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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 25 September 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 memorandum on intensified Chinese armed activities and war preparation against Viet Nam, dated 22 September 1979, issued by the Department of Press and Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and request you to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 46, and of the Security Council.

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

ANNEX

Memorandum on intensified Chinese armed activities and war
preparation against Viet Nam, dated 22 September 1979,
issued by the Department of Press and Information of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam

The Chinese authorities, heavily defeated in the war of aggression they started against Viet Nam on 17 February 1979 and vehemently protested and condemned by the Chinese people and elsewhere in the world, had to withdraw their troops and sat down for negotiations with Viet Nam. They did that to appease the public and cover up their war crimes against the Vietnamese people.

In negotiations, however, China has persistently eluded the fair and logical demands of Viet Nam for urgent measures to ensure peace and security on the common border, while obdurately clinging to its arrogant, absurd demands, thus stalemating the negotiations. At the same time, China has feverishly prepared for war, increasing its forces and war materiel along the Sino-Vietnamese border, stepping up armed provocations, encroaching upon Viet Nam's territory on land, in the air, on the sea, threatening the lives, property and peaceful labour of the Vietnamese people, straining the situation, and gravely threatening Viet Nam's security and peace and stability in South-East Asia.

A few straits of the concrete situation:

(1) China is feverishly increasing its armed forces and war materiel along the Sino-Vietnamese border areas, preparing for new military adventures, creating a dangerous situation in which a war against Viet Nam may break out at any moment.

(2) Since China's announcement of the withdrawal of its troops (16 March) from Viet Nam, Chinese troops have still illegally occupied many points on Vietnamese territory. China still maintains 12 infantry divisions close to the Sino-Vietnamese border and five army corps behind them. Recently, China has deployed more troops and war materiel to reinforce the units already massed at the border. Foreign sources have alerted the public to the same signs that had been seen prior to 17 February 1979.

(3) China has moved large quantities of weapons and other war materiel to the border. In July, August and September, hundreds of lorries and dozens of trains were used for this purpose every day. China has hurriedly installed many artillery and rocket sites, strengthened underground trenches, fortifications and communications installations, and built more military roads close to the border. Many army, air force and naval units, in co-operation with the marines, have conducted big-scale exercises along the common border.

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(4) Coupled with these war preparations, the Chinese authorities, including Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping, Vice-Premier Li Xiannien, and Deputy Chief of the General Staff Wu Hsiu-Chuan, have repeatedly threatened to attack Viet Nam again. Even at the Sino-Vietnamese talks, the Chinese head delegate has arrogantly declared that the Chinese rulers' threat to attack Viet Nam again is still valid.

(5) China is stepping up its armed activities and its encroachments on Viet Nam's territory on land, in the air and on the sea. It keeps straining the relations between the two countries and poses a great danger to Viet Nam's security.

(a) On land: China's armed activities in violation of Viet Nam's territory have occurred in a greater frequency and in a more and more serious manner on the whole length of Viet Nam's northern border. From 16 March to early September, China mounted more than 800 armed provocations at over 20 districts in the six Vietnamese border provinces, killing or wounding more than 100 civilians and border guards, instigating or forcing about 700 Vietnamese to cross over to China, burning many houses, taking away almost 200 head of cattle, and destroying a great quantity of property and crops.

Almost every day, Chinese troops attack Vietnamese border hamlets with small arms fire, artillery or rockets. They frequently cross the border to spring ambushes or open attacks on civilians and border guards. Sometimes they come in whole battalions, armed with mortars, artillery and rockets, causing many losses in lives and property to the Vietnamese. Some of the serious cases:

- (i) On 1 April 1979, a Chinese battalion raided Ma Li Pho village, Phong Tho district, Lai Chau Province, causing heavy losses to the population.
- (ii) On 21 June 1979, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Chinese troops fired more than 200 82 mm mortar rounds and dozens of rockets, and hundreds of small arms rounds in Xin Phin Che area of Meo Vac district, Ha Tuyen Province, killing or wounding many civilians.
- (iii) At seven on 8 July 1979, Chinese troops repeatedly fired 82 mm mortars on the areas of Coc Xi, Coc Muoi and Che Lech, and on hill 1030 in Coc Pang village, Bao Loc district, Cao Bang Province. At nine on the same day, a Chinese battalion crossed the border at marker posts 131 and 132 and moved deep into Vietnamese territory, firing at people, burning down many houses, and ravaging the crops. On the following day, Chinese troops fired many 82 mm mortar rounds on the same area.
- (iv) On 21 July 1979, a Chinese platoon attacked a regional army unit in Thuong Phung village, Meo Vac district, Ha Tuyen Province.
- (v) On 24 July, Chinese troops fired hundreds of mortar rounds on the area around marker post 16 in Tan Thanh village, Van Lang district, Lang Son, causing heavy losses to the population.

