viet Nam has been in a state of war, the maritime area of the Beibu Gulf has so far not been delimited between the two countries." This clearly indicated that originally, the Vietnamese Government also recognized the fact that China and Viet Nam had not delimited the Beibu Gulf.

The Government of the People's Republic of China hereby solemnly states that the so-called boundary line in the Beibu Gulf as asserted by the Vietnamese Government is illegal and null and void and reiterates that Xisha Islands and Nansha Islands are an inalienable part of China's sacred territory.

The Vietnamese Government's "Declaration on base line of Vietnam's territorial waters" has fully revealed the expansionist designs of the Vietnamese authorities to appropriate a vast sea area of the Beibu Gulf and to encroach upon China's territory. It is also a deliberate new step to further aggravate Sino-Vietnamese relations. The Vietnamese authorities must bear full responsibility for all the serious consequences that may arise therefrom.

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