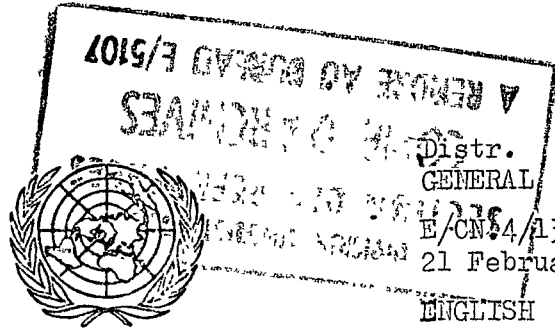


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-sixth session
Agenda item 12

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL
AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Letter dated 20 February 1980 from the Permanent Mission of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam addressed to the Chairman of the
Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-sixth session

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for your information the following documents:

- (1) Statement by the spokesman for the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding human rights;
- (2) Memorandum by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam regarding China's machinations and criminal acts against Viet Nam.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the enclosures distributed as official documents of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) TRUONG QUAN PHAN
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

GE.80-10787

STATEMENT

by the spokesman for the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
regarding human rights

On 5 February 1980, the United States State Department reported on the observance of "human rights" in 154 countries throughout the world. The report repeated the usual libellous allegations against Viet Nam. This constitutes rank interference in the internal affairs of countries and is a hypocritical act on the part of the Carter Administration directed solely at political ends.

After previous United States administrations had suffered a succession of failures under the banner of "defender of the free world", had clearly shown themselves up as the international policeman specializing in interventionist, subversive and aggressive activities against the independence and sovereignty of nations and, in particular, after the ignominious defeat of the United States in the war of aggression against Viet Nam, the Carter Administration took up the banner of "defender of human rights" as a matter of national policy in order to disguise once again the criminal face of American imperialism, to conceal the serious difficulties experienced by the United States, to undermine the struggle of the forces of peace and progress in the world, to continue to intensify the policy of hostility and intervention against the socialist countries and to bring pressure to bear on other countries.

The peoples of the world, including the American people, however, are realizing ever more clearly that the Carter Administration is perpetrating a huge fraud as regards human rights and that the United States imperialists are inveterately the most dangerous violators of human rights in our times.

In the United States, despite the vauntings of the Carter Administration, criminal acts resulting from racial discrimination and totally at variance with the civilization of man are committed every day. They are habitual, serious and enduring and affect the human rights of tens of millions of coloured Americans. The cruel policy of exploitation and the growing inflation have increasingly exacerbated the inequality and the gulf between a wealthy handful and hundreds of millions who are poor; social ills (unemployment, theft, murder, prostitution ...) are legion. Against this background, human rights are no more than words of adornment to hide the evils of American society which stem from the criminal policy of United States Administrations. Throughout the world, the United States imperialists have entered into collusion with dictators, fascists and tyrants condemned by all mankind for their abominable crimes. It is the United States which supported the dictator Pinochet against the Chilean people, aided the fascist Somoza against the Nicaraguan people, protected the tyrant Pahlavi against the revolution of the Iranian people, mourned the traitor Amin and entered into league with the forces of reaction to sabotage the revolutionary achievements of the Afghan people. It is the United States which has supplied weapons and military equipment to the South African racist clique so that it can resist the other African peoples and to the Zionist clique so that it can resist the Arab peoples. It is the United States which is monopolizing the natural resources of the developing countries, shifting onto them the burden of its economic crisis and inflation and thereby forcing billions of human beings to live in destitution and disease. To sustain the exploitation of, and the economic and social inequality between, nations, it has

used every means to oppose the establishment of a new international economic order. It is feverishly stepping up the arms race, developing the production of various kinds of weapons of mass destruction, creating tension everywhere and opposing disarmament and the fervent desire of the peoples of the world for peace and international détente; as a result, mankind is compelled to live constantly under the threat of a possible war.

In the Indo-Chinese peninsula, the United States used tens of millions of tons of bombs and poisonous chemical substances in waging the cruellest war of extermination in history against the basic national rights of the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea. Having been defeated in that war, it played the Chinese card, entered into collusion with the expansionist and hegemonistic Peking clique, encouraged it to launch the war of aggression against Viet Nam, incited Vietnamese to emigrate illegally so as to create difficulties for the Vietnamese people, threatened the independence and security of Laos and protected and backed up the genocide committed by Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and other Khmer reactionaries with a view to opposing the young People's Republic of Kampuchea and the efforts of the Kampuchean people to consolidate the power and security of the country and to build a new life.

