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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE  
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 27 March 1979 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of  
the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the documents referred to by His Excellency Mr. Khamphay Boupha, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in his letter of 18 March 1979, which was circulated under reference number NV/79/14.

In accordance with the instructions I have received from my Ministry, I request you to circulate the text of these documents and of the letter of 18 March 1979 from the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as official documents of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boun Omme SOUTHICHAK  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

<sup>\*</sup> A/34/50.

ANNEX

Letter dated 18 March 1979 from the Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the serious situation now confronting the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

For some time now, and particularly since Chinese troops invaded the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the rulers in China have been massing several divisions of their armed forces along the Lao frontier, where they frantically engaged in combat exercises, and have been infiltrating spies into Laos to make subversive propaganda designed to sow discord among the Lao minorities. They have also collaborated with the imperialists in supporting the Lao reactionaries with a view to disrupting law and order in the country and consistently opposing the policy followed by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

On 6 March 1979 the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic issued a statement resolutely condemning these activities and calling on the rulers in China to discontinue all their hostile acts against the Lao People's Democratic Republic (see appendix I).

However, regrettably, not only have the rulers in China taken no positive action on our request but they have continued, and even intensified, their threats to our country, strengthening their military potential along the border of the Lao Province of Luang Namtha by sending large numbers of tanks, infantry and artillery.

On 7 March 1979 the Chinese authorities sent two battalions of their regular forces into Lao territory, causing them to penetrate as far as the outskirts of the village of Boten, situated in the Province of Luang Namtha at a distance of 2 kilometres from the frontier.

On 10 March 1979 certain Chinese armed units encroached, over an area 10 kilometres long and 2 to 3 kilometres wide, on the territory of Muong Mam in the Province of Luang Namtha.

At the same time the Peking authorities have been supporting the commando bandits of Vang Pao and other Lao reactionaries in exile, who number several thousand, and regrouping them in the Muong La region of the Chinese Province of Yunnan, adjoining the Lao Province of Luang Namtha.

Pursuing their great-Power hegemonist aims, the rulers in China are applying a hostile policy towards the Lao People's Democratic Republic; they are threatening it and preparing to launch an armed invasion against it. They are

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engaged in assisting and supporting the activities of Lao reactionaries in exile, with a view to interfering in the domestic affairs of the country and overthrowing the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

These adventurist machinations of the rulers of China, which is one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, are a flagrant violation of the principles governing international relations. They also constitute a gross infringement of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and a serious threat to the peace and stability of South-East Asia and the world.

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly condemns the activities aimed at undermining and interfering in the internal affairs of Laos, carried out by the rulers in China, and also their continual encroachment on Lao territory, and wishes to state that they must bear full responsibility for any serious consequences deriving therefrom.

This, Sir, is the situation currently confronting my country. I hope that, in the performance of your lofty task of safeguarding international peace and security, you will give careful consideration to this situation and take appropriate measures to safeguard peace and stability in South-East Asia and in the world, and to ensure scrupulous respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

I shall be sending forthwith, for your information, a copy of the statement by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic dated 6 March 1979 (appendix I) and copies of the official communications of 7 March 1979 and 15 March 1979 from the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (appendices II and III). I would request that you publish this letter and all the other documents, and arrange for them to be circulated to all Members of the United Nations as official United Nations documents.

Khamphay BOUPHA  
Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs of the  
Lao People's Democratic Republic

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APPENDIX I

Statement dated 6 March 1979 by the Government of the  
Lao People's Democratic Republic on the Chinese threat

1. Laos and China are neighbouring countries; the two peoples have had a long tradition of solidarity, friendship and mutual assistance, especially during the period of the struggle against the imperialists to regain national sovereignty and independence. The Lao people has at all times expressed its gratitude to the people of China and the Chinese revolutionaries. The Lao people and Government have always done everything they could to safeguard and develop these good relations. However, for some time past, especially since the day when the Chinese party began to wage a large-scale war of aggression against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Chinese party has been sending several divisions of its armed forces along the Lao frontier to carry out military manoeuvres, sending spies into Laos to engage in subversive propaganda and create disruption and discord among the multinational population, and supporting and collaborating with the imperialists and reactionaries to disrupt tranquillity and order within the country and oppose the policies of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
2. These machinations by the rulers in China impair the tradition of friendly solidarity between the peoples of the Lao and Chinese nations; they constitute shameless interference in Lao domestic affairs and a serious threat to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos and to peace and stability in this region. They also constitute a violation of the basic principles of international relations and an infringement of the Charter of the United Nations.
3. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a fully independent and sovereign country. Having finally crushed the imperialist aggressors, the Lao people aspires only to live in peace so that it may bind up the wounds of war, build up its country and create a life of affluence.
4. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a socialist country, a member of the non-aligned movement and of the United Nations. It has at all times pursued an independent, sovereign and socialist foreign policy in the interests of the Lao nation and of peace and friendship among peoples; it aspires at all times to strengthen its friendly relations and co-operation with neighbouring countries and with other countries throughout the world.
5. The Lao people always sets great store by the firm friendship of the peoples of friendly countries and has never encroached on the interests of other countries.
6. As a small country with a population of little more than 3 million, Laos can never be a threat to China, a huge country with a population of 900 million.

