



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/38/97*
S/15624*
3 March 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: CHINESE/ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-eighth session
Item 11 of the preliminary list**
REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-eighth year

Letter dated 22 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the New China News Agency (Xinhua) (annex I) in connexion with a statement dated 12 February 1983 by the Vietnamese authorities (A/38/94) and an earlier statement by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (annex II).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the circulation of this letter and its enclosures as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) LING Qing
Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* Reissued for technical reasons.

** A/38/50.

ANNEX I

Statement by New China News Agency (XINHUA)

The cooperation between Chinese and foreign companies in exploring oil and natural gas in the continental shelf of China's territorial sea is entirely a matter within Chinese sovereignty with which no countries have any right to interfere.

A recent statement by the Vietnamese authorities cannot block China's justifiable action in exploring resources in its territorial sea.

The statement by the Vietnam News Agency slanderously attacked Chinese and foreign companies' joint exploration and exploitation of petroleum in the Yingge Sea of the Beibu (Tonkin) Gulf as "violating Vietnamese sovereignty." It also said that those foreign companies cooperating with China should bear "all the consequences" arising from their actions. These brazen attacks and threats are based on the expansionist stand of the Vietnamese authorities.

In the "declaration on the base line of Vietnam's territorial waters" issued last November, the Vietnamese authorities not only laid claims to the Xisha and Nansha Islands which have always belonged to China, but also to a large portion of the Beibu Gulf sea area.

A spokesman of China's Foreign Ministry immediately made a solemn statement pointing out that "the so-called boundary line in the Beibu Gulf as asserted by the Vietnamese Government is illegal and null and void." In trying to impose its illegal and groundless territorial claims upon China, Hanoi is indulging in a wilful thinking. Should the Vietnamese authorities insist on invoking its illegal claims to obstruct China's legitimate action of exploring oil in its own territorial waters, they should bear the responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

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The Vietnamese authorities are obsessed by a wild ambition and their hands are stretching too far. They have not only occupied Kampuchea and controlled Laos by force, but also put their fingers into China's territorial waters and land. They are even coveting the territories of other southeast Asian countries. The Vietnamese authorities should understand that expansionists will surely eat their own bitter fruits.

Beijing, 18 February 1983

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ANNEX II

Statement by the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

In its "declaration on base line of Viet Nam's territorial waters" issued on 12 November 1982, the Vietnamese Government groundlessly declared that the boundary-delimitation convention signed between China and France in 1887 "had defined" the maritime boundary line in the Beibu Gulf, and even described China's Xisha Islands and Nansha Islands as Viet Nam's islands, announcing that base lines would be drawn for their territorial sea. This is a wilful distortion of the historical Sino-Vietnamese boundary-delimitation convention and a gross violation of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Government of the People's Republic of China solemnly declares that the so-called boundary line in the Beibu Gulf as asserted by the Vietnamese Government is illegal and null and void, and reiterates that the Xisha Islands and Nansha Islands are an inalienable part of China's sacred territory.

It must be pointed out that the Sino-Vietnamese boundary delimitation convention signed between China and France in 1887 did not in any way delimit the maritime area in the Beibu Gulf. Therefore, no maritime boundary line has ever existed in the sea of the Beibu Gulf. On 26 December 1973, the Vietnamese Government formally stated to the Chinese Government that "owing to the fact that Viet Nam has been in a state of war, the maritime area of the Beibu Gulf has so far not been delimited between the two countries." This clearly indicated that originally the Vietnamese Government also recognized the fact that China and Viet Nam had not delimited the Beibu Gulf.

The Vietnamese Government's "declaration on base line of Viet Nam's territorial waters" has fully revealed the expansionist designs of the Vietnamese authorities to appropriate a vast sea area of the Beibu Gulf and to encroach upon China's territory. It is also a deliberate new step to

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further aggravate Sino-Vietnamese relations. The Vietnamese authorities must bear full responsibility for all the serious consequences that may arise therefrom.

Beijing, 28 November 1982