Throughout the world, these facts afford eloquent proof that the United States has flouted and is flouting the elementary principles of morality and human rights in the most flagrant way and that it is in no position to preach about human rights.

The Vietnamese have unceasingly fought for their independence and freedom and have joined with other nations in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism - both old and new, racial discrimination, zionism, expansionism and hegemony, and the struggle for the most fundamental rights of mankind and of all nations, namely, to live in peace, independence, freedom and social progress. As always, with their warmongering and their policy of aggression, repression and exploitation, imperialism, colonialism, expansionism and hegemony, the United States imperialists, in particular, are never the defenders of human rights; on the contrary, the flag of human rights rests solely in the hands of the nations which are struggling against them. All the boasting and the misleading allegations of United States imperialism and of the expansionist and hegemonistic Peking clique about human rights are no more than bluff and are doomed to failure.

Hanoi, 14 February 1980

MEMORANDUM

by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam regarding China's machinations and criminal acts against Viet Nam

After suffering successive setbacks in a series of plots and acts openly directed against Viet Nam since the beginning of 1978, the Chinese authorities made every effort in 1979 to intensify more than ever their hostile policy towards Viet Nam at all levels - military, economic and diplomatic and also in terms of public opinion. This policy is an important element in the foreign line which Peking is taking in ever closer collusion with imperialism, above all United States imperialism, in order to oppose peace, national independence, democracy and socialism and to consolidate its expansionism and hegemony as a major Power. Peking has completely unmasked its reactionary and treacherous face, sabotaging the long-standing friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples and seriously threatening peace and stability in South East Asia.

(1) In February 1979, the Chinese authorities recklessly launched a war of aggression against Viet Nam.

For some years, along with hostile acts designed to weaken Viet Nam, the Chinese authorities had been scheming to attack Viet Nam by the two jaws of the strategic pincers, the south-western frontier and the northern frontier. At the beginning of 1979, with the resounding victories of the Vietnamese people and their armed forces, which crushed the aggressive attacks launched from the south-west by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary army and with the great victory of the Kampuchean people, who overthrew the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique's genocidal regime, one of the two jaws of China's strategic pincers was broken. Far from resigning themselves to their defeat, the Chinese authorities, acting in accordance with a pre-arranged plan and supported by imperialism - first and foremost the United States imperialists, on 17 February 1979 mobilized 600,000 troops, not to mention hundreds of tanks and thousands of guns, and launched a direct attack on Viet Nam from the northern frontier.

Following in the footsteps of the imperialist aggressors, they thus violated the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, opposed national independence and socialism, flagrantly violated the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and laid bare their expansionist and hegemonistic designs.

In that war of aggression, the Chinese forces committed crimes of unspeakable atrocity which all mankind has condemned with indignation. It was quite clearly a savage war of extermination. All along the Vietnamese frontier, stretching for several thousand kilometres, the Chinese aggressors razed to the ground virtually all the provincial capitals, towns, villages and economic, cultural and public facilities. They ruthlessly massacred civilians, for the most part old people, women and children, and wiped out all the vital resources, all the necessities of life and even the human environment. Those in power in China may do their utmost to justify their aggression and mislead public opinion but they will never conceal these crimes or escape from their responsibility.

Faced with aggression by the Chinese forces, the Vietnamese people united and again rose up as one, determined to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their native land. As their just struggle had powerful support from progressive men and women everywhere, it was crowned by a glorious victory. The unjust war of the Chinese forces failed utterly at all levels - military, political, economic and diplomatic.

(2) After suffering heavy defeats in the war of aggression against Viet Nam, the Chinese authorities continued to step up their military activities, violating the territorial sovereignty of Viet Nam and creating constant tension in the border areas of the two countries.

Having suffered crushing defeats, the Chinese authorities were compelled to order the withdrawal of their troops. However, Chinese soldiers are still occupying more than 10 new points on Vietnamese territory which they seized during their war of aggression in February 1979. At these places, they have constructed a large number of fortifications and trenches and have accumulated a vast amount of material and military equipment.

Since 16 March 1979, the date on which the Chinese side declared that it would withdraw all its troops, those in power in China have continued to increase armed provocations on land and sea and in the air, thus committing many more crimes against the Vietnamese people.

