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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 text of the communiqué on the crimes of the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists issued by the Viet Nam Committee for Investigation into the Crimes of the Chinese Expansionists and Hegemonists during their War against Viet Nam at a press conference on 15 May 1979 in Hanoi, and request you to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 46 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

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

* A/34/50.

ANNEX

Communiqué on the crimes of the Chinese expansionists
and hegemonists issued on 15 May 1979 in Hanoi by the
Viet Nam Committee for Investigation into the Crimes
of the Chinese Expansionists and Hegemonists during
their War against Viet Nam

The world has just witnessed a most serious international crime.

In the early hours of Saturday, 17 February 1979, the Chinese expansionists hurled an army of aggression, comprising over 600,000 men and thousands of tanks and artillery pieces, into a massive surprise attack against six provinces along the entire 1,400 km. frontier of Viet Nam, from Mong Cai to Phong Tho. The Chinese troops penetrated deep into Vietnamese territory, in some places as far as several dozen kilometres.

The war of aggression against Viet Nam was the climax of a whole chain of Chinese criminal acts against our people's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity aimed at annexing and subduing Viet Nam and carrying out the Chinese rulers' big-nation expansionist policy. Some years ago, as the United States imperialist aggressors were compelled by their defeat to repatriate their troops, Chinese troops captured the Hoang Sa Islands (the Paracel) belonging to Viet Nam. They urged and masterminded the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique to conduct a border war in the south-west of Viet Nam. In the north, they provoked skirmishes and encroached on our frontier area. They incited the Hoa to riot and concocted the so-called "Nantsieo" affair. Taking advantage of Viet Nam's difficulties caused by natural calamities, they cut off their economic aid, withdrew their experts and tried to blockade Viet Nam economically with a view to curbing and weakening it.

Repeatedly frustrated in their hostile anti-Viet Nam policy, the Chinese leaders following the ruts of their feudalist predecessors, the colonialists and imperialists, waged a direct war of aggression against the Vietnamese people.

The world was shocked by the savage extermination which accompanied this act of aggression.

Wherever they went, Chinese troops wantonly killed Vietnamese civilians without any discrimination whatever. The bulk of the victims were women and children, including expectant mothers and babies. They slew physicians and medical workers who were giving first aid to the wounded. They butchered civilians wherever they came across them: at home, on the fields, on the way to evacuation, in underground shelters ... a great many families were wiped out or only survived by one or two small orphans.

Even more ruthless than the Nazis, they vied with one another in applying the cruelest murder methods of Chinese medieval tyrants. The horrible crimes of

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the Pol Pot-Leng Sary clique were reproduced in Viet Nam. The executioners used machetes to chop people's heads or mince their bodies; shattered their skulls with iron sticks, pick-axes or shovels, hammers or rifle butts, and disembowelled them.

The savage massacre in Tong Chup, Hung Dao village, Cao Bang province, on 9 March 1979, i.e. four days after the Chinese authorities declared the withdrawal of their troops from Viet Nam, is not an isolated case. There the Chinese aggressors slaughtered 43 people at once, all of them women and children. The victims were 24 women - 7 of whom were pregnant - and 19 children, including 7 babies.

They were slain with the most savage and inhuman methods as described below:

(a) Victims' skulls were smashed, gouged, then thrown into wells as in the case of the 26-year-old woman worker, Mac Thi Tinh, who was six months pregnant, and her two little children: Mong Thi Thuy, a three-year-old girl, and Mong Van Toan, a two-year-old boy;

(b) Victims' arms were fastened behind their backs with wire, their heads crushed and limbs smashed to pulp; then their bodies were thrown into streams;

(c) Victims' heads were chopped with machetes;

(d) Victims' bodies were cut up into pieces, then scattered;

(e) Bellies were slashed open as in the case of Mrs. Trinh Thi Hai's four children, aged from 2 to 10 years old; Hai herself was also killed;

(f) Women were raped, their breasts cut off and their genitals were stabbed and minced to pulp.

The prisoner Liu, native of Hunan, admitted on 23 February 1979 that he had witnessed a friend of his, Lichuan by name, killing two children: on his Commissar's order, the latter placed a little girl of some eight years of age and her younger brother about four years old face to face, then thrust his bayonet through both of them.

In Cao Lau village, Van Lang District, Lang Son Province, the Chinese thugs tore the body of Vi Viet Luong, a sixth form pupil, in two, dragged seven sleeping children outdoors, cut them to pieces and strew them all over the yard.

They laid mines everywhere: paths, walkways in the field, around wells, doorways, window sills, even in pigsties or paddy baskets, with a view to sowing more death, even after their retreat.

