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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
Items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the
preliminary list*
**QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-
NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES**

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 25 February 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, issued on 22 February 1988 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the full text of the attached statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Luye
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of China, issued on 22 February 1988

On 20 February, the spokesman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement, in which brazen charges were made against China for sending naval vessels to the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters to carry out such normal activities as survey, study and patrol. He demanded that China withdraw its naval vessels, declaring that China "would have to accept full responsibility for any consequences stemming therefrom".

The Nansha Islands, like the Xisha, Dongsha and Zhongsha Islands, have always been Chinese territory, and China has indisputable sovereignty over these islands and their adjacent waters. This just position of the Chinese Government is known to all. It is entirely within China's sovereignty for the Chinese side to send naval vessels and ships to some islands of the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters for survey, study and routine patrol, in which the Vietnamese authorities have no right to interfere. It should be pointed out that it is the Vietnamese authorities that have illegally invaded and occupied some islands and atolls of China's Nansha Islands. The Vietnamese side must withdraw from these islands and atolls. If the Vietnamese side obstructs China's legitimate activities in the above-mentioned areas in disregard of the Chinese Government's consistent position, it must take full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom.
