



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/6185*
11 February 1965
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached letter dated 10 February 1965 from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam was addressed to the President of the Security Council with reference to the events dealt with in documents S/6174 and S/6178.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Last August, following the unprovoked attacks by the Viet-Cong torpedo boats against United States ships on the international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin and the response by the United States against these attacking boats and their supporting bases in North Viet-Nam, the Security Council has expressed the desire to welcome from the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam information relative to these incidents. By letter dated 13 August 1964 (Security Council document S/5892), I have, on behalf of my Government, submitted to the Security Council that these attacks on the high seas evidenced the aggressive policy of the Hanoi regime, and should be examined in the framework of Viet-Cong aggressions in South East Asia, and in particular their aggression against the Republic of Viet-Nam.

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that, as a fresh serious manifestation of these aggressive activities, in the early morning of 7 February, Viet-Cong forces, mainly infiltrated from Communist North Viet-Nam, and under the direction of the Hanoi regime, attacked Pleiku, Tuy-Hoa, and Nha-Trang in the Republic of Viet-Nam, inflicting numerous casualties and important damages.

In order to discourage the repetition of these brutal attacks, the Vietnamese Air Force, with the assistance of the United States Air Force, had to take action against Viet Cong major staging areas for the infiltration of guerrillas and armaments into South Viet-Nam, situated at Dong-Hoi and Vinh-Liah, near the border between the Republic of Viet-Nam and Communist North Viet-Nam.

This response has only a defensive purpose, and is intended to be of limited character. It is hoped that it will have a moderating effect on the Hanoi regime, whose aggressions against the Republic of Viet-Nam have been established by the International Control Commission. In its Special Report of 2 June 1962, the International Control Commission stated that:

(a) "... Armed and unarmed personnel, arms, munitions and other supplies have been sent from the Zone in the North to the Zone in the South with the object of supporting, organizing and carrying out hostile activities, including armed attacks, directed against the Armed Forces and Administration of the Zone in the South. These acts are in violation of articles 10, 19, 24 and 27 of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Viet-Nam.

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(b) "... The Zone in the North has been allowed to be used for inciting, encouraging and supporting hostile activities in the Zone in the South, aimed at the overthrow of the Administration in the South. The use of the Zone in the North for such activities is in violation of articles 19, 24 and 27 of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities in Viet-Nam."

In the past year, the number of cadres and guerrillas infiltrated from Communist North Viet-Nam into the Republic of Viet-Nam has been drastically increased in comparison with the previous years. The above-mentioned Viet-Cong attacks on 7 February are the manifestation of the increased tempo in the guerrilla warfare against the Republic of Viet-Nam directed from Hanoi.

To defend itself against this aggression directed and supported from the outside, the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam had to request assistance from friendly nations in the Free World. Over twenty nations have generously responded to this appeal. Among them, the United States of America has been in a position to give the most substantial assistance to the Republic of Viet-Nam, in its struggle for survival.

It is clear that the American military assistance to the Republic of Viet-Nam has been requested and has been given only in view of the Communist aggression, and will cease to be necessary whenever the Hanoi regime decides to stop effectively that aggression.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam strongly protests against the fallacious and grossly abusive statement made by the Soviet Government, in the note dated 9 February (Security Council document S/6178) addressed to Your Excellency by the representative of the Soviet Union to the United Nations, in which the Soviet Government asserted that South Viet-Nam is a United States occupied territory. It is well known that the classical device of the aggressors - and of their supporters - is to obscure the issues, and to try to be camouflaged as "liberators".

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would circulate this note as an official document of the United Nations Security Council.

I avail myself etc.

(Signed) Nguyen PHU DUC
Ambassador