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However, the Lao people, which has never yielded to any aggressor, is determined not to allow anyone to violate its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, which it gained by dint of long and painful struggle involving great sacrifice. The constant deterioration in Lao-Chinese relations is entirely the responsibility of the Chinese party.

7. If the Chinese party really wanted to safeguard and develop the solidarity between the two nations, as it had claimed, it should have proved this by positive actions. It should stop concentrating its military forces on the Lao frontier and desist immediately from its actions threatening the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos, from its interference in the domestic affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, from its manoeuvres aimed at dividing the multinational Lao people and from its machinations against the security and public order of Laos.

8. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the multinational Lao people greatly appreciated the timely action of the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Mongolian People's Republic in issuing their statement setting out their firm position with regard to the acts committed by the Chinese party, which threaten the independence and sovereignty of Laos. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic expresses its gratitude to the fraternal socialist countries and to friendly countries throughout the world which have lent their resolute support and solidarity to the struggle of the Lao people.

9. The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic appeals to the fraternal socialist countries, to the non-aligned countries and to peace-and-justice-loving peoples throughout the world to continue to support and assist the Lao people in the task of national defence and national construction. It calls on the people of China and the genuine Chinese revolutionaries to take timely and effective action to suppress the common danger threatening the peoples of the two countries and to safeguard the immemorial tradition of solidarity and friendship between the Lao and Chinese nations.

10. Our multinational Lao people, confronted by the dangerous situation now created by the rulers in China, must unite more than ever around the Lao Front for National Construction, exercise even greater vigilance, be ready to fight, step up production, defend security and public order, close ranks to protect its homeland and resolutely and victoriously implement resolution VI of the Central Committee of the Party and the national plan for 1979.

11. Under the just leadership of the glorious Lao Revolutionary People's Party, our multinational Lao people, thanks to the national tradition of solidarity, heroism and indomitability and the invincible power of the combined fighting forces of the three peoples of Laos, Viet Nam and Kampuchea, which are "hard as diamond and tempered like steel", and thanks to the impressive assistance and support of the socialist countries and of progressive humanity throughout the world, will surely win tremendous victories in the task of protecting and building up its homeland while at the same time carrying out its exalted internationalist duty.

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APPENDIX II

Letter dated 7 March 1979 from the Acting Minister for  
Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
People's Republic of China

I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the agreement signed on 3 October 1974 by the Provisional Government of National Coalition and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the construction of roads by Chinese labourers in the northern part of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has for the most part been completed. The people and Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic wish to express their deep gratitude for this assistance. Because of the difficult and complex situation prevailing in this area, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic now requests the Government of the People's Republic of China to suspend this construction work temporarily and at the same time to recall all Chinese construction teams to the People's Republic of China as soon as possible so as to ensure the safety of these labourers and safeguard the age-old tradition of friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples.

When the situation has improved, the Governments of Laos and China will consult to discuss continuation of this assistance.

Khamphay BOUPHA

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APPENDIX III

Note verbale dated 15 March 1979 from the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to inform it that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic feels obliged to set forth its views on the increasing deterioration of relations between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of China:

On 6 March 1979, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic published a statement concerning the fact that the rulers of China had massed several divisions of their armed forces along the frontier of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where they were engaging in military exercises, had sent spies into Laos to conduct subversive propaganda and sow discord among the Lao minorities, and had supported and collaborated with the imperialists and reactionaries in disturbing security and public order in Laos and in constantly opposing the policies pursued by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The statement called upon the Chinese party to halt all interference in the internal affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to stop making armed threats against Laos and to respect the latter's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

On 7 March 1979, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic sent an official letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China requesting the Chinese Government to suspend road construction temporarily in the northern part of Laos and withdraw all Chinese labourers to China as quickly as possible since they had already virtually completed their work. The labourers have, moreover, dug trenches in expectation of fighting, thus making the situation in the area very tense.

