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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 9 April 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 note dated 6 April 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 6 April 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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and, with reference to the Vietnamese note dated 4 April 1979 (A/34/164-S/13222, annex), has the honour to state the following.

In its note, the Vietnamese side has again turned things upside down and twisted the facts to crudely slander and attack China for the armed conflict on the Sino-Vietnamese border. The Chinese Government hereby categorically refutes all these allegations.

The Chinese Government and people have always cherished the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. The Chinese Government has spared no effort to uphold the friendly relations between China and Viet Nam and seek a peaceful settlement of their disputes. But the Vietnamese authorities, pursuing their set policies of opposition and hostility to China and of aggression and expansion against other countries, caused a drastic deterioration in the situation along the Sino-Vietnamese border by greatly escalating their armed provocations in Chinese border areas, incursions into Chinese territories and other disruptive activities. Driven beyond the limits of forbearance and with a view to defending the frontiers of the motherland and ensuring the safety of the life and property of the people, the Chinese frontier troops were compelled to exercise their right of self-defence and launched a counter-attack. This was a totally just action. After fulfilling the mission set for them in striking back in self-defence, all the Chinese frontier troops withdrew to Chinese territory. Meanwhile, the Chinese side never stopped in its effort to seek a negotiated settlement of the disputes between the two countries, and it was the Chinese side which proposed the holding of this round of negotiations. The serious armed conflict between China and Viet Nam was entirely the making of the Vietnamese side. All peace-loving and justice-upholding countries and people of the world have formed their own fair judgement on the rights and wrongs of the case, and no amount of calumny, invectives and sophistry by the Vietnamese side can disguise or alter them.

In its note, the Vietnamese side repeated the shop-worn theme that "Chinese troops have not yet been totally withdrawn". What is more, it brazenly distorted the Chinese side's note of 31 March 1979 (A/34/157-S/13212, annex) in such a base manner as to exceed the imagination. The Chinese Government declared long ago that China does not want an inch of Vietnamese territory, that all Chinese frontier troops have been withdrawn to Chinese territory, and that there is not a single Chinese soldier on Vietnamese territory. The Chinese Foreign Ministry stated

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explicitly in its note of 31 March that the places where there are Chinese troops are all on the Chinese side of the boundary and have always been under China's jurisdiction. The disregard for facts and the ceaseless repetition by the Vietnamese side of long-exposed lies serve only to further reveal its insidious aim of seeking to create new tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

The Chinese Government wishes to reiterate that the Chinese side earnestly hopes that China and Viet Nam could hold negotiations at an early date in a joint effort to search for practical measures to ensure peace and tranquillity along their border, restore normal relations and then proceed to settle their boundary, territorial and other disputes so as to contribute to peace, tranquillity and stability in South-East Asia and in Asia as a whole. The Chinese side has noted that the Vietnamese side no longer insists in its note on its earlier unreasonable pre-condition for the holding of negotiations. If the Vietnamese side creates no further complications, the delegation of the Chinese Government headed by Vice-Foreign Minister Han Nianlong will arrive in Hanoi on 14 April 1979.