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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached note verbale dated 8 February 1971 from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam was addressed to the President of the Security Council with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

No. 1494 UN/VN

The Permanent Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam to the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the United Nations Security Council and has the honour to enclose herewith the translation of a message delivered 8 February 1971, by H.E. Nguyen Van Thieu, President of the Republic of Viet-Nam, to the soldiers and cadres taking part in an operation along the Viet-Nam-Laos borders.

It should be greatly appreciated if the President of the Security Council would kindly circulate this text to Member States of the United Nations as a document of the Council.

The Permanent Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the President of the United Nations Security Council the assurances of his highest consideration.

8 February 1971

Message of President Nguyen Van Thieu to the people, soldiers
and cadres on the operations carried out on 8 February 1971 by
the Armed Forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam on the Laotian
territory

My fellow countrymen,

My dear soldiers and cadres,

Today, 8 February 1971, I have ordered the armed forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam to attack the Communist North-Vietnamese bases on the Laotian territory along the Viet-Nam-Laos border in Military Region I.

This operation is called Operation Lamson 719. This is an operation limited in time as well as in space, with the clear and unique objective of disrupting the supply and infiltration network of the Communist North Vietnamese troops lying in the Laotian territory, and which for many years was occupied by the Communist North Viet-Nameese and used to launch attacks against our country.

Today, I solemnly confirm that the Republic of Viet-Nam always respects the independence, neutrality, and sovereignty of the Royal Kingdom of Laos.

I also solemnly confirm that the Republic of Viet-Nam does not have any territorial ambition whatsoever, and never interferes in the internal politics of the Royal Kingdom of Laos. I also pledge that when the above-mentioned limited

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operation ends, the armed forces of the Republic of Viet-Nam will withdraw completely from the Laotian territory.

Throughout the world, we all know that since many years the Communist North Viet-Nameese themselves had openly violated the neutrality and the territory of the Royal Kingdom of Laos, and blatantly violated the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos just as they had blatantly violated the 1954 Geneva Agreement on Indochina in order to wage the aggression against the Republic of Viet-Nam.

Throughout the world, we all do also know that the Communist North Viet-Nameese had openly occupied one important part of the Laotian territory, had built the Ho Chi Minh Trail there in order to move into the South countless soldiers, weapons, ammunitions and military materiel, and had established in that part of the Laotian territory great military and logistics bases in order to wage the aggression against the Republic of Viet-Nam.

If this situation prevails, the Communist North Vietnamese will stubbornly continue their war of aggression throughout Viet-Nam, Laos and the Khmer Republic

In the particular case of the Republic of Viet-Nam, while we show maximum good will at the Paris talks in order to solve this war through a negotiated settlement and through serious negotiations, while the allied nations have withdrawn a great part of their troops and continue to withdraw from the Republic of Viet-Nam, on the contrary, the Communist North Viet-Nameese still continue to infiltrate troops, weapons, ammunitions, and military equipment, and are getting ready to launch new attacks in the forthcoming months.

For these reasons, the attacks of our armed forces against the Communist North Viet-Nameese troops along the borders on the Laotian territory do not constitute an act of belligerence of the Republic of Viet-Nam, but are solely a necessary act of legitimate self-defence of the Republic of Viet-Nam against the Communist North Viet-Nameese aggressors.

This is not an act of aggression of the Republic of Viet-Nam against the friendly nation of Laos; on the contrary, this constitutes an act designed to stop the Communist North Viet-Nameese from expanding and maintaining their aggression potential.

This is not either an expansion of the war undertaken by the Republic of Viet-Nam; on the contrary, this is an act to help soon end the war and restore peace in this part of the world.