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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-seventh session
Item 11 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 8 March 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China addressed to the Embassy of Viet Nam in China on 8 March 1982 and request that it be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 11 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LIANG Yufan
Acting Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/37/50.

ANNEX

NOTE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE EMBASSY
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM IN CHINA

Beijing, 8 March 1982

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, with reference to the grave incident of a brazen attack on Chinese fishing boats by Vietnamese naval vessels, hereby states as follows:

At 0925 hours on 3 March 1982 (Beijing time), 11 fishing boats of the China South Sea Fishing Corporation were engaged in fishing operations on the high seas of the South China Sea at 107°50'E, 17°40'N when they suddenly came under heavy shelling by 2 Vietnamese gunboats (one of them had the sign SO 272 on its side). Chinese fishing boat No. 122 exploded after being hit by shells, with the 18 people on board missing. 14 shells hit fishing boat No. 419, wounding the captain of the boat and 5 other people. Fishing boat No. 108, which burst into flames because of the shelling, was seized together with the people on board by the Vietnamese soldiers.

It must be pointed out that in disregard of the repeated protests by the Chinese side, the Vietnamese authorities have recently continued to carry out armed provocations against and intrusions into China's border areas and dispatched vessels frequently to intrude into China's territorial waters for harassment and sabotage. Now, the Vietnamese authorities have gone so far as to dispatch naval vessels to make raids on the Chinese fishing boats engaged in fishing operations on the high seas, thus creating a grave incident of bloodshed. After the incident occurred, the Vietnamese authorities set into motion their propaganda machine to fabricate lies, alleging that "nearly 40 armed Chinese vessels intruded into Vietnamese territorial waters for reconnaissance and provocations". They were playing this despicable trick of making false countercharges in an attempt to cover up their sheer acts of piracy. This serious incident which the Vietnamese authorities have created is by no means accidental and isolated.

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It once again proves that while intensifying their military attacks against the patriotic forces and people of Democratic Kampuchea and frequently intruding into the border areas of Thailand, they are whipping up a new wave of hostility against China in a planned and systematic way, deliberately aggravating tension between China and Viet Nam. This cannot but arouse serious concern of the Chinese side.

The Chinese Government hereby lodges a strong protest with the Vietnamese authorities against this serious incident of attacking Chinese fishing boats in gross violation of international law and solemnly demands that they return immediately the Chinese fishermen and fishing boat they have seized, compensate for the losses incurred and stop forthwith their raids on Chinese fishing boats and military provocations in the areas along the Sino-Vietnamese border. Otherwise, the Vietnamese authorities will be held responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.
