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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 8 January 1981 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 memorandum dated 29 December 1980 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam concerning the hostile activities carried out by the Beijing authorities against Viet Nam in 1980. I should be grateful if you would have this note and the memorandum circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

ANNEX

MEMORANDUM FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF VIET NAM
CONCERNING THE HOSTILE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE BEIJING
AUTHORITIES AGAINST VIET NAM IN 1980

In 1979, the Chinese authorities suffered lamentable defeats in their wars of aggression against Viet Nam in the south-west and north of the country, as well as in a series of hostile acts against Viet Nam. In 1980, despite their serious defeats, they intensified their collusion with the American imperialists, stepping up their hostile activities against Viet Nam and taking various measures in a number of fields.

1. The Chinese authorities are continuing to intensify their acts of armed provocation on land, at sea and in the air, to encroach on the territory of Viet Nam and to step up their preparations for war, and are threatening to trigger a further war of aggression against Viet Nam

Since the start of the year, the Chinese authorities have engaged in over 2,500 acts of armed provocation along the Vietnamese border. Many Chinese units - groups and companies - have made forays and laid ambushes deep within Viet Nam, killing and kidnapping the inhabitants, destroying and pillaging property. Densely populated regions, plantations, hospitals, shops and schools along the border have frequently been shelled by artillery from across the border. Some regions have received thousands of rounds of mortar fire; in other regions, up to 10 kilometres inside Vietnamese territory, hundreds of Vietnamese inhabitants and soldiers have been killed or wounded, many houses destroyed, together with hundreds of hectares of rice paddies, and large quantities of goods and animals belonging to the population seized by Chinese soldiers.

The fact that the Chinese troops are occupying numerous hilltops along the border and encroaching on dozens of places deep within Vietnamese territory - particularly in the provinces of Lang Son, Cao Bang, Ha Tuyen and Hoang Lien Son - with a view to dominating vast regions of Viet Nam and using them as spring-boards for their attacks is a matter for concern. In a variety of ways, the Chinese have expanded the areas they had occupied, and they are constantly occupying new areas of Vietnamese territory. On 15 October, under cover of artillery fire, one regimental unit occupied areas of Xin Man commune, Xin Man district, in Ha Tuyen province.

In addition, there have been hundreds of incidents of violations of Vietnamese airspace by Chinese fighter planes, sometimes up to 10 kilometres inside Vietnamese territory. Chinese warships have entered Vietnamese territorial waters 6,000 times, engaging in provocation and intelligence activities, thus interfering with the peaceful work of Vietnamese fishermen.

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For several months the Chinese have been maintaining, on a permanent basis, five corps in the border regions and 15 divisions in the neighbourhood of Viet Nam. They have been sending weapons and war matériel to the border regions around the clock, supported by mortar and artillery units. They have widened and built several road systems leading to the border and to the hilltops which they are occupying along the border between the two countries and in Vietnamese territory. They have enlarged the airports near the frontier and have sent further fighter and bomber units to those airports together with equipment and weapons. They have stepped up military construction on Hainan island and in the Hoang Sa (Paracel) archipelago - occupied by China though belonging to Viet Nam - and are seeking to use these places as spring-boards for their aggression. They have organized manoeuvres lasting several days for various sections of the army, and have organized demonstrations of various weapons and techniques, involving regiments and army corps in the border regions and at sea. Many members of the Chinese leadership have repeatedly uttered threats of war against Viet Nam. This proves that the Chinese authorities are preparing to wage war against Viet Nam and that, by casting the shadow of war and exerting military pressure along the border, they are seeking to undermine Viet Nam's peaceful work. As a result of these actions, the situation in the border regions between the two countries remains tense and explosive.