Not content with exterminating people, the Chinese aggressors also destroyed all sources and conditions of life, even the environment of the population.

Everywhere, they plundered all the paddy and other food. They took away or killed all buffaloes, oxen, horses and other animals, looted all productive tools, such as ploughs, harrows, picks, hoes, saws, hammers, etc. ... They stole all clothing, furniture and family tools and destroyed whatever they were unable to carry away.

Public utility works and civilian dwellings were destroyed or burned down.

They thoroughly and systematically wrecked schools, kindergartens, nurseries and hospitals; even churches and temples were not spared.

As regards educational, sanitary and religious institutions, they destroyed not only all class-rooms, hospitals, wards, pharmacies, places of worship, without leaving any walls standing, but also pupils' desks and educational aids, sickbeds, and medical and pharmaceutical equipment, altars and religious objects, Christian saints and Buddha statues.

Almost all the hospitals and sanitary establishments in the invaded region were wrecked beyond use, to wit: 428 out of the total of 430 hospitals and infirmaries. Schools were in the same boat: 735 out of the total of 904 general education schools and 691 of the total of 691 nurseries were reduced to rubble, leaving nearly 200,000 children left with no place for education.

They burned all books, journals, reviews, documents, exhibits of libraries and museums before dynamiting them flat; their savagery went so far as to destroy historic monuments and vestiges. This crime is typified by the destruction of the Pac Bo Grotto and the Pac Bo Museum in Cao Bang Province - a sacred monument to eternalize the memory of our great leader President Ho Chi Minh, who devoted all his life to the liberation of the Vietnamese and other peoples and spared no effort to cultivate the friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples.

In line with this extermination policy, all cities, towns and villages in their path were utterly annihilated. All the four provincial capitals overrun by them - Cao Bang, Lang Son, Lao Cai, Cam Duong - were levelled. All the 320 villages they broke into were razed to the ground. Of the 420 houses in De Tham village, Hoa An District, Cao Bang Province, 330 were burned down.

That is not all. They also destroyed the environment by burning large forested areas. Thousands of hectares of natural forests in Lai Chau Province were burned out. In the Sapa resort, Hoang Lien Son Province, thousands of hectares of pine and "samu" forests surrounding the township, which played an important role in regularizing the climate and purifying the air, were also burned away.

The aggressors threw pell-mell the bodies of civilians killed by them into streams and wells supplying drinking water. Into a well in Hung Dao village, Cao Bang, alone, they dumped as many as 15 corpses.

On the economic plane, they thoroughly and systematically destroyed industrial, agricultural and afforestation institutions with a view to undermining the Vietnamese people's building of socialism and weakening Viet Nam.

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All the factories and mines they came across, such as the Apatite mine, the power plant, the pottery and porcelain factory, the tea factory, the sugar mill, the agricultural products processing mill, etc., were destroyed to the foundations. They took away equipment, machinery and products. They flattened buildings, storehouses, basic construction works with mines and plastic charges in order to destroy them beyond repair.

The destruction of the Cam Duong mine is a typical instance. The Chinese aggressors demolished or burned down all the workers' living quarters and public utility works such as State stores, restaurants, movie houses, libraries, community halls ... The school of first and second degrees was completely ravaged with its laboratory and experimenting instruments. The hospital of the mine was also razed to the ground, with its equipment and medicines taken away. They took away all the equipment and facilities used to exploit apatite ore and produce phosphate fertilizer, along with hundreds of trucks, bulldozers and thousands of tons of fertilizer. Then they used plastic charges and cannons to destroy all the works designed for ore extraction and production of phosphate fertilizer, the network of ore and fertilizer conveyors and the electric wiring. The two bridges in the mine area - the Lang Chieng and Lang Giang ones - were wrecked to their piers and abutments.

In the State farms they managed to get into, they looted and destroyed all tractors, bulldozers, road-rollers, transport vehicles, generators, transformers, depots of accessories, tractor-repair stations, tens of thousands of tons of chemical fertilizer, tens of thousands of tons of seeds of rice, secondary crops and vegetables. They took away or killed more than 100,000 buffaloes, oxen and horses and nearly 200,000 pigs.

Nearly 100 State farms and afforestation centres were ravaged together with machinery, equipment, technical materials, storehouses, workers' living quarters. Tens of thousands of workers and employees were deprived of all houses and property.

In every area they trespassed, the aggressors destroyed all the water conservation works (reservoirs, pump stations, basins, irrigation and draining sluices ...), all the communication and transport works (railway stations, bridges spanning rivers ...). To wreck bridges thoroughly beyond repair, they exploded their main piers and abutments with heavy plastic charges. They removed whole lengths of railway, even took away sleepers to China and destroyed many portions of highways to impede transport.