On land, in the border areas, the Chinese side has committed more than 1,500 violations, over 50 per cent consisting of shelling and mortaring of Vietnamese territory and almost 30 per cent consisting of ambushes and surprise attacks deep inside Vietnamese territory. The attackers have killed and wounded hundreds of Vietnamese civilians and frontier-guards and kidnapped hundreds of others. They have set fire to hundreds of houses, killed and taken away many buffalo, oxen and horses and destroyed thousands of hectares of cultivated land and forest.

In the air, Chinese fighters have violated Vietnamese airspace in hundreds of sorties over a number of frontier provinces and some flights have penetrated Vietnamese territory by as much as ten and even 20 kilometres.

At sea, Chinese naval vessels, including submarines, have violated Vietnamese territorial waters from Quang Ninh to Quang Nam-Da Nang in over 4,000 sorties. Furthermore, the Chinese authorities have not scrupled to establish "four danger zones" in the international and internal waters of the Hoang Sa archipelago in Viet Nam and to prohibit international flights over those zones. They have also built numerous new military installations on the Hoang Sa archipelago, which they have been forcibly occupying since 1974. They brazenly continue to arrogate to themselves sovereignty over this Vietnamese archipelago and have even gone so far as to demand that Viet Nam should withdraw its troops from the Truong Sa archipelago. They have signed contracts with United States companies to prospect for and exploit oil and gas in the Gulf of Bac Bo and in the vicinity of the Hoang Sa archipelago.

By all these acts, the Chinese have cynically violated Vietnamese territorial sovereignty, gravely threatened the security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and hampered and sabotaged the normal daily activities of the Vietnamese population in the frontier and coastal regions.

(3) The Chinese authorities have not ceased to misrepresent the situation, to slander Viet Nam in order to lower Viet Nam's prestige in the world, to sabotage the militant solidarity of the Vietnamese, Lao and Kampuchean peoples and to sow discord between the ASEAN countries and the countries of Indo-China and encircle and isolate Viet Nam.

During the past year, in pursuit of utterly reprehensible aims, the Chinese authorities have co-ordinated their activities in close collusion with United States imperialism and with other reactionary forces and embarked on a number of base acts against Viet Nam in the international arena.

They mounted the campaign concerning the "Vietnamese and Indo-Chinese refugee problem" so as to slander and denigrate Viet Nam, distort the truth about the problem of Vietnamese emigrants, which is a result of the neo-colonialist war of aggression conducted by United States imperialism in the past and the current war of aggression and threats of war on the part of the Chinese expansionist clique.

They have mobilized their vast mass media and taken every possible advantage of all the international forums, particularly the United Nations General Assembly, to depict the real situation in Kampuchea under a false light and arrogantly demand the withdrawal by Viet Nam of its troops from Kampuchea, thereby grossly interfering in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and in the legitimate relations maintained in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law by Viet Nam and Kampuchea. Furthermore, they have sought a thousand and one ways to prop up the political corpse of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary already overthrown by the Kampuchean people and have actively helped them in every way in the hope of re-imposing that regime of genocide on Kampuchea and of using Kampuchea as a spring-board to attack Viet Nam and spread their expansionism throughout South East Asia.

They have not ceased to infiltrate into Laos, to sabotage it from within, to incite rebellions and subversive activities against the Lao revolution and use Lao territory as a spearhead to sabotage Viet Nam from the west.

They have put about all sorts of false stories with a view to setting Viet Nam at variance with Laos and Kampuchea, so as to undermine the militant solidarity among the three sister peoples of the Indo-Chinese peninsula fighting side by side against the common enemy.

They have stage-managed the so-called Vietnamese menace to Thailand and the ASEAN countries in order to sow discord between Viet Nam and the other countries of Indo-China on one side and Thailand and the ASEAN countries on the other, and so line them up against one another.

They have incited and led several countries to reduce their economic aid to Viet Nam.

Although the Chinese authorities have resorted to every device to lower Viet Nam's prestige, to encircle it and isolate it in the international arena, all their detestable acts are doomed to lamentable failure because they are faced by the strength of the just cause of Viet Nam and the conscience of progressive people.

(4) The Chinese authorities have hampered the development of Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations and have evaded the settlement of problems concerning relations between the two countries.

