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LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1979 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a note sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Vietnamese Embassy in China on 1 March 1979. I would request that this note 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

Annex

Note dated 1 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of China to the Vietnamese Embassy in China

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in China and has the honour to state as follows:

On 17 February 1979, the Chinese Government issued a solemn statement in which it proposed that the Chinese and Vietnamese sides speedily hold negotiations to discuss the restoration of peace and tranquillity along the border between the two countries and proceed to settle the disputes concerning the boundary and territory. It is to be regretted that the Vietnamese side has failed to make a positive response to this proposal of the Chinese side.

However, the Chinese Government still hopes to see a settlement of the disputes between the two countries through peaceful negotiations. To this end, the Chinese Government would like to propose once again to the Vietnamese Government that each side appoint a Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs as its representative to meet as soon as possible at a mutually agreed place for concrete negotiations on ending the current border conflict between the two countries and any constructive measures that can ensure peace and tranquillity along the border between the two countries, and then proceed to settle the disputes between the two countries concerning the boundary and territory. The Chinese side would welcome Vietnamese ideas about the level, venue and other matters of the negotiations between the two sides.

This proposal of the Chinese Government accords with the will and interests of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples in maintaining relations of peace and friendship, and also meets the earnest desire of the majority of the countries in the world and international opinion to see a cessation of the border conflict between China and Viet Nam and an assured peace between the two countries. It is hoped that the Vietnamese Government will give serious consideration and make a positive response to the Chinese Government's sincere proposal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

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