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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 September 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information, the text of the speech made by H.E. Mr. Dinh Nho Liem, Vice Foreign Minister, Head of the delegation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the 20 September 1979 meeting between Viet Nam and China, and kindly request you to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Speech by H.E. Mr. Dinh Nho Liem, Head of the delegation of the
Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the talks
between Viet Nam and China on 20 September 1979

The Chinese side repeated familiar contentions and put forth fabrications in an attempt to distort the relations of Viet Nam with Kampuchea and Laos, and to justify its arrogant demands for a settlement of the problem of a third country at the Viet Nam-China bilateral talks. As at the previous meetings, the Vietnamese delegation once again flatly rejected these slanderous allegations and unreasonable demands. We have on many occasions pointed out that it is the Chinese rulers, and not anybody else, who have pursued for a long time now great-nation expansionism and great-Power hegemonism whose most concentrated manifestation is their policy towards Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea. There lies the root cause of the serious deterioration in the relations of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea with China, and also of the present tension in Indo-China and South-East Asia, the slanders and justifications presented by the Chinese side with no matter what rhetoric can by no means reverse this fact.

The Chinese side claims that the relationship between China and Kampuchea has always been good; let us see what this "good" is in fact.

Right after the Kampuchean people recorded the historic victory of 17 April 1975, the Chinese rulers, taking the place of the United States imperialists, poured into Kampuchea hundreds of thousands of tons of arms and other war material, used the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique they had long been fostering as henchmen, strengthened their all-round control and turned Kampuchea into a neo-colony, an important military base and a shock force for aggression against the other countries on the Indo-Chinese peninsula and for expansion towards South-East Asia.

With a network of tens of thousands of Chinese advisers and experts blanketing the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique's administration, military and economic apparatus from the central down to the regional level, the Chinese authorities imposed on Kampuchea an extremely ruthless régime which was "anti-life, anti-society, anti-reason, anti-education, anti-religion, anti-science, anti-civilization, anti-human", as the representative of the World Peace Council put it at the Kampuchean people's revolutionary tribunal trying the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique for genocide under that régime. Three million Kampuchean people were massacred; the four million survivors were subjected to untold sufferings both physically and morally; all fundamental human freedoms were abolished; and the entire social structure of Kampuchea, a nation which had created the splendid Angkor civilization, was destroyed.

With the great victory of 7 January 1979, the Kampuchean people remade their revolution, overthrew the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime, completely abolished

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the so-called 'democratic Kampuchea', regained the right to be masters of their country, and founded the People's Republic of Kampuchea, thus frustrating Peking's expansionist and hegemonistic schemes. The entire progressive mankind has warmly welcomed the great, clear-cut and all-round victory of the Kampuchean people to whom it is extending every support and assistance in the promotion of a new, civilized and happy life.

In contrast, the Peking rulers have desperately clung to the illusory hope of reimposing the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime and their own control on Kampuchea. They are now seeking by every possible means to bolster up the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique's remnant troops, justify their crimes, and salvage the international "legality" of the political corpse called "democratic Kampuchea". Recently, they have rigged up a counter-revolutionary Kampuchean front as a mainstay and a tool for prolonged armed intervention against the Kampuchean people. However, the present revolutionary situation in Kampuchea is irreversible. In spite of all their efforts in favour of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary, this genocidal clique was strongly attacked and discarded from the sixth summit of non-aligned countries. Developments inside and outside the conference have shown that world public opinion is getting an ever clearer understanding of the situation in Kampuchea and siding with the Kampuchean people. An increasing number of countries have recognized and supported the People's Revolutionary Council, the sole genuine and legal representative of Kampuchea. Many countries are now demanding that the United Nations General Assembly expel the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique and that the seat of Kampuchea at the United Nations be returned to the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea. The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique, no matter what disguise they take, will be eliminated for good from the life of the international community. The Kampuchean people and the Kampuchean revolution will march forward steadily! Such is the necessary trend of history. All schemes and tricks to interfere in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and limit the victory of the Kampuchean revolution are doomed to total failure.

