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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 15 March 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the note of the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China to the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in China dated 14 March 1988 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex 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) DING Yuanhong
Acting Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/43/50.

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ANNEX

Note dated 14 March 1988 from the Foreign Ministry of
the People's Republic of China to the Embassy of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in China

On 14 March 1988, the Vietnamese armed vessels that had illegally intruded into the sea waters of China's Nansha Islands flagrantly launched armed attacks on Chinese vessels which were carrying out such normal activities as survey, study and patrol in the sea waters around Chigua Reef of the Nansha Islands. The Chinese vessels were forced to counter-attack in self-defence.

In disregard of the repeated solemn statements of the Chinese Government, the Vietnamese authorities continued to dispatch troops to invade and occupy islands and atolls of China's Nansha Islands, and now the Vietnamese armed vessels have started military provocations against Chinese vessels in a vicious attempt to create tensions in this sea area. The Chinese Government hereby expresses its great indignation and strong protest. The Vietnamese authorities must immediately stop their armed provocations against China in the sea waters of the Nansha Islands and withdraw from China's islands, atolls and the adjacent waters under their occupation. Otherwise, they must take full responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom.
