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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 April 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 the note dated 31 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. I request that this note be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Note dated 31 March 1979 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

With a view to restoring normal relations between China and Viet Nam, ensuring peace and tranquillity in the border area and then proceeding to resolve the boundary, territorial and other disputes, the Chinese Government has repeatedly declared its readiness to hold negotiations speedily with the Vietnamese Government, advanced reasonable proposals to bring them about, and designated a Chinese Government delegation headed by Vice Foreign Minister Han Nianlong, which stands ready to go to Hanoi for the negotiations. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese side has, however, deliberately complicated the matter by fabricating numerous lies concerning the withdrawal of Chinese frontier troops, alleging that they have not withdrawn to the Chinese side of the boundary, and raised a pre-condition in its repeated efforts to obstruct the holding of the negotiations. In its note of 27 March 1979 (A/34/139-S/13202, annex), the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry repeated its crude charges and slanders against China, stuck to its unreasonable pre-condition and tried to evade its responsibility for delaying the negotiations. The Chinese Government cannot but express its deep regret and indignation at this.

It must be pointed out that concurrent with China's withdrawal of frontier troops and its endeavours to bring about negotiations, the Vietnamese side continued to commit armed provocations and harassment along the Sino-Vietnamese border in an attempt to provoke a new military conflict. Moreover, it spared no efforts to sow dissension between China and Laos with the fabrication that China was "massing troops to threaten Laos". In resorting to such insidious tricks, the Vietnamese side tried to damage China's image while covering up its own crime of tightening its control over Laos and stepping up its aggression against Kampuchea. This attempt will, of course, prove futile.

The Vietnamese side keeps spreading the lie that "Chinese troops are still stationed in some places in Viet Nam" so as to obstruct the holding of negotiations. Sometimes it alleges that the number of places in Viet Nam in which Chinese troops are still stationed is more than a dozen. At other times, it claims the number of places to exceed 30. Ten places were listed in its note of 27 March. Such arbitrary and contradictory charges reveal not only a flippant attitude but also extreme clumsiness. The Chinese side has time and again stated explicitly that all Chinese frontier troops were withdrawn to Chinese territory as of 16 March and that there is not a single Chinese soldier on Vietnamese territory. As for the places listed in the Vietnamese side's note of 27 March, in some of them there are no Chinese troops at all, while those places where there are Chinese troops are all on the Chinese side of the boundary and have always been under China's jurisdiction. If the Vietnamese side holds a different opinion about the alignment of the boundary in certain sections, it should seek a resolution through negotiations. It is utterly unreasonable for the Vietnamese side to make China's withdrawal from these places a pre-condition for the holding of negotiations.

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In its note, the Vietnamese side has also alleged that the Chinese side "sought to occupy Vietnamese territory on the pretext of maintaining the status quo of the border". This is a wilful and calumnious misrepresentation of China's correct position on the way to resolve boundary issues. Rather, it is the Vietnamese and not other people who, on the pretext of restoring the original state of the historical boundary, unilaterally and forcibly changed the extent of jurisdiction of the two sides prevailing at the time of the exchange of letters on the boundary question in 1957-1958 between the Central Committees of the Chinese and Vietnamese parties, constantly nibbling away and occupying Chinese territory. We are indeed shocked by the Vietnamese practice of turning things upside down and incriminating others.

There is a traditional friendship of long standing between the peoples of China and Viet Nam, both of which suffered from imperialist and colonialist enslavement and oppression. Today, both peoples desire to live in peace so as to have favourable conditions in which to build up their respective countries. If the Vietnamese side is sincere about holding negotiations and wishes to have a peaceful and tranquil border, it should remove the obstacles it has set in the way of negotiations and make a positive response to the repeated proposals of the Chinese side for negotiations. Any attempt to obstruct the holding of negotiations and to maintain or aggravate tensions along the border runs counter to the wishes of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and the people of the world and is, therefore, doomed to failure.
