



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/41/206 /
S/17907
11 March 1986

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-first session
Items 39, 127 and 136 of the
preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Letter dated 11 March 1986 from the Acting Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on China's hostile policy vis-à-vis Viet Nam, issued at Hanoi on 10 March 1986.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 39, 127 and 136 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) BUI XUAN NHAT
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/41/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam on China's hostile policy vis-à-vis
Viet Nam, issued at Hanoi on 10 March 1986

On 12 February 1986, at the United Nations, the Chinese authorities issued a memorandum repeating their familiar arguments in justification of their policy of hostility and aggression vis-à-vis Viet Nam aimed at sparking off confrontation between the ASEAN States and Viet Nam, undermining peace and stability in South-East Asia and furthering their hegemonistic ambitions within the region. However, the Chinese administration cannot deny their criminal course.

1) The Chinese authorities insist that the deterioration of Sino-Vietnamese relations stems from "Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea and provocations against China". The truth is that ever since the early 1970s, China had taken advantage of the Vietnamese people's war of resistance to enter into collusion with the United States, bargained with the latter at the expense of the former, and reached an agreement on a solution that was supposed to help the United States withdraw its troops while maintaining its puppet régime in South Viet Nam in exchange for the withdrawal of American forces from Taiwan. In January 1974, with the assent of the United States, China seized the Hoang Sa (Paracels) archipelago then under the control of the Saigon puppet forces. Further, in the course of 1974, China staged 174 armed provocations along the border between the two countries.

The total victory of the Vietnamese revolution in 1975 wrecked the bargaining process between China and the United States. From 1975 to 1978, China, on the one hand, intensified its military pressure and its acts of provocation along the northern border of Viet Nam: 294 cases in 1975, 812 in 1976, 873 in 1977 and 2,175 in 1978. On the other hand, along the south-western border of Viet Nam, it made use of the subservient Pol Pot clique, turning Kampuchea into a stepping stone from which to attack Viet Nam immediately following the liberation of the south. This two-pronged strategy having been defeated, on 17 February 1979, the Chinese authorities deployed 600,000 troops in a blatant, large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam. Since then they have been waging a multifaceted war of sabotage against Viet Nam with the evil purpose of undermining the latter's peace-time reconstruction. China constantly maintains large military forces 15-to-20 division strong close to the Sino-Vietnamese border, carrying out tens of thousands of armed provocations, regularly conducting fierce destructive shelling against numerous areas in the six northern-most Vietnamese provinces as well as many campaigns of encroachment upon Vietnamese territory, most serious of all being the encroachment of the cluster of heights in the Vi Xuyen area, Ha Tuyen province, carried out in April 1984. In 1985, on the approximately 10 km² of the Vi Xuyen area alone, the Chinese side fired nearly 1 million shells. Since the beginning of 1986, they have kept up their intense shelling; not even during the Tet (New Year) festivities did they let the population in the Vietnamese border regions welcome the New Year in peace and cheerfulness. More sinister even, in 1985 they intentionally chose flood time to float thousands of mines into a number of streams flowing from China into

Viet Nam. Such criminal acts of the Chinese administration have caused many human and material losses to the population of the six northern-most provinces of Viet Nam.

2) Having experienced 30 years of most fierce war against imperialist aggression, the Vietnamese people cherish peace more than anyone else and would never of their own initiative provoke a new war, especially so with China, a large nation and immediate neighbour. For the past several years, while opposing the hostile policy of the Chinese administration, the Vietnamese side has constantly demonstrated its goodwill, putting forth on several occasions concrete proposals aimed at easing tension along the border between the two countries and thus facilitating the normalization of relations.