2. The Chinese authorities are intensifying their psychological warfare, divisive methods and subversive activities against Viet Nam

As part of their policy of false propaganda and psychological warfare against Viet Nam, the Chinese authorities have grossly distorted the situation in Viet Nam, have run down the policy of the Party and State of Viet Nam and have engaged in acts of incitement designed to divide and sabotage the national union of Viet Nam. They are constantly sending reactionary elements trained in China, including many Hoa, to the mountainous regions in the northern frontier provinces of Viet Nam to engage in intelligence and subversive activities. Recently, they have been organizing special troops, which they then send into the communes in the frontier regions, ostensibly to "protect the crops". In fact, these troops are commandos which China is trying to send secretly into the frontier regions of Viet Nam to engage in sabotage of all kinds. Even more shamelessly, using the traitor Hoang Van Hoan, China is now seeking to round up other Vietnamese reactionaries to oppose Viet Nam.

3. The Chinese authorities are not averse to any treacherous move to sow discord between Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea and to set the ASEAN countries against Viet Nam

Through the usual means, i.e., by misrepresenting the facts and engaging in slander, the Chinese authorities are seeking to separate Viet Nam from Laos and Kampuchea and to undermine the militant solidarity existing between the peoples of the three fraternal countries of Indo-China; at the same time, each day they are further intensifying their collusion with the United States of America, interfering in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and furthering their intended sabotage and subversion against the Lao people.

They are using every possible means to try to set Thailand and the ASEAN countries against Viet Nam and the countries of Indo-China, with a view to weakening both groups and making good their attempts at expansion and hegemonism in South-East Asia. They are hampering moves towards the initiation of talks between the ASEAN and the Indo-Chinese countries, contrary to the aspirations of the peoples and countries of South-East Asia for peace and stability in the region and in the world. Clearly, the expansionist, hegemonistic and warmongering policies of the Chinese authorities account for the absence of peace and the instability in South-East Asia.

4. The Beijing authorities are sabotaging the negotiations between Viet Nam and China directed towards the solution of problems in relations between the two countries

Because of the arrogant stance and lack of goodwill on the Chinese side, negotiations between Viet Nam and China are making no progress. After refusing to negotiate, under various pretexts, since the end of 1979, the Chinese side unilaterally broke off the second round of the negotiations on 6 March 1980 and announced that talks would be resumed at Hanoi during the second half of 1980.

The policy of the Government and people of Viet Nam is still to seek a negotiated solution to the problems in relations between the two countries, to continue the negotiations and to move them forward. Accordingly, in the notes sent on 8 March and 12 September 1980 by the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to its Chinese counterpart, the former stressed the need to continue negotiations between the two countries and put forward specific proposals concerning the date of the negotiations (third round) during the second half of 1980. However, the Chinese side categorically rejected these constructive proposals and, making gross allegations, blamed the Vietnamese side for the situation. Clearly it is the Chinese side that has obstructed the negotiations between Viet Nam and China.

These facts prove that in 1980 the Chinese authorities have continued to underscore their policy of hostility towards Viet Nam and aggravate tension in relations between Viet Nam and China, threatening peace and stability in South-East Asia. Despite their aims and their foul designs on Viet Nam, they have suffered defeat after defeat in every area -- military, political, economic and diplomatic -- and are doomed to total defeat.

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Bearing aloft the banner of peace, national independence and socialism and united as one under the leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and its Central Committee headed by Secretary-General Le Duan, the army and people are moving ahead in their task of building up the socialist structure and defending the homeland.

The Government and people of Viet Nam vehemently denounce and strongly condemn the plots and acts of hostility perpetrated against Viet Nam by the Chinese authorities. They resolutely demand that the Chinese authorities halt such activities and, above all, end their acts of armed provocation and their encroachment on the territory along the Vietnamese border, as well as their preparations for and threats of a war of aggression and their acts of subversion against Viet Nam.

In the interest of the people of South-East Asia and in the interest of peace and stability in the region, the Government and people of Viet Nam are persisting in their policy of settling the problems between Viet Nam and China through negotiations, with a view to normalizing relations between the two countries and reviving and building on the long-standing friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples.

Hanoi, 29 December 1980