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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 December 1979 from the Permanent
Representative of China to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a speech made by Han Nianlong, Head of the Chinese Government Delegation and Vice-Foreign Minister, at the 15th plenary meeting of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations on 19 December 1979.

I request that this speech be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Report of the Security Council", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHEN Chu,
Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of
China to the United Nations

ANNEX

SPEECH BY HAN NIANLONG, HEAD OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT
DELEGATION AND VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER, AT THE FIFTEENTH
PLENARY MEETING OF THE SINO-VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATIONS

19 December 1979

Head of the Vietnamese Government Delegation
Dinh Nho Liem,
Colleagues on the Vietnamese Delegation,

At the recent meetings of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations, the Vietnamese side tried hard to play up the tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border and invented many stories to shift the blame onto and attack China slanderously. Your sinister purpose in doing so, apart from deceiving the Vietnamese people and stirring up anti-China animosity, was to put up a smokescreen for your dry-season offensive against Kampuchea.

It is clear to all that the tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border is solely of the making of the Vietnamese authorities. For a very long period of time, the inhabitants on both sides of the Sino-Vietnamese boundary had lived in amity and peace, and the boundary had been one of peace and friendship. But after the conclusion of Viet Nam's war of resistance against U.S. aggression and the unification of the whole country, the Vietnamese authorities, emboldened by the backing of a superpower and, with their fast growing ambition of seeking hegemony in Southeast Asia, openly embarked on the road of aggression and expansion. Regarding China as their "number one enemy", they did everything possible to push a hostile anti-China policy. That was the reason why the long-standing stability and friendship along the Sino-Vietnamese border was unscrupulously undermined by the Vietnamese authorities. Since then there have been frequent border disputes and clashes and even serious armed border conflicts. Recently, the Vietnamese authorities have stepped up their armed provocations along the border, created incidents of bloodshed and even sent their personnel into Chinese territory to assault frontier posts, kidnap border inhabitants and loot property. They have also driven refugees en masse into China. Thus tension has kept growing along the Sino-Vietnamese border. The Vietnamese authorities would be grossly mistaken if they think that such a course of actions would benefit them in their anti-China campaign or help them intensify their aggression against Kampuchea and tighten their control over Laos. The Chinese side has always pursued a friendly and good-neighbourly foreign policy and has done its utmost to preserve peace and stability along

the Sino-Vietnamese border. But the Vietnamese authorities are bent on creating incidents along the border and encroaching upon China's territory and sovereignty. If you keep doing this, you will have to bear sole responsibility for the serious consequences arising therefrom.

In order to find a fundamental solution to the problems existing between the two countries, the Chinese side has repeatedly pointed out during the negotiations that it would not be difficult to relax the tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border provided the Vietnamese authorities stop pursuing their regional hegemonist and hostile anti-China policies and put an end to their provocations and invasion in Chinese border areas. Reluctant to get to the essence of the problem, however, the Vietnamese side has kept peddling its so-called "emergency measures" and "draft agreement" in an attempt to deceive and mislead public opinion. As a result, the negotiations have hardly made any progress but have remained long deadlocked. We would like to reiterate that in order to relax tension along the border and restore normal state relations between the two countries, it is essential to start with discussing the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the principle of not seeking hegemony. The Vietnamese side will never succeed in any trick they may play.

It must be pointed out that the current grave situation in Kampuchea has caused widespread concern in the international community. All the countries and people that uphold justice and love peace strongly demand that the Vietnamese authorities immediately withdraw all their aggressor troops from Kampuchea, so that the Kampuchean people may settle their own problems free from outside interference and pressure. Not long ago, the U.N. General Assembly adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution sponsored by the ASEAN and twenty-five other countries. This resolution gives expression to the will of the international community to oppose armed intervention in the internal affairs of other countries as well as its determination to support the Kampuchean people in safeguarding national independence and state sovereignty. In our negotiations, the Vietnamese side also claimed that it upheld the U.N. Charter, yet it lashed out at the above U.N. resolution, blatantly describing it as "a product of the counter-revolutionary system" and "something unreasonable and illegal". It went so far as to abuse the over ninety countries that voted in favour of the resolution. Since you have claimed adherence to the U.N. Charter, isn't this a slap on your own face? This peremptory attitude and abominable behaviour of yours can only place yourselves in opposition to the great majority of the countries in the world and court condemnation by the whole international community.

It should be noted that, while continuing to tighten their colonial rule in Laos, wantonly arresting and suppressing patriotic personages there, the Vietnamese authorities are sending more aggressor troops into Kampuchea to step up their war of aggression in defiance of the will of the people of the whole world and the U.N. resolution. What is more, they have deliberately created famine and pushed the Kampuchean people to the verge of extinction. Vietnamese aggressor troops have also made continued armed provocations against Thailand, thus menacing peace and security there and in Southeast Asia as a whole. We would like to remind the Vietnamese authorities once again that if you persist in this reckless course of action, you will be called to account by history. And grave consequences will result.

The year 1979 is drawing to a close, and 1980 is round the corner. It is very regrettable that so far there has been no progress in our negotiations. We earnestly hope that the Vietnamese side will face up to reality, carefully study the eight-point proposal put forward by the Chinese side, give heed to the just demand of the world's people and public opinion, and proceeding from the long-term interests of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples, really do something useful to safeguarding peace and security in Indochina and Southeast Asia and restore the friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples so that our negotiations may take a turn for the better.