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The war of aggression conducted by the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists has caused great immediate losses to the Vietnamese people. No less serious is its aftermath which cannot be fully reckoned now.

According to preliminary statistics, some immediate losses (till late March 1979) are listed below:

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	Unit	Total in the invaded region	Enemy inflicted losses	Percentage	
1.	Number of provincial capitals destroyed	Provincial capital	4	4	100
2.	Number of villages destroyed	Village	320	320	100
3.	Housing area destroyed in cities (floor-space)	10,000 sq.m		60	
4.	Number of city dwellers made homeless	10,000 people		15	
5.	Number of houses destroyed in the countryside	10,000 houses		4.5	
6.	Number of villagers made homeless	10,000 people		20	
7.	Number of general education schools (first, second and third degrees) destroyed	School	904	735	82
8.	Number of general education school pupils deprived of campuses	10,000 students		18	
9.	Number of nurseries destroyed		691	691	100
10.	Number of children left with no place of education	10,000 children		1.4	
11.	Number of teachers left with no schools to teach	Individual teacher		5 570	
12.	Number of hospitals and infirmaries destroyed	Apiece	430	428	99.5
	Among these:				
	- provincial hospitals	-	4	4	100
	- district hospitals	-	26	24	92
	- infirmaries	-	400	400	100
13.	Number of afforestation centres destroyed	-	42	38	90
14.	Number of State farms and agricultural stations destroyed			41	
15.	Number of buffaloes and oxen killed or looted	10,000 head	26	15.7	60
16.	Number of pigs killed or looted	-	30.5	24.4	80

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The criminal aggression of the Chinese leaders, as a whole, reveals their nature as an extremely warlike, cruel, perfidious, vicious, obstinate and arrogant group who utterly flout morality and law. The Chinese war criminals are particularly dangerous because:

1. Their big-nation expansionism and hegemonism -- persistent heritage from the ambitions of ancient emperors -- is set upon restoring a Chinese empire as centre of the world to rule over the globe, starting from South-East Asia.

2. The war criminals, far from renouncing their will of aggression, are still very bellicose and overtly threaten to reiterate their crime of aggression against Viet Nam and extend it to the other Indo-Chinese countries.

The war of aggression against Viet Nam is merely an initial move in the process of implementing their criminal scheme of expansionism and hegemonism in South-East Asia. There is a very serious potential danger of new armed aggressions against Viet Nam and other neighbouring countries, prejudicial to peace, stability and security of the peoples of South-East Asia and the whole world.

On the other hand, the Chinese war criminals use their barbarous war of aggression against Viet Nam to intimidate and deter other peoples from following Viet Nam at the risk of being "punished" as Viet Nam was.

3. The war criminals act in collusion with United States imperialism and the most reactionary forces to conduct wars of aggression and carry out their big-nation expansionist policy against peace, independence and freedom.

4. The war criminals act under the guise of revolution and socialism to sabotage the revolution, the movements of national liberation, the movement of revolutionary struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

They are the worst betrayers of the revolutionary cause of progressive mankind of our times.

5. The war criminals are most ignominious swindlers. Along with their criminal act of war, they resorted to their huge propaganda apparatus to fool the Chinese and other peoples.

Their treachery consists mainly in calumny, in twisting the truth, making white black and black white, confusing right and wrong, inverting justice and injustice, representing the aggressed as the aggressor and vice versa.

Playing the burglar who sounds the alarm while sending hundreds of thousands of troops to invade another country, they clamour that they were using their legitimate right of self-defence against aggression, calling themselves champions of peace, independence and freedom.

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They noisily condemn aggression, castigate imperialism and expansionism and voice support for the national liberation movements while it is they themselves who are the real expansionists, allied to imperialism to conduct criminal wars of aggression and sabotage national liberation everywhere.

6. The war criminals flout and trample underfoot all principles of morality and international law.

They arrogate to themselves the right to punish other peoples whenever the latter refuse allegiance to them or do not let them invade their territories; in fact, they grant themselves the right to commit the crime of aggression and the crime of genocide, in defiance of international law and the human conscience.

7. The war criminals have mentally poisoned their troops with warlike, murderous thoughts, frantic national feuding, dehumanized them and turned them into a horde of devils deprived of all human character.

Therefore, nowadays, the reactionary Chinese leadership is the dangerous enemy not only of the Vietnamese people but also of the whole socialist system and of the movements for independence, democracy and peace in Asia and throughout the world.

