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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 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 urgent message dated  
17 February 1979 sent to you by His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Deputy Prime  
Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
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

Message dated 17 February 1979 from the Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam addressed to the  
President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that on 17 February 1979 several Chinese divisions of infantry, armoured vehicles and artillery with air support launched massive attacks along the entire Vietnamese-Chinese frontier. They occupied Vietnamese frontier posts and numerous villages belonging to the districts of Trang Dinh, Loc Binh and Van Lang in the province of Lang Son, Tra Linh and Ha Quang in the province of Cao Bang, Muong Khuong and Bat Sat in the province of Hoang Lien Son, Phong Tho in the province of Lai Chau, and Binh Lieu in the province of Quang Minh. It should particularly be noted that the Chinese troops have attacked the provincial capital of Lao Cai and have occupied the two urban centres of Dong Dang and Muong Khuong some 10 kilometres inside Vietnamese territory. They have committed bloody crimes against the Vietnamese people.

After concentrating a large military force, making threats of war and carrying out provocations on the Vietnamese-Chinese frontier, China is now in fact waging a war of aggression against our country.

The Vietnamese people is determined to exercise its right to strike back in defence of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of its homeland. The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for their war of aggression.

I am addressing to you, and, through you, to the members of the Security Council, this urgent message on the extremely serious situation which has arisen and which constitutes a threat to peace and security in South-East Asia and in the world in order that the Security Council should consider the situation and take appropriate measures to end the aggression and compel the Chinese forces of aggression to withdraw from Viet Nam.

I should be grateful if you would have this message circulated as a Security Council document.

Nguyen Duy Trinh  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

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