Thanks to the goodwill of Viet Nam, negotiations by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs have been held since 18 April 1979 with a view to solving problems concerning relations between Viet Nam and China and, so far, there have been 15 working sessions.

From the very first meeting, in conformity with the aim of the negotiations defined by the two parties, the Vietnamese have put forward a three-point proposal on "the basic principles and content of a settlement of the problems concerning relations between Viet Nam and China", namely, urgent steps to ensure the peace and security of the frontier areas of the two countries, the restoration of normal relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence and the settlement of frontier and territorial problems between the two countries in accordance with the principle of respect for the frontier bequeathed by history. It is a comprehensive and reasonable proposal aimed at settling the immediate urgent problems arising out of the war of aggression by China, preventing a resumption of the war and solving at the same time the fundamental problems of the relations between the two countries. Broad sectors of world opinion have welcomed and expressed ever greater appreciation of the Vietnamese three-point proposal, regarding it as an important peace initiative.

However, the Chinese have adopted a position and an attitude that are quite the reverse. From the outset, they have always sought to convert the bi-partite negotiations to settle the problems concerning relations between Viet Nam and China into a platform for discussing the problems of a third country and have grossly interfered in the relations between Viet Nam and Kampuchea and between Viet Nam and Laos, taking the view that they are prerequisites for the further negotiations and for the normalization of relations between Viet Nam and China. They have persisted in presenting the Vietnamese with an eight-point position that reflects big power expansionism and hegemony and have plotted to use the negotiations to obtain what they have been unable to obtain by various other means, including a war of aggression: requiring Viet Nam to abandon its reasonable policy of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity, give up its territorial sovereignty and move into the orbit and the reactionary path of Peking. The Chinese have always refused to

discuss any matter raised by the Vietnamese and they side-step all the constructive proposals that Viet Nam makes. First, with regard to the proposal on urgent measures to ensure peace and stability in the frontier areas of the two countries, the Chinese have recently rejected once again the Vietnamese initiative, i.e. the two parties should ensure that, for one week from 15 to 21 February 1980 there is no hostile armed activity or firing in the frontier areas, so as to enable the inhabitants of the frontier areas of the two countries to welcome in the traditional Tet peacefully. They have again taken advantage of the negotiations to raise issues which have nothing to do with the talks and they have co-ordinated their actions with imperialism in the international campaign against Viet Nam.

Public opinion is becoming more and more aware that the Chinese are sitting down at the negotiating table not to solve problems and normalize Vietnamese-Chinese relations but to deceive public opinion at home and throughout the world, conceal their preparations for new military adventures against Viet Nam, intensify their interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and Laos and sow discord among the Vietnamese, Lao and Kampuchean peoples. The present stalemate in the negotiations is due entirely to the lack of goodwill and the arrogance of the Chinese.

(5) Since they have not yet given up their aim to attack Viet Nam, the Chinese authorities are making intensive preparations for war and are constantly threatening to attack Viet Nam yet again.

Along with armed provocation and the obstacles put in the way of the Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations, the Chinese authorities are engaged in extensive preparations for a new military adventure against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

On land, the Chinese army corps which took part in the Chinese aggression against Viet Nam in February 1979 are at present encamped in places close to Viet Nam. The forces massed near the Vietnamese frontier have increased from 12 to 15 divisions. Military personnel stationed in positions along the frontier have been strengthened from a squad or a section to a company and in certain places to a battalion. Rocket and long-range artillery installations have been reported in almost all the key regions, heights and passes along the Vietnamese frontier. Tanks and armoured vehicles of all sorts are included in almost all the forward columns, in several places only tens of kilometres from the frontier. The military aerodromes of Hainan, Kwang-chou, the Kwangsi autonomous region and Yunan province have received reinforcements of hundreds of fighters, bombers and torpedo-carrying aircraft, while dozens of naval surface craft and submarines equipped with sophisticated weapons have reinforced the Nanhai fleet.

In the areas bordering Viet Nam, on land as on sea, Chinese troops have carried out large-scale military exercises for each of the services or for the army, air force and navy combined. These have been conducted day and night over areas several hundreds of kilometres long.

The Chinese authorities are sending into Vietnamese territory hundreds of intelligence agents, including reactionary elements among the Hoa resident in Viet Nam, to collect information, make contacts and stir up rebellions within Viet Nam itself. They have organized "agitation groups among the ethnic minorities", who are infiltrating the mountain regions along the Vietnamese frontier to sow discord among the ethnic minorities.