The Chinese side claims that China and Laos 'have lived in harmony ever since ancient times and there have never been conflicts between them'. What is the actual situation?

Since the Lao People's Democratic Republic became an outpost of socialism in South-East Asia, the Peking rulers, realizing the impossibility of dragging it into their orbit of great-Power hegemonism, have set up disruptive activities and threats, and embarked ever more openly on an anti-Lao policy. China's embassy and its economic representation in North Laos have become a leading apparatus for conducting psychological warfare. They have indulged in divisive activities, tried to win over religious and leftist bad Lao elements in fomenting against the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The reactionary organizations among the Chinese residents were put to use to oppose the socialist transformation to disrupt the economy and to hinder the national construction endeavour of the Lao people. The Chinese armies of road-builders, operating for Peking's long-term expansionist strategic objectives, were used for disruptive purposes against Laos.

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Following their defeat in Kampuchea, the Peking authorities launched a large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam and stepped up their opposition to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. At the sixth summit of non-aligned countries, President Souphanouvong denounced their actions as follows: "The Chinese expansionists have massed their troops along the Lao border, introduced into my country spies, propaganda and subversive agents, incited Lao people, particularly the urban youth and the ethnic minorities, to go abroad; and openly supported the criminal acts of the exiled Lao reactionaries. These activities are aimed at overthrowing the Government and the régime of the Lao People's Democratic Republic".

Blatantly interfering in the internal affairs of Laos, the Chinese authorities have tried their best to rally and foster the Lao reactionaries at home and those in exile like Vang Pao, Kongle ... whom they call "patriotic personages"; they set up counter-revolutionary organizations such as the "raw-type people's revolutionary party of Laos", the "Lao socialist party", organized and armed groups of commandos and bandits for disruptive and subversive activities; their great design is to cut off from Laos five northern provinces and to pressure Laos into relinquishing its line of independence, sovereignty, solidarity, friendship and co-operation with Viet Nam, Kampuchea and the other socialist countries.

The above-mentioned acts of Peking have seriously jeopardized the security, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos. The firm measures taken by the Lao Government are entirely legitimate and aimed at checking China's disruptive and subversive activities and the danger of aggression from Chinese great-Power hegemonism and safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of Laos.

As we have pointed out on many occasions, the Chinese rulers regard an independent unified, socialist and prosperous Viet Nam as a major obstacle to their expansionist and hegemonistic ambitions in Indo-China and South-East Asia. That is the reason why, right after the Vietnamese people's total victory in the patriotic resistance war against United States aggression, they frenziedly embarked on a systematic policy of hostility to Viet Nam while seeking an alliance with imperialism, repeatedly defeated in their attempts to sabotage Viet Nam from within and pressure it from without. They hysterically launched against it two wars of aggression at its south-western and northern borders.

With a big force involving at times no less than 19 out of a total of over 20 mercenary division of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary, the Peking rulers launched an aggressive war against Viet Nam at its south-western border, thus carrying out a very perfidious neo-colonialist policy, attempting to "fight Viet Nam to the last Kampuchean". At the same time, they tried to fan up national hatred in an attempt to bring about a lasting opposition between the Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples, these mercenary troops devastated populated areas, towns, villages, hospitals, schools, pagodas ... killed or wounded many civilians, burned down thousands of houses, robbed a great deal of property, thus perpetrating barbarous crimes and seriously disrupting the peaceful life and work of the Vietnamese people.

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By defeating this aggressive war, the Vietnamese armed forces and people restored peace at the south-western border of their fatherland. At the same time, they created a favourable opportunity for the Kampuchean armed forces and people to launch attacks and uprisings, overthrowing the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary régime and restoring the traditions of Viet Nam-Kampuchea solidarity and friendship.

