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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 3 July 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 by the Head of the delegation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Dinh Nho Liem, at the first meeting of the second round of Viet Nam-China talks (28 June 1979). I request you to kindly have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Speech by the Head of the delegation of the Government of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Dinh Nho Liem, at the
first meeting of the second round of Viet Nam-China talks
(28 June 1979)

In the desire of restoring the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, the delegation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has come to Peking to continue with the delegation of the Government of the People's Republic of China the talks on problems concerning the relations between the two countries. Once again, we wish to convey to the people of Peking, capital city, and of China as a whole the cordial greetings of the Vietnamese people.

Viet Nam and China are two close neighbours. During their protracted revolutionary struggle for independence, freedom and national construction, the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples have relied on each other, mutually extended support and assistance, and promoted a deep friendship. The Vietnamese people have consistently treasured this lofty friendship which they have done their utmost to preserve and develop.

Of late, the traditional friendship between the two peoples has been seriously impaired by the Chinese rulers. The large-scale war of aggression they launched against Viet Nam last February has led to a very strained situation between the two countries. It was an extremely ruthless war of extermination, which caused untold suffering and destruction to the Vietnamese people, ran counter to the Chinese people's interests and jeopardized peace and stability in South-East Asia. For this very reason, the Chinese people have gradually come to realize the truth in spite of all attempts at black-out and distortion by the instigators of this criminal war. The healthy voices have been raised more and more widely against this unjust war. The Peking rulers still find it necessary to seek by every possible means to justify themselves in the eyes of world public opinion and of the Chinese people and evade their responsibility for provoking this aggressive war. We are firmly convinced that like the Vietnamese people, the Chinese people do not want war between the two countries. The friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples will overcome all trials and flourish again.

With this aspiration and confidence, the Vietnamese people and Government took important initiatives in the course of the talks with a view to settling the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China, restoring the normal relations between the two States and the traditional friendship between the two peoples. Regrettably, after a month with five meetings in Hanoi, the first round of talks failed to meet the wish of the two peoples and of world public opinion. In beginning today the second round of talks in Peking, we should look back at the course of the first round, and find out the reasons why it did not make any progress.

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After winning complete independence and unity, the Vietnamese people have no more earnest desire than to have lasting peace to rebuild their country following 30 years of unceasing war, and to live in peace and friendship with other nations, particularly their neighbours; the Chinese contention about so-called expansionist and hegemonic designs of Viet Nam in South-East Asia is at variance with facts. The designs attributed by the Chinese side to Viet Nam are precisely those which the Chinese rulers have nurtured for a long time already, and are now striving to carry out.

Therefore, at the very beginning of these talks, we made it clear that the deep root and the immediate cause of the tense situation which led to the recent war of aggression against Viet Nam lie in the great-Power expansionist and hegemonistic policy of the Chinese rulers and their policy of hostility to Viet Nam. Carrying aloft the banner of national independence and socialism, the banner of peace and friendship, the Vietnamese people are determined to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their fatherland, and to preserve their line of independence and sovereignty. At the same time, they are deeply attached to peace and constantly desirous of maintaining the traditional friendship with the Chinese people and the good-neighbourly relations with the People's Republic of China. The Vietnamese people have unswervingly and persistently advocated a negotiated settlement of all the problems in the relations between the two countries.

Proceeding from this serious position and attitude of goodwill, we have put forward an important proposal on the main principles and contents of a three-point settlement of the problems concerning the relations between the two countries (A/34/201-S/13257, annex):

1. Urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries and to ensure an early reunion of the people captured during the war with their families.
2. Restoration of the normal relations between the two countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.
3. Settlement of border and territorial problems between the two countries on the principle of respect for the status quo of the borderline left by history, respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This comprehensive, reasonable and sensible proposal aims both at solving the urgent questions caused by the recent war and preventing a resumption of hostilities, and at settling the fundamental problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China, thereby meeting the South-East Asian and the world peoples' desire for peace and stability. It has elicited increasing approval and appreciation from broad sections of world public opinion which consider it an important peace initiative.

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We also made on three occasions recommendations on how to discuss the issues raised by either side in a spirit of equality, without either imposing its views on the other, so as to bring about practical and constructive talks.

Given such a serious position and the attitude of goodwill of the Vietnamese side, the talks could have certainly made progress if only the Chinese side had really desired to settle the problems. Nevertheless, throughout the first round, the Chinese side took a completely opposite position and attitude.

