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COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Letter dated 8 August 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the views of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the question of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 42/93 entitled "Comprehensive system of international peace and security".

It is requested that the text enclosed herewith (see annex) be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 73 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) TRINH XUAN LANG
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Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of
Viet Nam to the United Nations

* A/43/150.

ANNEX

Views of Viet Nam on General Assembly resolution 42/93 entitled
"Comprehensive system of international peace and security"

1. The proposal for establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security was submitted by a group of Socialist countries to the General Assembly at its forty-first session. Since then, the question has been gaining prominence in bilateral relations and has come under consideration in regional and multilateral forums and is in focus of attention of public opinion. The majority of countries participated in the exchange of views on this issue during the last two regular sessions of the Assembly. They showed a great interest in the collective search for paths to security for all.
2. Today's international relationships have changed; countries of the world, big and small, developed and developing, have become interdependent. The whole world has become a boat in which people are bound together by a common fate. In the nuclear and space era, the threat of annihilation has equalized all countries and social systems, intimately linked them together and made survival the major task. With the nature of present-day weapons and the trend of scientific and technological progress being what they are, no country can defend itself solely by military means, by building up a defensive system, no matter how powerful and sophisticated it is.
3. The concept of the comprehensive system of international peace and security requires joint efforts of all the participants in international relations, without exception, in the crucial, essential and interrelated areas for international security of disarmament, peaceful settlement of crisis and conflicts, economic development and co-operation, preservation of the environment, and promotion for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.
4. The Havana appeal issued by the special ministerial meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on the eve of the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament clearly stated:

"The concept of international security, which has traditionally been premised on the acquisition of arms and mutual deterrence, has proved erroneous since it has failed to produce global stability. Common security for all States can only be assured by new concepts based on mutual confidence, co-operation and interdependence." (A/S-15/27, annex II, para. 4)
5. The Ministers attending the above-mentioned Havana meeting also reaffirmed:

"the urgent need to effectively implement the measures of the collective security system provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and to examine other initiatives in the General Assembly and Security Council that complemented this system and facilitated the implementation of such measures." (*Ibid.*, annex I (Final Communiqué), para. 12)

6. In recent months, positive developments in world politics have taken place that have not only had a significant impact on the easing of international tensions but have also served as a new starting point for ensuing steps along the road to the attainment of general and complete disarmament and practically contributing to the building of a non-violent world free from nuclear weapons.

7. The agreement on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles signed and ratified by the Soviet Union and the United States is an encouraging step forward and requires that efforts be continued not only to guarantee its realization but also to ensure its extension and diversification. The future treaty between the USSR and USA on the 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear arms would be a milestone in the process of nuclear disarmament. This process should be encouraged and joined by the other nuclear-weapon States.

8. With regard to regional crises, significant progress has been made in the search for negotiated solutions to the conflicts in Central America, the Middle East, southern Africa, South-East Asia and the Persian Gulf. The developments, in substance, are considered practical steps toward the establishment of a universal system of security.

9. The nuclear and space age with its growing interdependence and only one security for all requires increased multilateral co-operation and enhanced efficiency of international machinery.

10. It is the conviction of Viet Nam that a wide discussion on the question of a comprehensive system of international peace and security at the bilateral and multilateral levels, especially at the coming forty-third session of the General Assembly, would serve as a school for mutually better understanding and co-operation. The constructive debate on this question with the wide participation of Member States in a democratic and non-confrontational manner would bring the current practice of international relations closer to an integrated system of international peace and security enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. There is a need to evolve an universally acceptable political language that could be used for reaching agreement on the most complicated issues and could replace the language of guns for all time.

11. Viet Nam firmly believes that consideration of this question is in the interest of all Member States as well as in the interest of promoting the effectiveness and authority of the United Nations and it would be in conformity with other United Nations efforts directed at strengthening international peace and security.

12. Every nation can and must play a part in preserving the survival of all mankind, promoting common security, peace and well-being for all.
