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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Letter dated 18 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the joint communiqué dated 8 October 1982 of the Vietnamese delegation headed by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ha Van Lau, and the delegation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees headed by the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. William R. Smyser.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this note and the attached communiqué circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 66 and 90.

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam to the United Nations

ANNEX

JOINT UNHCR-VIET NAM COMMUNIQUÉ

At the invitation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam visited Geneva from 6 to 10 October 1982 for the purpose of an exchange of views on matters of common interest, inter alia, the question of the implementation of the memorandum of agreement concluded on 30 May 1979 between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the Programme of legal departures from Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese delegation, led by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Ha Van Lau, paid a visit to the High Commissioner, Mr. Poul Hartling, and had meetings with the UNHCR delegation led by the Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. William R. Smyser.

In a spirit of goodwill and mutual understanding, the two sides reviewed the co-operation during the past year between Viet Nam and UNHCR and expressed their gratification at the efforts of Viet Nam, UNHCR and the host countries to implement the Programme of legal departures from Viet Nam.

The two sides reviewed the results achieved in the last 12 months, from October 1981 to the end of September 1982, in implementing the Programme, and were gratified to note that orderly legal departures from Viet Nam were running at an average rate of 1,000 persons a month. They congratulated themselves on the fruitful co-operation between the countries concerned.

However, the two sides are not completely satisfied with the results achieved and felt that it would be entirely possible to increase the number of legal departures if all the parties concerned were to strengthen their mutual co-operation further in seeking effective means of overcoming the existing obstacles.

The Vietnamese side reaffirmed its Government's humanitarian policy of authorizing legal departures and called upon UNHCR and the countries concerned to take favourable action on the list of persons who already had exit visas, issued by the Vietnamese Government, in order to help overcome the obstacles encountered on the Vietnamese side.

The two sides also agreed that as far as possible the resettlement of Kampuchean refugees in accordance with their wishes should be promoted, and that UNHCR, Viet Nam and the other countries should continue to provide them with assistance until a durable solution was found.

At the initiative of UNHCR, a meeting was organized between the representatives of the host countries and the Vietnamese delegation at the Palais des Nations on 8 October 1982. The Vietnamese delegation reported on the difficulties that existed on the Vietnamese side and reaffirmed the intention of

the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to co-operate fully in speeding up legal departures from Viet Nam. The representatives of the Governments of the host countries expressed their understanding and said that they were ready to co-operate more closely to ensure the progress of the Programme.

On that occasion, the Vietnamese delegation expressed its sincere appreciation of the friendly and hospitable welcome extended by the High Commissioner and UNHCR, and its firm conviction that co-operation between the two parties in the implementation of the programme of legal departures from Viet Nam would grow steadily more fruitful.

GENEVA, 8 October 1982
