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LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the texts of (1) a note dated 18 January 1979, addressed by the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China to the Vietnamese Embassy in China, strongly protesting against the Vietnamese authorities' dispatch of armed personnel to encroach upon Chinese territory and create new incidents of bloodshed, and (2) a note dated 19 January 1979, addressed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry to the Vietnamese Embassy in China, denouncing the Vietnamese authorities for slandering China by making use of the forced temporary stoppage of traffic on the Sino-Vietnamese border railway. I request that the above two notes be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHEN Chu
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

Annex I

Note dated 18 January 1979 from the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China addressed to the Vietnamese Embassy in China

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY LODGES STRONG PROTEST AGAINST VIET NAM
AUTHORITIES' DISPATCH OF ARMED PERSONNEL TO ENCROACH UPON
CHINESE TERRITORY AND CREATE NEW BLOODSHED

On 18 January 1979, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China sent a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in China, strongly protesting against the Vietnamese authorities' continued dispatch of armed personnel to encroach upon Chinese territory, kill and wound Chinese personnel and loot a Chinese fishing-boat, thus creating new incidents of bloodshed. The note says:

"Of late, while launching a large-scale invasion of Kampuchea, the Vietnamese authorities have continued to intensify military provocations at the Chinese-Vietnamese border. From 23 December last year to 15 January, Vietnamese armed personnel have intruded into Chinese territory in 13 different sectors of the Chinese-Vietnamese border. They unscrupulously opened fire, killing four Chinese border guards and wounding four others, thus creating new incidents of bloodshed and committing new crimes against the Chinese people. At the same time, Vietnamese armed personnel unprovokedly opened fire on Chinese inhabitants and villages in 32 sectors of the border region, seriously threatening the production and safety of the Chinese border inhabitants.

"On 11 January, Vietnamese troops used light and heavy machine-guns and hand grenades to attack Longbang Pass, Jingxi County, Guangxi Autonomous Region. The attack lasted for 10 hours. 5,000 bullets were shot. As a result, many buildings were damaged and peaceful inhabitants suffered great losses.

"At 10.40 a.m. on 8 January, Vietnamese armed personnel fired more than 100 bullets on fishing boat No. 7205 belonging to the Dongxing Commune, Fangcheng Autonomous County (original Dongxing Autonomous County), Guangxi, China, which was stranded in China's territorial waters at the mouth of the Beilun River that separates China and Viet Nam. Then the Vietnamese gunners continued firing at the Chinese fishermen, who were compelled to abandon the ship. The Vietnamese armed personnel boarded the Chinese fishing-boat, looted it, abducted it and took it to Viet Nam. Among its cargo there were 10,000 catties of salt, 3.5 tons of diesel oil, 3 trawl-nets and 800 metres of cable.

"The above-mentioned facts showed that the Vietnamese authorities, in continued disregard of the repeated warnings of the Chinese Government, have kept on encroaching upon Chinese territory and sovereignty, killing and

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wounding Chinese personnel, and even openly intruding into Chinese territorial waters to take away a Chinese fishing boat in a deliberate attempt to create serious new incidents. At the same time, the Vietnamese side has the cheek to distort the facts, confound right and wrong, and falsely accuse China of 'invading' Vietnamese territory. These acts fully demonstrate how truculent and despicable the Vietnamese authorities are. They cannot in the least cover up the ugly features of the Vietnamese aggressors.

"The Chinese people feel extremely indignant at the new crimes committed by the Vietnamese authorities along the Chinese-Vietnamese border. The Chinese Government strongly protests against the Vietnamese authorities' military provocations and piratical deeds. It demands that the Vietnamese authorities immediately stop infringing upon Chinese territory and sovereignty, return the Chinese fishing boat and the cargo on board and compensate for all the losses. If the Vietnamese authorities should ignore the warnings of the Chinese Government and continue to make military provocations along the Chinese-Vietnamese border, the Vietnamese Government must be held responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom."