After their heavy defeat in Kampuchea, the Chinese rulers recklessly mobilized 600,000 troops with 600 tanks and thousands of artillery pieces, and directly embarked on a large-scale war of aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. This aggressive war had been prepared well in advance by Peking and, what is noteworthy, it was launched immediately after the Peking rulers had had discussions with, and got support from, United States imperialism whom they are proud to count as their "ally". It is thus both an important component of the Chinese rulers expansionist and hegemonistic strategy and a product of the Sino-United States collusion.

In this war, the Chinese aggressor troops committed monstrous crimes. They killed even old people, women and children. They razed to the ground four provincial capitals and seven district towns. They destroyed 320 villages, 735 schools, 691 nurseries, 426 hospitals and infirmaries, 22 bridges, 45 forestry stations and workshops, 41 state farms and agricultural stations. All sources and conditions of life and the environment in an about 1,000-kilometre-long strip of territory along the northern border of Viet Nam were destroyed; for all their justifications, the Chinese authorities can in no way evade their responsibility for these crimes. By waging a large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam, they have reached the culmination of their anti-Viet Nam policy, jeopardized peace and stability in South-East Asia, and fully laid bare their great-Power hegemonism and warlike nature.

The aforesaid factors point to the following: if peace and stability are to prevail in Indo-China and South-East Asia, the Chinese authorities must cease interfering in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, stop threatening Laos and interfering in its internal affairs, put an end to their aggression and threats of aggression against Viet Nam, and stop meddling with the relations between Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea. All attempts of Peking to cover up its crimes, sow division among the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea, and weaken their militant solidarity have failed.

After the aggressive war against Viet Nam, the situation along the Viet Nam-China border has grown increasingly strained as a result of the actions of the Chinese side. Since the start of these negotiations, the latter has perpetrated over 600 armed provocations along the land border. Chinese combat aircraft and ships have repeatedly violated the air space and territorial waters of Viet Nam. Some Chinese rulers have on many occasions threatened Viet Nam with another aggression of late. Foreign sources have reported movements of Chinese troops and war material to areas on the Sino-Vietnamese border, and there are the same "signs" as before 17 February 1979. The above actions have posed a serious menace to the security of Viet Nam, and jeopardized peace and stability in South-East Asia.

Public opinion is following with vigilance Peking's new military venture; if the Chinese authorities have not drawn any lesson, and are bent on launching another aggressive war against the Vietnamese people in defiance of international law and the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, they will meet with stronger counter-blows from the Vietnamese armed forces and people, face sterner protests and condemnation from the people of the world and the Chinese people, and invite upon themselves an even heavier defeat than the last time.

In the interest of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and stability in South-East Asia, the Vietnamese delegation calls on the Chinese delegation to take a serious attitude, show a sense of responsibility, and turn back to the purposes of the talks as laid down by the two sides. All attempts of the Chinese side to lead these talks onto another course, and interfere in the affairs of a third country will prove to be in vain. Let it respond positively to the Vietnamese three-point proposal for settling the problems concerning the relations between Viet Nam and China, in the first place, to the urgent measures to secure peace and stability in border areas, among them, the "draft agreement" on a mutual commitment to refrain from armed provocations.

As in the past, the Vietnamese Government and people are resolved to defend their independence and sovereignty, while constantly desiring to settle through negotiations all problems concerning the relations between Viet Nam and China, and to restore normal relations between the two countries and genuine friendship between the two peoples. In this spirit, the Vietnamese delegation is prepared to discuss whatever question in the relations between Viet Nam and China is to be raised by the Chinese side in accordance with the method of the two sides raising in turn questions of interest for discussion at the meeting, as we have repeatedly proposed.

At the last meeting, the Chinese delegation said that we "should not disappoint the two peoples and the people of the world in their expectations". The Vietnamese delegation has always taken a serious attitude of goodwill. Everybody is waiting for the Chinese side to match its deed with its words so that the talks can make progress.
