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STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 22 March 1979 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, for your information, the text of the statement dated 21 March 1979 made by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (annex I) and the text of the note dated 21 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (annex II) and request you to have this letter and its enclosures circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/34/50.

ANNEX I

Statement dated 21 March 1979 made by the spokesman of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam denouncing the Chinese aggressors for continuing
to occupy many areas of Vietnamese territory

On 16 and 17 March 1979, the Peking authorities claimed that their troops had all been withdrawn on 16 March 1979.

This claim is not true. It aims at deceiving the people of China and the world who are closely following their words and actions.

The truth is that, up to 18 March 1979, more than 10,000 Chinese aggressor troops still remained in three areas and at 16 points in the provinces of Lang Son, Cao Bang, Ha Tuyen, Hoang Lien Son and Lai Chau. In the areas north and north-west of That Khe (Lang Son Province), two Chinese regiments remained stationed from 10 to 20 kilometres inside Vietnamese territory. In all these areas, Chinese troops continue to commit crimes against the Vietnamese people. In Lang Son, in addition to moving marker-posts 41 and 45, the Chinese side has moved marker-post 33 800 metres deeper into Vietnamese territory.

In the meantime, the Peking authorities have spoken of their desire for prompt negotiations in an attempt to deceive the public.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam resolutely demands that the Peking authorities withdraw immediately and unconditionally all their aggressor troops to the other side of the historical borderline which the two sides have agreed to respect, immediately stop all crimes against the Vietnamese people, stop moving border marker-posts deeper into Vietnamese territory and cease all other attempts at changing the historical borderline between the two countries.

ANNEX II

Note dated 21 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam acknowledges receipt of the note dated 19 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and wishes to make clear the views of the Vietnamese side as follows:

1. Since 17 February 1979, the Chinese rulers have brazenly waged a war of aggression against Viet Nam. To defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their fatherland, the Vietnamese people, united as one man, have risen up in a heroic fight, and dealt heavy blows to the aggressors. For the sake of peace and justice, broad sections of world public opinion have extended strong support to the Vietnamese people's struggle. The Chinese people and troops have also voiced ever stronger protests against the Peking rulers' aggressive war in Viet Nam.

In the face of this situation, on 5 March 1979, the Chinese rulers had to declare that they would begin to take home all their troops.

On the following day, 6 March 1979, the Vietnamese Government made clear its stand:

"... the Chinese rulers, having started the war of aggression in Viet Nam, must put a permanent end to their aggression; they must withdraw their troops immediately, completely and unconditionally to the other side of the historical frontier which the two sides have agreed to respect; and they must strictly respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam.

"...

"If China really withdraws all its troops from Vietnamese territory as it has said it will, after the total withdrawal of the Chinese troops to the other side of the historical frontier which the two sides have agreed to respect, the Vietnamese side will be disposed to begin immediately with the Chinese side negotiations at the level of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on the re-establishment of normal relations between the two countries. The place and date will be agreed upon between the two sides." (A/34/107-S/13144, annex)

On 15 March 1979, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs a note reaffirming its stand of 6 March 1979 and giving further details on the timing, place and contents of the talks (A/34/121-S/13174, annex).

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On 17 March 1979, the Head of the Department for China of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs met the Acting Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Viet Nam to inquire about the Chinese answer to the note of 15 March from the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also stressed that all Chinese troops must be taken home before the talks began, as mentioned by the Vietnamese side in the note of 15 March.

Through these three proposals by the Vietnamese side, world public opinion and the Chinese people realize that, while using the right of self-defence to fight the aggression of the Chinese rulers in order to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their fatherland, the Vietnamese Government and people persistently advocate a negotiated settlement of all problems concerning the relations between the two countries.

2. On 19 March 1979, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a reply to the note of 15 March from the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expounding the Chinese views on the timing and place of the talks.

But an important question is: though various personalities of Peking ruling circles have declared that China completed the withdrawal of troops on 16 March 1979, Chinese troops have so far remained stationed on Vietnamese territory in 16 places and three sectors, some places being from 10 to 20 kilometres inside Vietnamese territory. They have continued committing crimes against the Vietnamese people. The Chinese side has also shifted a number of border markers deep into Vietnamese land. It has also sent armed forces to embark on repeated violations of Vietnamese territory.

From the above situation, it is clear that the Peking rulers do not match their deeds to their words. They are creating obstacles to an early start of the talks and at the same time, they have made continued threats of a war of aggression against Viet Nam.

In the note of 19 March from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chinese side talked profusely about "friendship", in fact, to cover up its acts of aggression. While speaking of "talks", it is trying to legalize its occupation of many areas of the Vietnamese territory. On the other hand, it has demanded that the Vietnamese side change the so-called "erroneous policy of hostility to China", and "stop armed provocations and encroachments against China". These are insolent allegations calling black white and designed to place on the same footing the aggressor and the people fighting against aggression.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to affirm once again that, after the complete withdrawal of Chinese troops to the other side of the historical borderline which the two sides have agreed to respect, the Vietnamese side will be prepared to enter immediately into talks with the Chinese side to discuss urgent measures to maintain peace and stability in the border area on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the restoration of normal relations between the two countries.

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The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is constantly animated by goodwill and the desire to preserve the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and the Chinese people. If from now to 28 March 1979 all the Chinese troops are taken home, the Vietnamese side proposes to begin the talks on 29 March 1979; the meeting place will be alternatively Hanoi and Peking, with the first round of talks being held in Hanoi.

If the Chinese troops continue to occupy Vietnamese territory, the Vietnamese army and people will resolutely use their legitimate right of self-defence to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their fatherland.

Responsibility for delaying the talks will rest entirely with the Chinese side.
