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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 15 March 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-
General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the note sent on 15 March 1979 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and request that this note be 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

Note sent on 15 March 1979 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam wishes to make clear the views of the Vietnamese side as follows.

The Chinese rulers are now taking their troops home, but they are trying to occupy a number of places on Vietnamese territory. As they did in the course of their aggression on Vietnamese border areas, they have perpetrated, in their withdrawal, extremely barbarous crimes against the Vietnamese people. They have devastated with heavy artillery fire provincial towns, townships, villages (including the provincial capital of Lang Son which has been completely destroyed). They have destroyed economic and cultural establishments, schools, hospitals and other public utility services. They have indulged in acts of looting, wanton massacre of Vietnamese, and have planted mines everywhere and poisoned water wells. In Chi Ma area (Lang Son), Chinese troops have shifted border markers Nos. 41 and 45 deep into Vietnamese territory.

The Vietnamese people and world public opinion are firmly demanding that the Chinese rulers put a permanent end to their aggression, take their troops home immediately, completely and unconditionally, stop all criminal acts against the Vietnamese people, and strictly respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam. The Chinese rulers must put an immediate end to the shifting of border markers and other acts aimed at changing the historical borderline.

On 6 March 1979, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam stated:

"If China really withdraws all its troops from Vietnamese territory as it has said it will, after the total withdrawal of the Chinese troops to the other side of the historical frontier which the two sides have agreed to respect, the Vietnamese side will be disposed to begin immediately with the Chinese side negotiations at the level of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on the re-establishment of normal relations between the two countries. The place and date will be agreed upon between the two sides." a/

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam now wishes to give further details as follows:

"1. One week after the complete withdrawal of Chinese troops to the other side of the historical borderline which the two sides have undertaken to respect, the Vice Ministerial negotiations between Viet Nam and China will begin.

a/ See A/34/107-S/13144, annex.

"2. Regarding the venue: the Vietnamese Government has twice sent its delegation to Peking for negotiations with the Chinese Government's delegation; this time, the Vietnamese side proposes that the talks be held in Hanoi. If the Chinese side so wishes, a place on the Viet Nam-China border may be chosen, or else the meetings may take place alternatively in two places on the border (one on Vietnamese territory, the other on Chinese territory).

"3. The Vietnamese side proposes that the two sides will discuss the urgent measures to be taken to maintain peace and stability at the border region, on the basis of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and restoration of normal relations between the two countries.

"At the beginning of the negotiations, the two sides will agree on the concrete agenda."

The Vietnamese people unswervingly cherish the traditional friendship between them and the Chinese people, and have spared no effort to preserve this noble friendship. Once again, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has shown its sincerity and goodwill. The Vietnamese side hopes that the Chinese side will respond at an early date to this proposal. If the Chinese rulers pursue new military adventures against the Vietnamese people, the Vietnamese army and people will firmly resort to their sacred right of self-defence to protect the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, preserve the friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, safeguard peace and stability in South-East Asia and contribute to the maintenance of world peace.