Annex II

Note dated 19 January 1979 from the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China addressed to the Vietnamese Embassy in China

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY DENOUNCES VIET NAM FOR SLANDERING
CHINA BY MAKING USE OF FORCED TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF
TRAFFIC ON SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER RAILWAY

On 19 January 1979, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China sent a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in China, denouncing the Vietnamese authorities for making use of the forced temporary stoppage of traffic on the Sino-Vietnamese border railway to confound right and wrong, slander China and plan new serious incidents in areas along the Sino-Vietnamese border. The note says:

"On 22 December 1978 the Foreign Affairs Department of the Ministry of Railways of the People's Republic of China notified the member States of the Railway Co-operative Organization that - owing to the serious breakdown of a stretch of railway on the Chinese side of the junction at the Sino-Vietnamese border, which endangers traffic safety - international railway transport of passengers, luggage, parcels and goods consigned to or coming from Viet Nam was to be temporarily stopped as from that date till further notice, and that the Beijing-Hanoi international through-passenger train had ceased functioning for the time being. This decision of the Chinese Railways Ministry is an emergency measure highly necessary for ensuring the safety of passengers and goods. This situation on the Sino-Vietnamese border railway is wholly the making of the Vietnamese side.

"The Chinese side has always fulfilled its duties in ensuring safe and smooth railway traffic across the Sino-Vietnamese border. Back in 1976 when serious defects were detected along a stretch of over 300 metres of rail on the Chinese side of the junction at the Sino-Vietnamese border, the Chinese railway authorities decided to undertake repairs and gave advance notice of this plan to the Vietnamese side. However, the Vietnamese side obstructed and sabotaged repairs by the Chinese side on the absurd pretext that this stretch was within Vietnamese territory. The Vietnamese side repeatedly sent troops, security forces and militiamen across the border to raid the Chinese work site, and even created serious incidents of bloodshed, wounding many Chinese workers and border guards. Thereafter, Vietnamese troops and security forces further stepped up their incursions, harassments and sabotage of the area on the Chinese side of the railway junction. Particularly in recent months, the Vietnamese side has gone so far as to build defence works and lay mines on both sides of this railway stretch. It is clearly these arbitrary and brutal acts of the Vietnamese side that have rendered safe traffic impossible over this stretch of the railway.

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"It must also be pointed out that the area on the Chinese side of the railway junction at the Sino-Vietnamese border is China's territory and has always been under Chinese jurisdiction. The railway junction point agreed on by China and Viet Nam in 1955 is in accord with the Sino-Vietnamese boundary line. In pursuance of the provisions of the Border Railway Agreement between China and Viet Nam, the Chinese side has been responsible for the management and maintenance of the section of the railway on the Chinese side of the junction. The Chinese side told the Vietnamese side that the difference of understanding between the two sides about the location of the boundary line in the railway junction area could be reserved for consultation and settlement in future negotiations on the boundary line between the two Governments. Pending a settlement, both sides should continue to maintain the status quo of border jurisdiction, and neither side should unilaterally force a change in the status quo of the border. However, the Vietnamese side mistook the restraint and forbearance of the Chinese side for a sign of weakness. It not only continued to obstruct and sabotage the repairs of the said railway section by the Chinese side, but also took a series of grave actions encroaching upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, causing increasing tension in the railway junction area at the Sino-Vietnamese border.

"The above actions of the Vietnamese authorities were obviously all premeditated. They were directly connected with their attempts constantly to create incidents of bloodshed and deliberately to aggravate matters along the whole Sino-Vietnamese boundary line, and they constitute a part of their anti-China strategic plan.

"Now making use of the forced temporary stoppage of traffic on the Sino-Vietnamese border railway, the Vietnamese authorities are confounding right and wrong, slandering China and making anti-China clamours and are planning new serious incidents in the area around the railway junction and other areas along the Sino-Vietnamese border. This cannot but cause the grave concern of the Chinese Government and people.

The Vietnamese authorities must immediately stop all their illegal activities on the Chinese side of the Sino-Vietnamese border railway junction. They must immediately stop their armed provocations against China and desist from all encroachment on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Otherwise, they must bear responsibility for all the consequences arising therefrom."
