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Letter dated 17 February 1979 from the Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam dated 17 February 1979 regarding the war of aggression waged against Viet Nam by the Chinese rulers for your information and request you to have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 17 February 1979 by the Government
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam regarding the
war of aggression waged against Viet Nam by the Chinese
rulers

On 17 February 1979, the Chinese rulers brazenly started a war of aggression against Viet Nam.

They mobilized many infantry, armour and artillery divisions with air support to launch a massive attack on the whole Viet Nam-China border. They attacked the towns of Lao Cai and Hong Cai and the district towns of Bong Dang and Huong Khuong deep inside the Vietnamese territory. Chinese forces attacked and occupied many border posts and many areas in Dinh Lan, Trang Dinh, Loc Binh and Van Lam districts in Lang Son province, Tra Linh, Ha Quang and Quang He in Cao Bang province, Muong Khuong and Bat Xat in Hoang Lien Son province, Phong Tho in Lai Chau province and Binh Lieu in Quang Ninh province, committing many serious crimes and causing great losses in lives and property to the Vietnamese people.

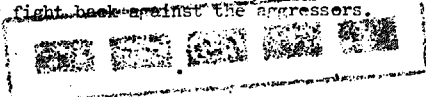
It is obvious that the Chinese rulers, after repeated failures in their hostile policy against Viet Nam, have stepped into the ruts of the Chinese feudalists, the imperialists and the colonialists, launching an aggressive war against Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country.

By invading Viet Nam, the Chinese rulers have totally revealed their expansionism, big-power hegemonism and reactionary policy, run counter to the interests of the Chinese people and seriously undermine the traditional friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam and China.

By invading Viet Nam, the Chinese rulers have opposed the whole socialist system and the national liberation movement and sabotaged peace and stability in South-East Asia and in the world.

Their war of aggression has grossly trampled upon the most elementary principles in international relations and the United Nations Charter. It is an insolent challenge to all peace- and justice-loving people.

For several years now, especially in the recent past, in spite of the Chinese rulers' intensified provocations and threats, the people and Government of Viet Nam have shown utmost self-restraint in the interests of peace and friendship, and sought all means to settle through negotiations all the problems in the relations between the two countries. But the Chinese rulers, heedless of reason, have continued their armed provocations and provoked a war of aggression against Viet Nam. In the face of that aggression by the reactionary Chinese rulers, the Vietnamese people and army have no alternative but to exercise their legitimate right to self-defence and resolutely fight back against the aggressors.



Acting upon beloved President Ho Chi Minh's teaching "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom", once again our entire people and army, men and women, old and young, united millions as one man are unanimously standing up to fight resolutely in defence of the independence, sovereignty and sacred territorial integrity of their Motherland.

The people and Government of Viet Nam urgently call on the Soviet Union, the fraternal socialist countries, the national independent countries, the countries in the non-aligned movement, the friendly countries, the communist and workers parties, and the progressive people throughout the world to enhance their solidarity with Viet Nam, support and defend Viet Nam, and to demand that the Peking rulers put an immediate end to their aggressive war and withdraw all their troops from Viet Nam.

The fraternal peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea who have fought shoulder to shoulder and defeated the aggressive imperialists, are strengthening further their solidarity to defeat the reactionary policy of the Chinese rulers.

For peace and the long-standing friendship between the two countries, the Vietnamese people call on the Chinese people and troops to resolutely protest against the aggressive war provoked by the Peking rulers.

The people and Government of Viet Nam call on the United Nations and the democratic organizations, for the sake of peace and justice, to energetically condemn the aggressive war of the Peking rulers.

The Vietnamese people, a dauntless, courageous and indomitable nation who have defeated all aggressors, are firmly convinced that under the leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and enjoying strong sympathy and support from their brothers and friends in all continents, will defeat the aggressive war of the Chinese rulers, defend their independence and sovereignty and make a worthy contribution to the safeguarding of peace and stability in South-East Asia and the world.