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- (vi) On 12 August 1979, Chinese troops fired 60 rockets on various hamlets of Xi La Lau village, Phong Tho district, Lai Chau, killing or wounding many Vietnamese, including three children.
- (vii) At eight on 24 August, about 200 Chinese troops attacked a Vietnamese border unit in Bach Dich village, Yen Ninh district, Ha Tuyen. From Noon to 4 p.m., after a resolute counter-attack by Vietnamese forces, a Chinese force of the same size made another attack on the area, committing many crimes against villagers.
- (viii) On 7 September, a Chinese company mounted a three-prong attack on two villages in Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son, two kilometres behind the border.
- (ix) On 12 and 14 September, a Chinese platoon repeatedly broke into Na Doong hamlet, Hung Quoc village, Tra Linh district, Cao Bang, destroying many houses, and took away property of the population.
- (x) On 17 September, a Chinese platoon attacked a Vietnamese border unit in Ban Lau village, Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son, wounding two guards.

Alongside military provocations, ground assaults and shellings, China has sent more spies and commandos into Viet Nam to gather intelligence, join hands with local reactionaries, conduct agitation activities, sow confusion, entice or force ethnic minority nationals to cross over to China, destroy houses and crops and steal cattle, in an attempt to disrupt normal life on the border.

(b) On the sea: Thousands of Chinese vessels have openly violated Viet Nam's territorial waters in the provinces of Quang Ninh, Haiphong, Nghe Tinh and Quan Nam - Da Nang. These have interfered with the work of Vietnamese fishermen and violated the sovereignty and threatened the security of Viet Nam. Since late August, Chinese vessels, including warships, have intensified their provocations off Quang Ninh Province. Some serious incidents:

- (i) On 1 September, more than 100 Chinese vessels intruded into Vietnamese territorial waters around Vinh Thuc Island, Quang Ninh Province.
- (ii) On 2 September, almost 20 Chinese vessels violated Vietnamese territorial waters around Tran Island. At the same time, dozens of Chinese military boats operated from Dau Ruoi harbour to buoys 1, 2 and 3 on the Bac Luan River, Quang Ninh.

To increase tension and carry out its designs on Viet Nam, China, on 23 July, declared four "danger" zones covering part of international waters and part of Viet Nam's territorial sea in the Hoang Sa archipelago, and banned all aircraft from these zones, without setting any time-limit. This was a gross violation of Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty.

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While negotiations at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister were being held in Peking to discuss problems in relations between the two countries, China in mid-July arrogantly signed contracts with four United States companies on oil exploration west of Hainan Island, an area over which there are disputes with Viet Nam, as admitted even by the United States.

The Chinese side has also overtly encouraged the United States to send warships to the eastern sea allegedly to "pick up boat people", but in fact they have colluded with each other in carrying out sinister activities against Viet Nam.

(c) In the air: While stepping up military activities on land and on the sea, the Chinese side has increased military reconnaissance flights and bombing exercises, including bombing exercises at night, along the Viet Nam-China border. Chinese warplanes have on many occasions violated Viet Nam's airspace. Below are some instances:

- (i) On 15 April 1979, one day after the Chinese delegation arrived in Hanoi for talks at Vice-Foreign Ministerial level between the two countries, a Chinese warplane carrying the mark "August 1" intruded very deep into Viet Nam's airspace, and crashed into Truc Phu village, Hai Hau district, Ha Nam Ninh Province (nearly 100 km south of Hanoi).
- (ii) On 24 April, many flights of Chinese warplanes violated Viet Nam's airspace over Than Phun - Po Hen areas, Quang Ninh Province, over 10 kilometres inside Viet Nam.
- (iii) On 17 and 19 May, many flights of Chinese warplanes intruded into the airspace of Mong Cai district town, Quang Ninh Province, over 12 kilometres behind the border.
- (iv) On 5 September, a flight of Chinese warplanes violated the airspace over Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son, 6 to 8 kilometres inside Viet Nam. At 1.25 p.m. the same day, another flight of Chinese warplanes intruded into the airspace over Hoang Lien Son and Ha Tuyen provinces.

The frenzied Chinese war preparations and armed activities have caused along the common border a very tense situation, fraught with an explosive danger of war. To justify their arrogant actions, the Chinese authorities have distorted facts and made slanderous charges against Viet Nam with a view to seeking a pretext for another war of aggression against this country.

They have cynically trampled upon international law and the United Nations Charter by giving themselves the right to "teach Viet Nam a lesson" and by openly threatening to invade an independent and sovereign country, a State Member of the United Nations. This has further exposed the war-like nature and crazy ambition of the Chinese authorities who, in pursuit of big-nation hegemonism, are plotting to subjugate Viet Nam and expand to South-East Asia.

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The Vietnamese people and Government strongly denounce and sternly condemn these fresh criminal actions of the Chinese authorities, and firmly demand that they immediately stop their extremely dangerous war preparations, armed provocations and war threats.

The Vietnamese people set great store by their friendship with the Chinese people and want to settle problems in relations with China through negotiations. We, however, are prepared to break any plot of aggression, in defence of our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

China must bear full responsibility for all consequences of its dangerous actions.