In terms of psychology and public opinion, the Peking authorities are busily exhorting the Chinese people to nurse an implacable hatred of the Vietnamese people. On their orders, hundreds of Chinese units and soldiers who have committed untold crimes in their aggression against Viet Nam have been awarded "honorific titles".

On their orders, Chinese soldier "heroes" have done the rounds of Peking, Shanghai and as far as Tsinkiang describing their "exploits" and "experiences" during the aggression. With plays, personal accounts, film documentaries and photos, they have shamelessly falsified the truth and slandered Viet Nam in order to deceive the Chinese people and Chinese soldiers. They make cynical use of that Judas, Hoang Van Hoang, in carrying out their wicked anti-Vietnamese schemes. Some Chinese leaders are constantly making insolent threats to "give Viet Nam another lesson"!

More serious, the Chinese authorities are entering into close collusion with imperialism, primarily United States imperialism, to offer increasing opposition to the revolution and to sabotage peace. They are throwing themselves into the role of imperialism's local policeman in the hope of obtaining imperialist support in modernizing their national defence, attacking the USSR and Viet Nam and achieving their expansionist and hegemonistic aims first of all in South East Asia. Following the visit to the United States in January 1979 of the Chinese Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping and the visit to China in August 1979 of the United States Vice-President, W. Mondale, the visit to China in January 1980 of the United States Secretary for Defence, H. Brown, is a further dangerous step in the development of this reactionary alliance.

What has struck public opinion is that during this trip, China and the United States of America held open discussions and cynically stated that their views coincided and that they would take effective steps to oppose revolutionary movements among the peoples of various countries. In fact, United States imperialism is at present actively assisting the Chinese rulers to oppose Viet Nam in every way. It is encouraging Peking in its aggression against Viet Nam and, together with Peking, it is endeavouring to revitalize the Cambodian forces of reaction; it has sent its Seventh Fleet to operate in the territorial waters to the south and south west of Viet Nam, it is introducing weapons on a large scale into Thailand and endeavouring to revive the aggressive SEATO military bloc against Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea. As for the Chinese leaders, they are looking for a military alliance with United States imperialism and are busy multiplying their plots and hostile acts against Viet Nam. Even more serious, they are constantly stepping up their acts of armed provocation in Vietnamese frontier areas, both on land and at sea, and deliberately undertaking preparations for war while advancing completely illegitimate pretexts in the hope of impeding the Vietnamese-Chinese negotiations.

Obviously, with the intensification of their acts of armed provocation, the speeding up of their preparations for war in all directions and in all respects and their insolent threats of war, the Chinese authorities are currently creating a situation of extreme tension, something which may lead to a new war of aggression at any moment and would seriously threaten the security of Viet Nam, peace and stability in South East Asia and world peace.

All these facts prove that in the course of the past year the Chinese leaders, in close collusion with United States imperialism and other reactionary forces, have resorted to every sort of detestable, cruel and treacherous machination and intensified ever more feverishly their reactionary policy of complete hostility towards Viet Nam. This policy has gravely violated the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and sacred national interests of the Vietnamese people. At the same time it runs counter to the interests of the Chinese people and sabotages peace and stability in South East Asia and in the world.

Under the banner of national independence and socialism, the Vietnamese people are determined to thwart all the aggressive and hostile plots of the Chinese authorities, firmly maintain the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their native land and thus contribute to the struggle of the peoples of the world for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

The Vietnamese people continue to hold the long-standing friendship between themselves and the Chinese people in high esteem and unflinchingly hope for the normalization of relations between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China.

In the interests of the two peoples, and in the name of peace and stability in South East Asia and world peace, the Government and people of Viet Nam firmly demand that the Chinese authorities should abandon their plots and hostile acts against Viet Nam, promptly put an end to their acts of armed provocation on Vietnamese territory by land, air and sea, immediately halt preparations and threats of war against Viet Nam, negotiate seriously with the Vietnamese to solve problems concerning relations between Viet Nam and China, ensure peace and stability in the frontier areas and restore normal relations between the two countries.

If relations between Viet Nam and China are strained and are gravely deteriorating as they are today, the responsibility lies entirely with the Chinese.

Hanoi, 12 February 1980.