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Item 11 of the preliminary list*

REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 June 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions of the Chinese Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement dated 16 June 1979 issued by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on the need to stop the Vietnamese authorities from creating and exporting refugees.

I wish to take this opportunity to inform Your Excellency that the Chinese Government supports the proposal made by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in her letter of 31 May to Your Excellency on convening a special conference of States Members of the United Nations to discuss the problem of Indo-Chinese refugees. The Chinese Government hopes that this conference, to be held under the authority of your high office, will condemn and apply sanctions to the Vietnamese authorities for pursuing their policies of war and expansion, ethnic discrimination and export of refugees in violation of the Charter of the United Nations so as to prevent the aggravation of the problem, and then proceed to search for a complete solution to this problem of Indo-Chinese refugees.

I request that this letter and the attached statement be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LAI Yali
Acting Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement dated 16 June 1979 by the spokesman of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on the need to
stop the Vietnamese authorities from creating and exporting
refugees

Of late, the Vietnamese authorities have redoubled their efforts to expel refugees from Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos. Hundreds of thousands of people have been made destitute, forced to leave their homes and drifted into neighbouring countries, thus creating a grave economic, social and political problem for countries in South-East Asia and a number of other countries. This has turned into an international disaster. The plight of masses of innocent displaced people leading a precarious existence, and the thousands of aged and infirm, women and children who died in the wilderness or were drowned at sea are indeed tragic. These anti-popular and anti-humane atrocities committed by the Vietnamese Government and its policy of bringing disaster upon its neighbours have aroused world-wide indignation and have been strongly condemned by public opinion in other countries.

In the final analysis, the problem of Indo-Chinese refugees has arisen solely as a result of the fact that the Vietnamese Government is pursuing a policy of aggression and war. After the end of their war of resistance against United States aggression, the Vietnamese authorities showed no regard for the welfare of their people and failed to turn their attention to healing the wounds of war and embarking on economic reconstruction. Instead, they pursued a policy of militarism to achieve their goal of setting up an 'Indochinese Federation' and dominating South-East Asia. To support their war of aggression in Kampuchea and maintain control in Laos, they press-ganged their young people into serving as cannon fodder and bled the people white. This has ruined the economy and made the people destitute. Consequently, large numbers of Vietnamese inhabitants have had to flee the country. Furthermore, the Vietnamese authorities have been deliberately inciting ethnic animosities and expelling what they consider to be alien elements. They have brutally persecuted Vietnamese citizens of Chinese descent, Chinese nationals and other ethnic minorities who have lived in Viet Nam for many generations, depriving them of their means of livelihood and forcibly expelling them from the country. Moreover, all those who show dissatisfaction at their cruel rule or are considered by them as security risks have also been expelled. Everywhere in Kampuchea, Vietnamese aggressor troops committed arson, murder, pillage and all sorts of other crimes, driving large numbers of Kampuchean civilians from their own country by tanks or at bayonet point. What makes people particularly indignant is the fact that, apart from confiscating the real estate and other properties of these involuntary refugees, the Vietnamese authorities even practised extortion by stipulating that each refugee must give as much as some twenty ounces of gold for permission to leave the country. They have thus extorted from the refugees a fabulous sum of gold and foreign exchange. They have become

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the biggest and most despicable present-day human traffickers. Their policies of aggression, ethnic discrimination and human trafficking have served to shed the cloak under which they have been masquerading - the cloak of peace, democracy, good-neighbourliness and socialism.

The Soviet social-imperialists, who support and abet the Vietnamese authorities in their aggression and expansion in Indo-China, are thus their accomplice in this policy of exporting refugees.

China heads the list of Asian countries that have suffered greatly from this massive exportation of refugees by the Vietnamese authorities. More than 230,000 refugees have already been driven into China from Viet Nam over the last year and more groups of refugees are still crossing over into China. The Chinese Government has given succour to all refugees who have entered China irrespective of ethnic origin or nationality and has resettled some 200,000 of them. The relief and resettlement of these refugees has been a big drain on the Chinese Government's financial and material resources. Deeply sympathetic to the tragic plight of Indo-Chinese refugees, the Chinese Government and people have done their best to give them aid and succour in a humanitarian spirit.

The problem of Indo-Chinese refugees, created by the Vietnamese authorities, has become a serious international problem. But, turning a deaf ear to fair-minded international opinion, the Vietnamese authorities have continued unscrupulously to turn people into refugees and expel them en masse, taking advantage of the humanitarian goodwill of their neighbouring countries and peoples. At an international meeting on the Vietnamese refugee problem held recently in Djakarta, the representative of the Vietnamese Government unabashedly announced that they intend to export refugees at a rate of 10,000 a month. In the interest of protecting the right to life of all peoples in Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos, irrespective of ethnic origin, and in the interest of easing the tremendous difficulties brought upon the people of all countries, particularly of South-East Asian countries, by the flood of Indo-Chinese refugees, the Chinese Government deems it necessary for international organizations and all justice-upholding countries to take action to urge the Vietnamese authorities to desist immediately from their barbaric policy of creating and exporting refugees. The Chinese Government calls on the United Nations and all Governments and peoples to voice strong condemnation and take firm measures to stop the Vietnamese authorities from pursuing their policies of aggression and ethnic discrimination in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and humanitarian principles and in denial of man's basic right to life and to sternly deplore their criminal action of creating and exporting refugees and resolutely demand an immediate end to it.