On the same occasion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic also called upon the Chinese experts assigned to various Lao agencies to return to their country since the relevant agreement between the Lao and Chinese parties had in fact expired.

We have shown restraint in the face of the hostile machinations against Laos in order to safeguard the long-standing friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples and, at the same time, safeguard the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos. It is most regrettable, however, that none of our just and reasonable requests have drawn a positive response from the Chinese party, which, on the contrary, has adopted an arrogant attitude while continuing to

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interfere in the internal affairs of Laos and to direct even more serious threats against our country, as follows:

(a) The rulers of China are continuing to concentrate large numbers of their armed forces along the Lao frontier and to strengthen further day by day the potential of all combat units - tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery, infantry and cavalry - in the frontier areas adjoining the provinces of Luang Namtha, Oudomxay and Phongsaly. At the same time, they have helped the exiled Vang Pao-Kongle reactionaries and other Lao reactionaries, numbering several thousand, to regroup in areas near the Lao frontier.

(b) On 7 March 1979, China sent two battalions to besiege the village of Boten, which is situated in Lao territory 2 kilometres from the frontier in Luang Namtha province.

(c) On 10 March 1979, the Chinese armed forces, operating in Lao territory along a front of 10 kilometres and to a depth of 2-3 kilometres, encroached on the territory of the village of Muong Mam in Luang Namtha province. In addition, the Chinese took prisoner two Lao officials who had been sent to contact the local Chinese administrative authority for the purpose of demanding the withdrawal of Chinese troops from Laos.

China is continuing to increase the number of spies in Laos for the purpose of engaging in propaganda concerning the threat of a Chinese invasion, promoting subversion and discord among the Lao minorities and between the Lao and Chinese peoples, and opposing the policies pursued by the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

These machinations by the Chinese rulers represent the deliberate, planned execution of their policy of hostility towards Laos. However, they have subtly camouflaged their hypocrisy by denying and distorting the facts in an insolent effort to hold the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic responsible for what they call "a major step in opposition to China"; they have accused Laos of "allowing itself to be led astray by Viet Nam and the Soviet Union and following along behind them". Even more serious is the statement by the rulers of China that they are supporting and assisting "Lao patriots" who are in reality Lao reactionaries, former lackeys of imperialism who are fighting against the movement of the Lao patriotic revolution in order to oppose the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The media, the Voice of America, the BBC and Agence France Presse have made extensive use of the information obtained from this source.

These machinations and statements reflect the deliberate aim of the rulers of China to violate the sovereignty of Laos, their behaviour as enemies of the Lao people and their perfidious manoeuvres aimed at overthrowing the Lao People's Democratic Republic. They constitute an arrogant challenge to the Lao people and insolent provocation of the forces devoted to peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic strongly condemns the threatening activities by the reactionary rulers of China and vigorously rejects all their false statements concerning the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It affirms once again that the Lao people will strive unceasingly to safeguard the beautiful tradition of friendship and solidarity with the Chinese people and, at the same time, firmly believes that that will also be the desire of the Chinese people.

The subversive activities by the rulers of China against the Lao People's Democratic Republic have been under way for a long time, but the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, showing great restraint, did not wish to raise the matter publicly. However, it has closely followed the situation, regarding it as an internal matter between Laos and China. Thus, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has on several occasions simply mentioned the matter to the Chinese Embassy in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. While the Lao party has shown restraint, however, the Chinese party is steadily increasing its pressure, with the result that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been compelled to take an appropriate stand and appropriate measures.

Full responsibility for the steady deterioration of the traditional friendship between the Lao and Chinese peoples rests with the rulers of China. As stated in the statement of 6 March 1979 by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic: Laos, a small country with hardly more than 3 million inhabitants, cannot represent a threat to China, a large country with 900 million inhabitants. However, the Lao people, which has never bowed its head to an aggressor, will never permit anyone to violate its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, which were won in a long and arduous struggle marked by great sacrifices.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic vigorously demands that the rulers of China halt the concentration of military forces along the Lao frontier and the subversive activities against Laos, withdraw immediately all the armed forces which have infiltrated into Laos and withdraw from Laos the Chinese road-building teams and all Chinese experts. It also demands that the rulers of China halt their false propaganda and their divisive manoeuvres among the Lao minorities, stop disturbing the security of Laos and scrupulously respect the latter's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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