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Items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the
preliminary list*

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
BETWEEN STATES

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

Letter dated 17 May 1988 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a note sent on 12 May 1988 by 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.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 42, 72, 130 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) NGUYEN BINH THANH
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/43/50.

ANNEX

Note sent on 12 May 1988 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

In the recent past China has on many occasions put out reports about Viet Nam's "incursions into Chinese territory for provocations against China". There is not a shred of truth in these claims. The fact is that while refusing to respond to Viet Nam's proposals that the two sides refrain from hostile military activities along the common border China has continued its military activities, exerting military pressure on Viet Nam in its Northern border provinces, thus causing permanent strain along the common border and running counter to the common desire of the two peoples to see early restoration of the traditional friendship between Viet Nam and China which is beneficial to both sides, especially to the people living on either side of the border. In order to quickly remove the tension along the common border, to enable the people on either side of the border to live in peace and engage in peaceful construction and to make the common border one of peace and friendship, the Vietnamese side proposes:

First, the Governments of Viet Nam and China appoint their representatives for talks on the land border at a level, place and time to be mutually agreed upon as soon as possible.

Pending the talks, the two sides stop all hostile military activities along the common border and remove their armed forces from the whole border line between the two countries in order to avoid clashes. A Joint Viet Nam-China Commission shall be established to supervise and control the implementation of the above measures.

Second, also in this spirit, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam once again reiterates its proposal for peaceful negotiations to settle the dispute between the two countries over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes. While waiting for China to come to the negotiating table, the two sides shall refrain from the use of force and avoid all clashes in order not to make the situation worse.

In view of the importance it attaches to the long-term interest of the two peoples and the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese nations, Viet Nam has since 1980 on many occasions proposed that the two sides sit down for peaceful negotiations on contentious issues. By renewing this proposal at this time, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is confident that the joint implementation of the above measures by Viet Nam and China and the holding of talks to solve outstanding issues between the two countries about the land border as well as the two archipelagoes would be warmly welcomed by the two peoples and public opinion in the world.