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LETTER DATED 11 DECEMBER 1978 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In his letter to the President of the Security Council dated 30 November 1978 (S/12944) the Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations virulently slandered China on the question of Viet Nam-Kampuchea conflict in an attempt to confuse the public and use sophistry to justify its aggression and subversive acts against Democratic Kampuchea. I deem it necessary to state the facts as follows:

The armed conflict between Viet Nam and Kampuchea was provoked solely by the Vietnamese authorities, who went back on their previous commitment to recognize and respect the territorial integrity of Cambodia within its existing frontiers. In 1975, they sent armed forces to invade and occupy Kampuchea's Wei Island and has since then made incessant encroachments upon its territory. By the end of 1977, they brazenly launched a large-scale war of aggression against Kampuchea. The root cause of the Viet Nam-Kampuchea conflict lies in the Vietnamese authorities' attempt to annex Kampuchea, control the whole of Indo-China and establish an "Indochina Federation" with Viet Nam at its head. Motivated by the needs of its global hegemonist strategy, the Soviet Union is doing its utmost to support and abet Viet Nam in its acts of regional hegemonism, and this has led to further complexity and gravity of the situation in Indo-China and South-East Asia. Massing a huge number of troops and flaunting the banner of so-called "Kampuchean insurgents", Viet Nam is launching a large-scale renewed invasion of Kampuchea, flagrantly encroaching upon its independence and sovereignty and interfering in its internal affairs. This constitutes a gross trampling on international law and the Charter of the United Nations. These acts have been strongly condemned by all countries and people that uphold justice.

The Chinese Government has always stood for the settlement of international disputes through friendly consultation or negotiations on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and is opposed to any armed aggression or resort to the threat of force. On the question of the dispute between Viet Nam and Kampuchea, it is only natural for China not to give sympathy and support to Viet Nam's policies of aggression and expansion. It is unwarranted for the Vietnamese authorities to vent their anger and animosity towards China on that account. It is also utterly futile for them to try to alter their image of an aggressor by wilfully attacking and vilifying China with all sorts of lies and calumnies.

The Chinese Government has always supported the people of various countries in their cause to win national independence and develop their national economy. Since the founding of new China, we have made tremendous efforts over a long period to support and assist the Vietnamese people in their just struggle and endeavour for reconstruction. Prompted by their domestic and external needs, the Vietnamese authorities have in recent years resorted to a variety of despicable means in pursuance of a series of anti-China policies, which have led to the continued deterioration of the relations between the two countries. The Vietnamese authorities have created tension along the borders between China and Viet Nam by ceaselessly provoking incidents, infringing upon Chinese territory, killing or wounding Chinese border inhabitants. These provocative incidents which are still on the increase have reached intolerable proportions. Furthermore, the Vietnamese authorities have brutally persecuted and expelled on a large scale Chinese nationals and people of Chinese descent residing in Viet Nam. To date, the number of those expelled has reached no less than 170,000.

In a word, the facts show that the Vietnamese authorities are pursuing regional hegemonism in Indo-China and South-East Asia in close co-ordination with the strategy for aggression and expansion pursued by Soviet social-imperialism in Asia and the rest of the world. In the interests of maintaining peace and stability in South-East Asia and the whole of Asia, the pressing need is to stop the wanton aggression and subversion being committed by the Vietnamese authorities against Kampuchea and to oppose the acts of Soviet social-imperialism and Vietnamese expansionism in seeking hegemony in this region.

I have the honour to request that the text of 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

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