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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The attached letter dated 13 August 1964 has been received from the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Viet-Nam in response to the communication sent by the President of the Security Council on 7 August 1964 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet-Nam pursuant to the general understanding reported by him at the 1141st meeting of the Security Council on that date.

In reference to the decision of the Security Council of 7 August and your telegram of the same date to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet-Nam in which you expressed the desire of the Security Council to welcome from the Government of the Republic of Viet-Nam information relative to the complaint of the United States Government against the regime of Hanoi, I have the honour, in behalf of my Government, to inform Your Excellency that the Republic of Viet-Nam is ready to offer to the Security Council its full co-operation, and to provide any information which the Council may need concerning the unprovoked attacks by the Viet-Cong torpedo boats against United States ships on the international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin.

These attacks on the high seas once more evidence the aggressive policy of the Hanoi regime and its utter disregard for well-established rules of international law. They therefore have to be examined in the general framework of Viet-Cong aggressions in South-East Asia.

These aggressions have been for years directed against the Republic of Viet-Nam, but they have been in no way limited to Viet-Nam alone.

It is well known that the Viet-Cong, abetted by the Peking regime, have for many years violated the neutrality and encroached upon the independence and sovereignty of Laos by supporting and directing the Pathet Lao, and by introducing their own cadres and military units into Laos.

In the recent attacks against United States vessels on the high seas in the Gulf of Tonkin, the Viet-Cong have shown that they have now decided to extend their bellicose actions to other areas as well.

Undoubtedly, peace and international security in South-East Asia are seriously endangered by such aggressive acts, and gross violations of international law.

Of no small significance is the attitude of the Hanoi regime relative to the invitation that the Security Council extended to it to answer to the complaint of the United States Government before the Council.

The refusal by the Hanoi regime to appear before the Council, or even to provide factual information on this matter as requested by the Council, shows that the Hanoi regime is aware that its attacks on the high seas against United States ships are not defensible.

It indicates also the disregard that the Hanoi regime holds for the United Nations role in the maintenance of peace and international security. This attitude of the Hanoi regime vis-à-vis the United Nations can surprise no one because of its subservience to the Peking regime which still stands indicted of aggression by the United Nations.

After each aggression which it committed, and each serious situation which it created, the Hanoi regime invariably advocates the convening of a new Geneva Conference, allegedly to restore peace and security in South-East Asia, which it has itself disturbed and endangered. The fact that the Hanoi regime again demands the convening of another Geneva Conference after its attacks on international waters against United States ships is indicative of its motives in creating these incidents. The usefulness of such conferences, however, can be evaluated in the light of the repeated violations of the Geneva Agreements of 1954, as testified by the International Control Commission in its Special Report of 2 June 1962, and the gross violations by the Viet-Cong of the Geneva Agreements of 1962 on Laos.

The Republic of Viet-Nam once more expresses its adhesion to the principles of the United Nations Charter, its hope and trust in the United Nations for the maintenance of peace and international security.

I should be grateful if Your Excellency would circulate this note as an official document of the United Nations Security Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity etc.

(Signed) NGUYEN PHU DUC
Ambassador

