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LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL

Following their war of aggression against Kampuchea, the Vietnamese authorities have taken a series of actions to aggravate the tension in South-East Asia and other parts of Asia. In particular, they have been carrying out wanton armed provocations along the Sino-Vietnamese borders, gravely threatening the security of the southern borders of China.

In deliberate pursuance of a hostile policy towards the People's Republic of China, the Vietnamese authorities have been creating disputes along the Sino-Vietnamese borders in an organized and planned way, carrying out armed provocations, nibbling at Chinese territories, abducting and killing Chinese personnel and sabotaging the livelihood and production of Chinese border inhabitants. Within the year 1978, Vietnamese armed personnel intruded into Chinese territory and created disputes on more than 1,100 occasions; the Vietnamese side also crossed the border to plant mines, kept on bombarding and firing at Chinese territories, killing and wounding several hundred Chinese personnel. During this period, Vietnamese leaders have ceaselessly clamoured for a "new war" with China as the target. They have whipped up a war hysteria throughout the country, stepped up arms buildup and the recruitment of troops and carried out frequent military manoeuvres against China. At the same time, the Vietnamese side has intensified the so-called "clearance" activities in the provinces close to the Sino-Vietnamese border, deploying a large number of troops and building fortifications along the Sino-Vietnamese borders in preparation for new military schemes.

While launching a massive invasion of Kampuchea and making incessant provocations against China, the Vietnamese authorities have tried hard to capitalize on its status of a "small country" for blatant abuses and slanders against China, alleging that China is "threatening" Viet Nam and "harbouring ambitions" against Viet Nam, and so on and so forth. The same despicable means was employed in the message dated 10 February 1979 from Nguyen Duy Trinh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, addressed to the President of the Security Council. Using the habitual tactics of an evil-doer levelling a pre-emptive false charge against others, the Vietnamese side tries to cover up its real provocations against China and prepare the ground for further anti-China conspiracies. But this is utterly futile.

The present situation along the Sino-Vietnamese borders is wholly the making of the Vietnamese authorities. The Chinese Government highly treasures the traditional friendship between the peoples of China and Viet Nam. It has all along exercised restraint vis-à-vis the anti-China policies pursued by the Vietnamese authorities in recent years and their provocative acts of all kinds, and it has exerted utmost efforts for an appropriate settlement of the disputes between the two countries through negotiations and consultation. The Chinese side still hopes and asks that in the common interests of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and for the sake of peace and stability in the region, the Vietnamese authorities will immediately stop all their attacks on and armed provocations against China and refrain from going further on their erroneous path.

The Vietnamese authorities are pursuing a policy of aggression and expansion abroad, thus seriously menacing the peace and stability in South-East Asia and the whole of Asia. This has naturally aroused the concern and anxiety of all countries in Asia and the rest of the world. We sincerely hope that the United Nations will uphold justice, exercise its functions and authority and take the necessary measures so that the Vietnamese authorities will immediately halt their armed incursions and provocations against China, immediately stop their aggression and military occupation of Kampuchea, withdraw all their forces from Kampuchea and immediately cease all their acts jeopardizing the peace and security of South-East Asia, the rest of Asia and the whole world.

I would request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHEN Chu
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to
the United Nations
