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LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF VIET NAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement made by the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the intensive concentration of large military forces by the Chinese authorities at the border with Viet Nam for your information and request you to have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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

Annex

Statement of 7 January 1979 by the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the intensive concentration
of large military forces by the Chinese authorities at the border
with Viet Nam

Following activities of causing tension along the Viet Nam-China border, the Chinese authorities have, over recent days, transported large military forces and big quantities of war materials close to the border with Viet Nam while intensifying their provocations and threats against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

At the same time, the Chinese side has continued to distort the situation at the Viet Nam-China border and the situation in Kampuchea, slandering that "Viet Nam is committing aggression against Kampuchea", "provoking and encroaching on Chinese territory", with the aim of deceiving the Chinese people and the world, paving the way for new and still more hostile and cruel acts against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam vehemently denounces and severely condemns these acts of provocation and war preparation of the Chinese authorities at the border between the two countries. It resolutely demands that the Chinese authorities end immediately all their acts of encroaching upon the territory and threatening the sovereignty and security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people, now as before, desire to see a border of peace between Viet Nam and China, but at the same time they are determined to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for the serious consequences of their criminal acts against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.