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LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China on 30 December 1979. I request that this statement be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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

Annex

Statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China
dated 30 December 1979

Recently, the Soviet Union brazenly made a massive military invasion into Afghanistan, grossly interfering in its internal affairs. This armed intervention wantonly violates all norms of international relations. It not only encroaches upon the sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan but poses a grave threat to peace and security in Asia and the whole world. The Chinese Government vigorously condemns this hegemonistic action of the Soviet Union and firmly demands the cessation of this aggression and intervention in Afghanistan and the withdrawal of all Soviet armed forces.

The Soviet Union has long planned for this military invasion of Afghanistan. This is its grave step for a southward thrust to the Indian Ocean and the control of sea lanes; it is also an important part of the Soviet strategy for seizing oil-producing areas, outflanking Europe and so gaining world hegemony. The Soviet authorities have never had scruples in trying to realize their hegemonist ambitions, but this time they have acted most outrageously. From pulling the strings and using surrogates, their method has escalated to direct involvement with their own troops, armed occupation of a sovereign country and change of its Government by violent means. They have extended the use of the "theory of limited sovereignty" from their "community of nations" to a non-aligned and Islamic country of the third world.

It is utterly preposterous for the Soviet Union to invoke the United Nations Charter in defence of its aggression. People remember how the Soviet Union pretentiously proposed the inadmissibility of hegemonism at this very session of the United Nations General Assembly. However, scarcely did the General Assembly adopt a resolution against hegemonism when the Soviet Union, shedding all disguise, launched a naked military aggression wantonly challenging and flouting the United Nations Charter and principles of international law.

The Soviet Union claims that its armed intervention in Afghanistan was undertaken in fulfilment of treaty obligations at the request of the Afghan Government. This sophistry can fool no one. But this aggressor's logic warrants close attention. By its actions the Soviet Union shows that it is prepared to follow this logic and invade and occupy any country it wishes to invade and occupy. The Soviet Union itself acted according to this logic, and Viet Nam, under Soviet instigation, used the same pretext for its armed invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. How could the people of the world fail to be alerted by what is hidden behind the Soviet eagerness to sign "treaties of friendship and co-operation"?

The current Soviet armed aggression in Afghanistan is a big show of Soviet hegemonism. People have come to see more clearly the source of the main threat

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to world peace and the true nature of this so-called "natural ally" of the third world. They have also come to see more clearly that the Soviet hegemonists are most truculent and adventuristic, that the Soviet aggressive ambitions are unlimited, and that Soviet acts of aggression must be stopped effectively. The perverted Soviet action has already aroused the Afghan people to resistance and caused the grave concern of all countries and met with their strong condemnation. The Chinese Government and people will work tirelessly with all countries and people who love peace and uphold justice to frustrate Soviet acts of aggression and expansion.
