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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 20 September 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a speech made by Han Nianlong, Head of the Chinese Government Delegation and Vice-Foreign Minister, at the twelfth plenary meeting of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations on 20 September 1979.

I request that this speech be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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

* A/34/150.

ANNEX

Speech made by Vice-Foreign Minister Han Nianlong, Head of the
Chinese Government Delegation, at the twelfth plenary meeting
of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations on 20 September 1979

Of late, the Vietnamese authorities have started a new round of anti-China hullabaloo to further aggravate Sino-Vietnamese tensions. And here, at the negotiating table, the Vietnamese side has arbitrarily stepped up their attempts to obstruct these negotiations, abused the Chinese Government's just stand and tried to blame the Chinese side for the lack of progress. The Chinese side and all those who expected positive results from these negotiations cannot but feel deep concern about the real intentions of the Vietnamese authorities.

It is a well-known fact that the Chinese side proposed and worked energetically to bring about these negotiations and that it put forward its own proposals regarding the purposes and the agenda of these negotiations once they got under way. From the outset, the Chinese side made unremitting efforts to facilitate smooth progress in a spirit of great sincerity and patience. This is a fact which the Vietnamese side cannot distort or deny. In our proposal on principles for handling the relations between China and Viet Nam, we listed the basic principles for resolving the major disputes and issues between the two countries and, keeping in mind the root cause of the deterioration of our relations, we suggested that the two sides first discuss the need for both sides to abide by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the principle of not seeking hegemony. Moreover, we repeatedly declared in clear terms that the Chinese Government is ready to undertake not to seek hegemony in any form and hoped the Vietnamese side would respond to this. These reasonable suggestions of ours were a practicable way to a fundamental solution of the issues in Sino-Vietnamese relations. The negotiations could have proceeded smoothly and yielded results if the Vietnamese side had desisted from obstruction and quibbling. Regrettably, however, the Vietnamese side indicated no desire to consider the Chinese suggestions but tries to lead the negotiations astray by evading the key issue of not seeking hegemony and imposing its will on these negotiations. No progress has been registered in the 11 plenary meetings held so far. This state of affairs is solely the making of the Vietnamese side which has obstinately refused to give and take in the negotiations.

In defence of itself, the Vietnamese side alleged that the stalemate in the negotiations was caused by China's raising the anti-hegemonist issue. This argument is utterly untenable. It was the Vietnamese authorities who have, by pushing a policy of regional hegemonism, wantonly violated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and brought about a serious deterioration of Sino-Vietnamese relations. If our negotiations are to resolve the complex issues between the two countries, it is only natural that we start off on the two basic issues, namely, the observance by both sides of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the principle of not seeking hegemony. How can this approach be described as "exceeding the scope of bilateral relations" and "complicating the negotiations"?

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In trying to divert the negotiations from the crucial subject of opposing hegemonism, the Vietnamese side has resorted to no end of tricks and machinations. You put forward a nice-sounding but hypocritical "three-point-proposal" and harped on the idea that the negotiations take up subjects for discussion on a "rotation basis". To put it bluntly, you were only trying thereby to create confusion, bog the negotiations down in messy bickering, and cover up the essential issues in Sino-Vietnamese relations and the Vietnamese aggressors' criminal acts in Kampuchea and Laos. At first you tried to evade the anti-hegemony issue and later you simply cast off your masquerade and blatantly claimed that "nobody had the right to interfere with" Viet Nam's acts of aggression and expansion. At the same time, you made the flagrant counter-charge of Chinese "hegemonism". By now isn't it clear who is responsible for the deadlock in the negotiations? No, the Vietnamese side can never shirk its responsibility in this regard.

In pursuance of their set state policy of anti-China hostility, the Vietnamese authorities have recently taken a series of new anti-China measures and travelled further down the road of worsening the relations between China and Viet Nam. Yet, the Vietnamese side keeps professing its "sincerity" in regard of these negotiations and has boasted about its "efforts to narrow the differences and seek common ground". This is a great mockery. Not long ago, you even inscribed your policy of anti-China hostility in the draft of your new constitution and set your entire propaganda machinery in motion to incite deeper hatred against China and aggravate the antagonism between the two countries. Is this how you try to "narrow the differences"? While continuing to persecute Chinese nationals and Vietnamese citizens of Chinese descent, you keep stepping up your preparations for a war against China and sending commandos and agents into China on missions of armed provocation, who created incidents of bloodshed. What is more, you try to shift the blame on China by fabricating such fantastic lies as Chinese troops, ships and fighter planes intruding into Viet Nam. Are these the "intensive efforts" which you claim you have made to "push the negotiations forward"? You forcibly occupied a number of important islands in China's Nansha Island group. Yet you have been hysterically alleging that China wanted to "annex" what you call the "East Sea". Aren't the words and deeds cited above a deliberate attempt to aggravate tensions between China and Viet Nam and poison the climate of the negotiations? Where can one find a shred of "sincerity" which you profess to have?

It must be noted further that your recent vigorous attacks on China's just position with regard to the Indo-China question and your fictitious charge that China constitutes a "threat" to the three Indo-Chinese States are an attempt to use these negotiations as a forum to spread a smokescreen for a new campaign of armed aggression in Kampuchea which the Vietnamese authorities are planning to unleash. Nobody will be fooled by your tactics of "a thief crying 'stop thief'". You are planning to launch such an offensive in the dry season to stamp out the Kampuchea people's resistance against the Vietnamese occupation forces and thus to conquer and enslave the Kampuchean nation, a nation who ardently loves independence and freedom, and to dominate the whole of Indo-China and then expand

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into South-East Asia. It can be predicted that the Vietnamese authorities' aggression in Kampuchea will meet with firm and persistent resistance from the Kampuchean people and will be roundly denounced by the people of the world whose urgent demand is that Viet Nam stop at once its aggression and military occupation in Kampuchea, withdraw all its troops from that country and let the Kampuchean people decide their own affairs free from outside interference. If the Vietnamese authorities ignore this demand, they will only further isolate themselves internationally.

A host of facts show that the Vietnamese side is not attending the negotiations to seek a normalization of the relations between our two countries, nor does it wish to see peace and tranquillity restored along the Sino-Vietnamese border and in Indo-China and South-East Asia. You are bent on achieving regional hegemony, and your sole interest is to use these negotiations for propaganda purposes, for the continued incitement of anti-China hostility, for deceiving the Vietnamese people and world public opinion and covering up your invasion and occupation of Kampuchea and Laos, your setting up of an "Indo-Chinese Federation", your infiltration and expansion in South-East Asia, and thus serve the global strategic interests of the Soviet hegemonists. When you persist in this position, it is indeed hard to expect smooth progress in these negotiations.

The Sino-Vietnamese negotiations are facing a rigorous test. The Chinese side believes that the stubborn pursuance of this course of action by the Vietnamese authorities is diametrically opposed to the interests of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and gravely endangers the peace and security of this region. In line with our position of seeking to resolve the issues in our relations through negotiations, we express the sincere hope that the Vietnamese authorities will stop its erroneous practice of trying to obstruct and sabotage the negotiations, change over to a serious approach and earnestly consider the eight-point proposal of the Chinese side so that the negotiations may move out of the stalemate. This, we think, is the only reasonable and correct course.