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The Nuremberg International Tribunal, trying the German Nazi war criminals, concluded that the conduct of war of aggression against another country constitutes a supreme international crime because it gives rise to all other crimes. Under the statutes of the Nuremberg International Tribunal, those who conduct a war of aggression are guilty of the crime against peace (art. 6 A).

The Charter of the United Nations and many resolutions of the General Assembly condemn all acts of aggression, all use of or threats to use force in international relations, in favour of the defence of peace and international security, of the peoples' inviolable rights to independence, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights deems that the flouting of human rights leads to savage acts shocking the human conscience, and defines the principles of respect for the fundamental rights and liberties of people, regardless of nations.

In conducting an undeclared large-scale war of aggression against Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country which has never touched the interests of China in any way, which, not so long before, they still called their ally and assured that "China is Viet Nam's reliable rear", the Chinese leaders have despised and trodden underfoot the peoples' fundamental rights and all basic human rights, breaking their commitment, flouting the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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The war of aggression against Viet Nam - the vanguard of the national liberation struggle against imperialism and colonialism, for independence and freedom of nations - constitutes an extremely grave offence to the freedom, justice and peace-loving peoples, an insolent challenge to mankind's conscience.

Under international law, the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists are guilty of the crime of premeditated aggression with violation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam. At the same time, they are held guilty of the crime against peace and international security.

They are also guilty of crimes of war, under article 6 B of the Statutes of the Nuremberg International Tribunal. This article regards as war crimes any violations of the laws of war such as killing, ill-treatment or deportation of civilians, plundering of public or private property and destruction of cities and villages without military necessity. In particular, they have violated the 12 August 1949 Geneva Conventions relative to the protection of civilian persons and war wounded in time of war, based on the principles of prohibiting any attempt to violate their lives and property.

By systematically and massively killing civilians in a most cruel manner and destroying all their sources of life, by ravaging the system of economic establishments, hospitals and schools, they are guilty of crimes against humanity, under article 6 C of the Nuremberg Statutes, according to which "the massacre of civilians and other inhuman acts against them are crimes against humanity".

According to a principle of international law already applied to the German and Japanese fascists, those who wage a war of aggression must be held totally responsible for reparations of all losses and damage caused by this war of aggression.

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Smartingly routed and strongly condemned by public opinion throughout the world and even in China, the Chinese rulers were compelled to unconditionally withdraw their army of aggression. But their reactionary, bellicose and aggressive nature remains unchanged. They have never given up their scheme to weaken and annex Viet Nam. They persist in keeping their troops at many positions on Vietnamese Territory. They have been systematically carrying out war preparations and provocations along the whole length of our frontier. They are still concentrating more than half a million troops in the vicinity of the frontier, deploying a dozen divisions, thousands of artillery pieces and other war material close to the Vietnamese border. They continue to build strategic routes and combat fortifications. They carry out artillery bombardments, raids and spying and sabotage activities against Viet Nam and violate our territorial waters and air space with ships and aircraft. And they are arrogantly threatening to rekindle the war, slanderously charging Viet Nam and Laos with "provocative, bellicose" and "anti-China" actions, overbearingly claimed the so-called "right to riposte" with a view to preparing for a new aggressive escalation against Viet Nam and other Indo-Chinese countries.

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Facing the danger of a renewal and extension of this crime of aggression with extremely savage genocidal horrors in its train, the Vietnamese people earnestly call on the Governments and peoples of all countries, the revolutionary movements and the international democratic organizations and their comrades and friends in all continents to act more vigorously for the sake of freedom, justice and peace, positively support Viet Nam, vigorously condemn the Chinese reactionary aggressors, and demand that they respond to the three-point solution tabled by the Vietnamese Government (see A/34/201-S/13257, annex) to guarantee peace and stability in the Viet Nam-China frontier area - a fair and sensible solution relevant to the actual situation and responding to the aspirations of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples and the yearnings for peace and stability of the peoples in South-East Asia and the world.

The Vietnamese people call on the genuine Chinese communists and people to vigorously oppose and check in time the reactionary policies and unjust war conducted by the Chinese rulers.

The Vietnamese people are deeply attached to peace, do not want war and are invariably willing to maintain friendship with the Chinese people but are determined to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

With the aggregate force of the whole nation united into a rock-like bloc, with their will and traditions of indomitable struggle against foreign invasion, with the force of a large international front which is whole-heartedly supporting and defending Viet Nam and sternly condemning the Chinese reactionary aggressors, the Vietnamese people are firmly confident in the victory of their just cause for the independence and freedom of their own country, for peace, justice and the dignity of all nations.