In the very first session of the first round of talks between the two countries in Hanoi in April 1979, the Vietnamese side set forth a three-point proposal wherein the first point enunciates urgent measures to ensure peace and stability in the border regions of both countries, namely, refraining from concentrating troops close to the border, disengaging the armed forces of each side, ceasing all war provocations and all forms of hostile activities, establishing a demilitarized zone and setting up a joint commission in order to supervise and control the application of these measures. Later on, the Vietnamese side tabled a draft agreement whereby both sides would commit themselves not to undertake military hostilities whether on land, in the air or on the sea. Since 1980 on the occasion of the traditional New Year festivities of both peoples and from 1982 on the occasion of their respective national days, the Vietnamese side has regularly taken the initiative of proposing to China that both sides should cease all military hostilities before and after the holidays in order to allow the population of the border regions to enjoy an atmosphere of peace and to pave the way for a relaxation of tension along the border between the two countries. It is regrettable, however, that the Chinese side should persist in evading these constructive, fair proposals of Viet Nam, making erroneous contentions that if the Vietnamese side would put an end to its armed provocations against China, tension would ease down along the border. If so, however, then why were they so reluctant to sit down to discuss and reach an agreement with the Vietnamese side on effective measures to control the actions of both sides? Why do they not put forward concrete proposals for discussion with the Vietnamese side but only persist in putting the blame on the latter? According to the Chinese side, again, a political atmosphere suitable for negotiations between the two countries does not yet exist and as long as the obstacle of the Kampuchean question has not been removed, it will not be possible to negotiate on the normalization of relations between Viet Nam and China. It is widely known that between China and the United States, Taiwan remains an outstanding problem which to this day China views as an obstacle, but since 1955 both countries have been holding talks. At present, the Taiwan problem remains unresolved but China still tries to further improve its relations with the United States. These facts point to the absolute fallacy of the Chinese contentions which are aimed at covering their new criminal schemes and acts against Viet Nam.

As it is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, if China really desires peace and the improvement of its relations with neighbouring countries, let it put an immediate end to the policy of hostility and aggression

against Viet Nam and join Viet Nam in talks on the settlement of outstanding problems in their mutual relations, first and foremost on ways to ensure tranquillity along their common border and thus create favourable conditions for the normalization of relations between the two countries. Viet Nam is open to concrete proposals from the Chinese side, considering them a basis for discussion. At the same time, it welcomes every initiative taken by other countries aimed at contributing to the relaxation of tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

3) Over the past seven years, the Chinese authorities have always used the so-called "Kampuchean question" to serve their hegemonistic and expansionist policy. They have used that question as their main card in colluding with imperialist and reactionary forces to oppose the revolution of the three Indochinese countries and as their main instrument to perpetuate the state of confrontation in South-East Asia, pitting the ASEAN countries against the Indochinese countries, maintaining the remnant Pol Pot forces in an attempt to reimpose the genocidal régime on Kampuchea.

In order to justify their position in opposing the Kampuchean people, the Chinese authorities continually argue that they have no vested national interest in Kampuchea, that they do not object to dialogues aimed at finding a political solution and wish to settle in a fair and rational manner the Kampuchean question. Be it so, then why in the face of the strong demand for the removal of the genocidal Pol Pot clique should China keep on breathing life into them, encouraging them to oppose Viet Nam. Moreover, why do they object to every proposal put forth by the three Indochinese countries on dialogues between the Indochinese countries and the ASEAN group of countries and prevent contacts among Kampuchean aimed at achieving national reconciliation? Beijing is wont to say that the key to the settlement of the Kampuchean question is a public commitment by Viet Nam to withdraw all its forces from Kampuchea to be proved by concrete deeds. But after Viet Nam stated that it would pull out all its forces from Kampuchea by 1990 and indicated the possibility of an earlier withdrawal in the context of a political solution, the Beijing authorities changed their tune, demanding from Viet Nam "an immediate and unconditional withdrawal", while they themselves retained the right to support the genocidal Pol Pot clique, opposing the revival of the Kampuchean people, jeopardizing Viet Nam's security and perpetuating the state of instability in South-East Asia.

With the goodwill shown by the three Indochinese countries, the trend towards dialogue is gaining momentum in the region; several ASEAN countries are working towards a dialogue between the two groups of countries. The fact that Viet Nam, representing the Indochinese countries, and Indonesia, representing the ASEAN countries, have organized a working group meeting marks a new step forward in the trend towards dialogue between the two groups of countries. At present, no one but Beijing and the genocidal Pol Pot clique are still bent on opposing dialogue.

Obviously, Beijing's deeds are completely contrary to their words, going counter to the common trend in the world and in the countries of the region towards dialogue aimed at finding a solution for the Kampuchean question.

Viet Nam and China are neighbouring countries, whose peoples share an age-old tradition of friendship. The Government and people of Viet Nam consistently hold dear this traditional friendship and have done their utmost in striving for an early restoration of normal relations between the two countries. The responsibility for the deterioration of the Sino-Vietnamese relations and the present continued tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border rests entirely with the Chinese side.
