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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement by the Soviet Government,
dated 2 March 1979.

I request you to circulate this document as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY
Permanent Representative of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
to the United Nations

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

China's aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam continues to expand. At the same time reports are coming in about a concentration of Chinese troops also on the border with the Laotian People's Democratic Republic. Chinese military units are being moved, in particular, into the area where the borders of Laos and Viet Nam adjoin. Chinese agents have intensified intelligence and subversive activities and sabotage in the borderline regions of Laos.

All this means that the threat of Chinese intervention is now also looming over the Laotian people which fought side by side with its Vietnamese brothers for freedom and independence against American imperialist aggression. The fact that the Laotian people holds dear its independence, has guided its country along the path of socialist construction, and has established peaceful, friendly relations with its neighbours obviously runs counter to the Chinese leadership's hegemonistic designs.

A threat to Laos is a threat to the independence and sovereignty of all the States of South-East Asia. He who raises his hand against the peace-loving Laotian people which throughout its history has never harmed anyone, will not stop at further military adventures.

The treachery of China's present rulers and their hegemonistic goals appear utterly exposed. At the same time the dangerous consequences of the policy of conniving with aggression as pursued by certain States are once again being confirmed.

The situation urgently demands the unconditional and immediate ending of Chinese aggression, yet the Governments of these States are at this very time taking new steps towards strengthening their contacts with China, including deals to sell it modern weapons. Rather than heed the voice of reason and the demands of broad circles of world public opinion expressing wrath and indignation over the actions of China, which is trampling underfoot all norms of civilized relations between States, they are actually encouraging the aggressor.

But no one should forget that such a policy is fraught with grave consequences, and not least of all for those who conduct it. History has already provided many examples of this.

At present, when China's policy of expanding its aggression is becoming ever more obvious, the Soviet Union deems it necessary to declare categorically: China's actions cannot be a matter of indifference to those who are genuinely interested in ensuring the security of peoples and preserving peace.

Chinese troops must be immediately withdrawn beyond the frontiers of Viet Nam and military demonstrations on the borders of Laos and preparations for invading that country must cease. The Chinese aggressors must know that the more crimes they perpetrate, the harsher the retribution will be.
