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LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1979 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BULGARIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued by the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on 18 February 1979 in connexion with the armed aggression by China against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

I should be grateful if you would circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dimitar KOSTOV  
Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Bulgaria to the United Nations  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement dated 18 February 1979 by the Government  
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

On 17 February 1979, Chinese troops crossed the Viet Nam-China border and launched a vast and vicious aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Using their right to self-defence the Vietnamese armed forces are fighting hard to repel the aggressor, defending the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their Motherland.

The aggressive war started by China against independent, socialist Viet Nam represents a flagrant violation of fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and is an overt defiance to peoples to whom peace and justice are dear. By its actions the Chinese Government severely tries peace and security in South-East Asia. These actions also constitute a direct threat to peace and the process of détente in the whole world. All this causes the justified concern of and condemnation on the part of the progressive forces of our planet.

In their attempts to justify the aggression the Chinese leadership resort to lies and disinformation, trying to lay the blame on the aggression's victim and heaping calumnies on the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. They even have the impudence to state that they started the war because they cherished the friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. Such have always been the devices of forces which have been throwing mankind in conflagrations of wars of conquest. The whole world is aware that the Chinese aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is the result of a long ideological, political and military preparation in keeping with the Maoist foreign-policy line of world domination. The Chinese leaders have been grossly interfering in Viet Nam's internal affairs, occupying its territories, impeding the socialist transformations in the southern part of the country, sabotaging the economic construction and have provoked a prolonged border war between Viet Nam and Kampuchea. To the appeals by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for a peaceful solution of contentious issues the Chinese Government responded by carrying out a continuous build-up of troops along the Viet Nam-China border and in the end it chose a path which is extremely fraught with danger both for world peace and for the Chinese people itself.

In unleashing the aggressive war against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Chinese leadership have proved that they have turned China into a striking-force of the most reactionary imperialist circles, a real threat to international peace and security.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has sharply condemned the adventurist aggressive actions of China against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and joined the appeal by world public opinion for immediate cessation of the aggression and for withdrawal of all Chinese troops from Viet Nam's territory.

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We are deeply convinced that as in the past when the Vietnamese people successfully defeated the foreign intervention, now in the present its just struggle against the Chinese aggression will be crowned by total success. A guarantee to that is the full support of the Soviet Union, of the other socialist countries and all progressive and peace-loving forces throughout the world.

Our Vietnamese brothers can rely on the complete fraternal solidarity of the Bulgarian people. As in the past, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the entire Bulgarian people now resolutely support the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people in their just struggle against the Chinese aggression, for the defence of their independence and sovereignty, for guaranteeing peace and security in South-East Asia and in the whole world.

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