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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 4 April 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, for your information, the text of the note dated 4 April 1979 from 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 you to have this letter and its enclosure 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 dated 4 April 1979 from 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 acknowledges receipt of the note dated 31 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and wishes to make clear the views of the Vietnamese side as follows:

1. Since 17 February 1979, the Chinese rulers have mobilized over half a million troops to wage a war of aggression against Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country. The Chinese aggressor troops have committed many savage crimes against the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people have risen up as one man in a valiant fight to preserve the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their fatherland.

For the sake of peace and justice, the people of the whole world have strongly supported the Vietnamese people's just struggle and sternly condemned the Chinese rulers' unjust war.

In their own interests and for the sake of the friendship between the two peoples, there have developed among the Chinese people and troops an opposition to the Chinese ruling circle's war of aggression in Viet Nam.

In face of this situation, the Chinese rulers have declared that they will bring home all their troops.

2. The serious position and attitude of goodwill of the Vietnamese people and Government is clear and unswerving: while exercising their legitimate right to self-defence to safeguard their fatherland, the Vietnamese people and Government, for the sake of peace and friendship, persistently stand for a negotiated settlement of the problems in the relations between the two countries.

On 6 March 1979, one day after the Chinese rulers' statement about beginning troop withdrawals, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam made it clear: the Chinese rulers, having started a war of aggression against Viet Nam, must put a permanent end to their aggression, withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally all their troops to the other side of the historical borderline which the two sides have agreed to respect. After the complete withdrawal of the Chinese troops, the Vietnamese side will be prepared to enter immediately into talks with the Chinese side at the level of Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on the restoration of normal relations between the two countries.

But, until now, the Chinese troops have not been withdrawn from all the points they have occupied on Vietnamese territory; moreover, they have continued digging

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trenches and building fortifications in these places. In addition, the Chinese rulers have sent troop reinforcements and war materials close to the Vietnamese border. The Chinese side has also claimed that Viet Nam intends to provoke a new military conflict; this is an attempt to deceive world public opinion and the Chinese people.

3. In its previous notes to the Vietnamese side, the Chinese side claimed to have brought home all its troops as of 16 March 1979. This contention does not conform to the facts. In its note of 27 March 1979 (A/34/139-S/13202, annex), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam pointed out that the Chinese troops were still stationed in over 10 places on Vietnamese territory and named each of those places. In its note of 31 March 1979 (A/34/157-S/13212, annex), in reply to the Vietnamese note, the Chinese side also admitted the presence of Chinese troops in some of the points mentioned by the Vietnamese side. It should be recalled that the correct position of the Vietnamese side has been made clear in the previous notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam.

As a sign of goodwill and with the desire of preserving the traditional friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam and China, reaching a settlement of the disputes in the relations between the two sides, meeting the aspirations of the two peoples and of the peoples of the world, and contributing to the preservation of peace and stability in South-East Asia, the Vietnamese side declares once again its willingness to start with the Chinese side negotiations at the level of Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in order to discuss the problems in the relations between the two countries: the urgent measures to maintain peace and stability in the border areas on the basis of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the restoration of normal relations between the two countries. We propose that the negotiations begin around 10 April 1979. The delegation of the Chinese Government will be welcomed if it is present in Hanoi at that time.

We hope that the Chinese side will give an early response.
