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Letter dated 23 August 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for your information a copy of the statement dated 21 August 1979 on the territorial sea made by the Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and request you kindly to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 22 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) NGUYEN NGOC DUNG  
Ambassador  
Acting Permanent Representative  
of the Socialist Republic of  
Viet Nam to the United Nations

\* A/34/150.

ANNEX

Statement dated 21 August 1979 on the territorial sea made by the  
Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist  
Republic of Viet Nam

According to the Voice of America, a spokesman for the United States State Department on 10 August made public a statement that the United States would only recognize a three-mile territorial sea for maritime nations, and that United States ships and aircraft could operate in disputed areas outside that three-mile limit.

This constitutes a violation of international law and practice, and an encroachment on the sovereignty of maritime countries.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam firmly rejects this statement of the United States State Department spokesman and reaffirms its stand as follows:

The statement made public by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on 12 May 1977 on Viet Nam's territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, provides a 12 nautical mile territorial sea for Viet Nam. The islands and archipelagoes forming an integral part of the Vietnamese territory and beyond the Vietnamese territorial sea have their own territorial sea. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has complete sovereignty over its territorial sea, as well as the superjacent air space and the sea-bed and subsoil of the territorial sea.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will take appropriate measures to protect its full and complete sovereignty over its territorial sea and defend its interests in the maritime zones and on the continental shelf under its jurisdiction.