The Chinese side tried to evade its responsibility for the war of aggression against Viet Nam which has been and is being condemned by the whole mankind. It put forth an eight-point proposal (A/34/213-S/13278, annex) expressing its great-Power expansionist and hegemonistic policy. It attempted thus to achieve at the negotiating table what it had failed to achieve by all other means including war, namely, Viet Nam's giving up its correct line of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity, relinquishing even its territorial sovereignty, and aligning itself on the Chinese policy of alliance with United States-headed imperialism and opposition to the socialist countries and the world movement for national independence, democracy, peace and progress. While evading the Vietnamese side's reasonable and sensible three-point proposal, the Chinese side raised questions not belonging to bilateral relations, which was at variance with the agreement between the two sides to deal at these negotiations only with problems concerning the relations between the two countries. It completely eluded the urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries, whereas in its statements and notes it had previously spoken on six occasions of the need to discuss this question at these talks. It turned down all the Vietnamese proposals on the method of discussion, and only tried to impose its eight points. Obviously, it had come to the negotiating table not to talk in a spirit of equality with a view to settling problems, but only to compel on the other side acceptance of its position. If the first round of talks failed to make any headway, responsibility rests entirely with the Chinese side.

At present, the peoples of the two countries and of the world are following with keen interest and great expectations the current round of talks. The responsibility of the two Vietnamese and Chinese delegations is, therefore, very heavy.

Animated with an unchanged goodwill, the Vietnamese Government delegation will spare no efforts and discuss with the Chinese Government delegation in a spirit of equality with a view to reaching satisfactory settlements of the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China, ensuring peace and stability in border areas, restoring the normal relations between the two countries and the long-standing friendship between the two peoples. In this spirit, the Vietnamese Government delegation reaffirms the three-point proposal on the main principles and contents of a settlement of the problems concerning the relations between the two countries. We hope that the Chinese side will give a positive response to it. At the same time, we are prepared to discuss the issues of interest which will be raised in turn by the two sides for discussion at each meeting as we have proposed.

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After the recent war of aggression against Viet Nam, and even while the talks are being conducted, the situation in the border areas of the two countries has remained very tense. The Chinese side has continued massing troops and war material close to the Vietnamese border, committing daily armed provocations and hostile acts violating the territorial sovereignty and jeopardizing the security of Viet Nam. Firing has gone on, peace, stability and the life and work of the Vietnamese border populations are under a perpetual threat. The Chinese side in collusion with the United States imperialists is carrying out a world anti-Viet Nam campaign and seeking by every possible means to drive a wedge between South-East Asian countries and Viet Nam; in defiance of the condemnation from world public opinion and the opposition of the Chinese people, a number of Chinese rulers have of late reiterated their threats about "teaching Viet Nam a second, and even many more lessons". These incorrect statements can in no way intimidate the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people, the Chinese people want peace and friendship. The South-East Asian peoples want peace and stability. It is, therefore, a pressing problem for us to remove at once the dangerous situation caused by the facts along the border of the two countries and by the above statements.

By agreement between our two delegations, the two sides have recently carried out the return of the people captured during the war. This bears out the possibility of reaching agreement on specific issues if both sides want a settlement.

Following what has been achieved, and in order to ease and eventually to remove the tension along the border, and to create a favourable atmosphere for the talks, the delegation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam proposes that the two delegations reach an immediate agreement on ending armed provocations in the border areas of the two countries. Following is our draft:

"Agreement between the delegation of the Government of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the delegation of the
Government of the People's Republic of China

"Pending continued discussions between the two sides on the measures,

"To firmly secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries and on other fundamental problems in the relations between the two countries, and with a view to creating a favourable atmosphere for the talks, the two delegations have agreed as an immediate step on the following provisions which shall come into effect as of 0600 hours Hanoi time or 0700 hours Peking time on 5 July 1979:

"The two sides undertake to refrain from espionage and reconnaissance activities in any form whatsoever on each other's territory, to refrain from offensive activities, armed provocations, firing from one territory to the other on land, on the sea and in the air, to refrain from any activity endangering the security of each other.

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"Each side shall order all its armed forces to implement the above-mentioned agreement immediately and strictly. This order shall be announced over the radio and in the newspapers of each side."

This proposal of the Vietnamese delegation is very practical, fair and reasonable, it proceeds from the situation and the imperative requirement as mentioned above. Suffice it that both sides want to ease the tension, then an agreement could be reached and implemented at once. This proposal is constructive, without precondition, it is to be imposed by neither side and is beneficial to the two peoples and meets the South-East Asian people's aspirations for peace and stability. If implemented, it will help remove the obstacles on the path of the negotiations, bring about a better mutual understanding, and make it possible for the two sides to reach agreement on other measures to firmly secure peace and stability in border areas and settle step by step other fundamental questions in the relations between the two countries. We look forward to a positive response from the Chinese side.
