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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 16 May 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 texts of the statements made by Mr. Phan Hien, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Head of the Government delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the fourth plenary meeting of the negotiations between the Vietnamese and Chinese delegations in Hanoi, on 12 May 1979 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 United Nations Security Council.

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

* A/34/50.

ANNEX I

Statement made on 12 May 1979 by the Head of the Government delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Mr. Phan Hien, at the fourth plenary meeting of the negotiations between the Vietnamese and Chinese delegations in Hanoi

At today's meeting, I would like first to make the following statement:

At the first plenary meeting, on 18 April 1979, in point one of its three-point proposal, "urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries and to ensure an early reunion of the people captured during the war with their families", the Vietnamese delegation made it clear that "the two sides shall exchange at once lists of people captured by the two sides during the war so that they may be returned as soon as possible" (A/34/201-S/13257, annex).

However, at the second plenary meeting, on 26 April 1979, the Chinese side put this question outside the purview of the negotiations, saying that the return of the captured people would be discussed and agreed upon concretely between the Red Cross Societies of the two countries. At that meeting, the Vietnamese side made clear its views that the return of people captured during the war should be discussed and agreed upon by the two negotiating delegations, and subsequently the Red Cross or another body would be entrusted with implementing it. But the Chinese delegation adamantly stuck to its views, even after the Vietnamese side had taken the initiative of handing to it a list of Chinese captured by Viet Nam during the recent war.

Now, while no agreement has been reached on this problem at this negotiating table, the Chinese Government issued on 11 May 1979 a statement on the unilateral return of a number of Vietnamese captured during the war and asked the Vietnamese side to return to the Chinese side the Chinese captured during the war. It also asked the Vietnamese side to send people to a place and at a time laid down by the Chinese side itself to receive the above Vietnamese and discuss the return of people captured by the two sides during the war.

Obviously, this is an arrogant action at variance with the elementary principles of a negotiation, namely, the need for discussions to find a mutually satisfactory settlement. By unilaterally announcing its decision outside the conference table, the Chinese side has done something not serious which raises doubts about its professions of goodwill.

Today, the Vietnamese Government delegation makes it clear that out of humanity and prompted by its desire to see an early reunion of people captured during the war with their families, and by its goodwilled wish to remove obstacles to the talks, the Vietnamese side agrees with the Chinese side's proposal and has decided to send its representatives to meet those of the Chinese side with a view

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to handing over a number of people of the Chinese side captured during the war, who are wounded or sick, and receiving a number of people of the Vietnamese side returned by the Chinese side and discussing with the latter necessary measures for the return of all people of the two sides captured during the war. Since, owing to technical reasons, the Vietnamese representatives are not in a position to be present on 19 May 1979 at the place set by the Chinese side, the Vietnamese side proposes that the abovementioned meeting will take place at 1000 hours on 21 May 1979 at Huu Nghi entry point.

This is a demonstration of the goodwill of the Vietnamese side, which desires to make the negotiations progress, thereby meeting the desire of the two peoples, of the South-East Asian peoples and of the peoples of the world.

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ANNEX II

Speech made on 12 May 1979 by the Head of the Government delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Mr. Phan Hien, at the fourth plenary meeting of the negotiations between the Vietnamese and Chinese delegations in Hanoi

At the previous meetings, the two sides have made clear their respective positions. We have put forth a comprehensive, fair, reasonable and sensible three-point proposal (see A/34/201-S/13257, annex), aimed at solving both the urgent problems arising from the recent war and the fundamental questions concerning the relations between Viet Nam and China.

The Chinese side has tried its best to evade its responsibility for the criminal war of aggression against the Vietnamese people and to elude Viet Nam's three-point proposal. With its eight-point proposal (see A/34/219-S/13294, annex), it has raised questions going beyond bilateral relations. It has gone so far as brazenly to pose extremely absurd preconditions for the negotiations.

This is a big-nation attitude of dictate completely at variance with the principles governing negotiations, namely: equality, mutual respect and discussions in order to seek a fair and satisfactory settlement, and with the agreement reached between the two sides to the effect that these talks are to deal only with problems concerning bilateral relations.

In aggressing Viet Nam, the Chinese side claimed by way of excuse that Viet Nam had embarked on provocations and encroachments on Chinese territory. Now, at the negotiating table, it affirms that the key problem is that Viet Nam must change her policy, and, first of all, withdraw her troops from Kampuchea. This has laid bare its real purpose in the recent war of aggression, namely, to use military force in an attempt to subjugate Viet Nam and to compel her to give up her correct policy of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity.

While posing preconditions at the negotiating table, the Chinese side has continued massing troops in border areas, deploying a dozen divisions and a large quantity of war material close to the Vietnamese border, carrying out military manoeuvres and indulging in ceaseless armed provocations and encroachments on Viet Nam's territory, territorial waters and air space. In addition, Chinese leaders have uttered threats that "China would give Viet Nam a second lesson". All this testifies to the deceptive character of the Chinese side's talks about goodwill and peace, designed merely to cover up its intention of maintaining a permanent tension in border regions of the two countries in an attempt to bring pressure to bear on Viet Nam and seek pretexts to aggress the latter at any time it wishes.

At the last meeting, we criticized the Chinese side's slanderous contentions regarding Viet Nam's foreign policy. We made it clear that talking about hegemonism,

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there is only the big-nation hegemonism of the Chinese leaders and their collusion with imperialism against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea, the peoples of South-East Asia and of the world. We reserve the right to give further comments on this subject.

As we have stressed, the current situation is very serious. Our two delegations should make their utmost efforts to meet the earnest desire of our two peoples and the expectations of the peoples of South-East Asia and the world to remove all obstacles to bringing the negotiations to a fruitful outcome, with a view to eliminating the danger of a resumption of hostilities, ensuring peace and stability in the border regions, restoring normal relations between the two countries and the long-standing friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam and China, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace and stability in South-East Asia and the world.

We have proposed that the two delegations immediately start discussions on point one of the Vietnamese proposal, "urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries and to ensure an early reunion of the people captured during the war with their families", and point one of the Chinese proposal, "the two sides shall restore friendly and good-neighbourly relations between China and Viet Nam on the basis of the five principles". By devoting alternately a meeting to each issue, and proceeding in this way until the questions are settled.

However, the Chinese delegation still tries to elude this fair and reasonable proposal. It puts forward roundabout contentions, labelling point one of its proposal now a matter of prime importance, now a concrete matter, and refuses to enter into practical and useful discussions. The Chinese side must bear full responsibility for the lack of progress at these negotiations.

Once again, to show its goodwill, the Vietnamese Government delegation states its willingness to discuss with the Chinese Government delegation first on point one of the Chinese proposal. More concretely speaking, at the next meeting, i.e., the fifth plenary meeting, the two sides will discuss the question of "restoration of friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries on the basis of the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence" as mentioned in point one of the Chinese proposal. We will give our views on that question. At the sixth plenary meeting, the two sides will discuss point one of the Vietnamese proposal "urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries and to ensure an early reunion of the people captured during the war with their families."

We hope to receive a positive response from the Chinese side.