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THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES  
UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Letter dated 17 February 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires  
ad interim of the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic  
of Viet Nam addressed to the Director of the Division of  
Human Rights

"I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your information the following document:

Communique on crimes committed by the Chinese against Viet Nam during the past two years (1979-1980).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this text to be circulated as an official document of the Commission on Human Rights under item 9 of the agenda for its thirty-seventh session".

(Signed): TRUONG QUAN PHAN  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

COMMUNIQUE ON CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE CHINESE AGAINST  
VIET NAM DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS (1979-1980)

The failure of the two wars they launched against Viet Nam has not induced the Chinese reactionaries to abandon their aggressive designs against our country.

During the past two years, in collusion with imperialism, more especially with that of the United States and Japan, they have been drumming up other reactionary forces against Viet Nam and the revolution in Kampuchea and Laos.

A list of their crimes is supplied below.

(1) War preparations and threat of a new war: since March 1979, they have maintained 15 infantry divisions, supported by five army corps quartered in second line, against the Vietnamese frontier; recently, they deployed a further army corps at the frontier of the provinces of Lang Son and Quang Ninh and numerous regiments of heavy artillery at that of the provinces of Lai Chau and Hoang Lien Son. They have continually brought up arms and other war material to the frontier, where new trenches have been dug and new fortifications built. Road networks have been constructed or extended, airfields close to the frontier have been enlarged and reinforced with additional fighter aircraft and bomber units. Military works have been constructed on the island of Hainan and in the Hoang Sa archipelago (Paracels), which was seized from Viet Nam. Military manoeuvres have taken place in the immediate vicinity of Viet Nam's land and sea frontiers.

(2) Intensification of armed provocations and frontier violations on land, at sea and in the air.

On the Vietnamese land frontier Chinese troops have launched 4,000 provocations in the course of which they made 750 incursions into Vietnamese territory and occupied 34 new positions on the heights and 27 points in agricultural areas. They bombard Vietnamese territory daily. A very serious incident occurred in October 1980, when, in a single day, thousands of shells and rockets were fired at the urban agglomeration of Coc Pai (province of Ha Tuyen) and its vicinity. Vietnamese civilians have been killed or kidnapped and their goods and crops pillaged in frequent ambushes and armed attacks. In October 1980, several regiments of Chinese troops supported by artillery attacked and occupied the commune of Xin Man (Ha Tuyen) for several days.

These armed provocations and frontier violations have had the following results: 200 Vietnamese civilians killed, 500 houses in the countryside and 15,000 square metres of town dwellings destroyed, as well as 37 hospitals and medical posts, 47 schools and numerous shops, 410 oxen and buffalo killed or stolen, tens of thousands of hectares of land laid fallow. The constant tension is perturbing the everyday life of the population in the frontier regions.

At sea, Chinese boats and armed junks penetrated 1,000 times into the waters round the island of Bach Long Vi (Hai Phong), Tran Than Lan, Vinh Thuc (Quang Ninh), Hon Me (Thanh Hoa) and Nam Yet (Truong Sa archipelago (Spratlys)) for purposes of espionage and provocation and also in order to perturb the life of Vietnamese fishermen and to capture inhabitants in order to extract information, to subvert them and to recruit them as paid agents. The reactionary Chinese authorities have openly violated Vietnamese sovereignty by declaring that the Vietnamese archipelagos of Hoang Sa and Truong Sa form part of Chinese territory, proclaiming the establishment of four danger areas in the territorial waters of Hoang Sa archipelago, and prospecting and drilling for oil in maritime areas belonging to Viet Nam.

In the air, hundreds of formations of Chinese military aircraft have violated Vietnamese air space, sometimes penetrating tens of kilometres inside Vietnamese territory.

(3) Intensification of psychological warfare and espionage activities.

At the frontier:

Chinese commandos and spies have been introduced into the frontier regions. They lay ambushes in order to capture Vietnamese cadres and civilians, take them to China, extract information from them or press them into their service. They are also organizing brigandage in those regions.

Hoa and Vietnamese persons who were forced to go over to China have been sent to political and military training camps in Yunnan and Guang Zhou to form "special guerrilla companies". Units of a "blackshirt division" are being organized.

Twenty radio transmitters have been built along the frontier. Twenty-eight kinds of tracts have been disseminated in Vietnamese territory by means of mortar shells, rafts, balloons, etc. Chinese agents are sent into Vietnamese territory for the purpose of conducting psychological warfare activities, sowing discord among the various ethnic groups and encouraging subversive action.

Within Vietnamese territory:

In their daily broadcasts in Vietnamese and in concert with the radios of imperialist countries, a dense network of Chinese broadcasting stations (Peking, Kunming, Guang Zhou, Fujian and Democratic Kampuchea radios) are inciting the Vietnamese people to revolt. Issues of 119 periodicals published abroad in Vietnamese, as well as letters, are sent to Viet Nam through the post as part of the psychological warfare campaign.

In concert with the American imperialists, the reactionary Chinese authorities are inciting Vietnamese to expatriate themselves. They send boats to patrol continuously off the Vietnamese coasts to pick up such "refugees" and make agents of them.

(4) Intensification of economic sabotage activities at the Viet Nam-China frontier:

A network of shops and markets has been established along the frontier in order to corner Vietnamese agricultural products, medicinal plants and animals and sabotage the Vietnamese currency. Chinese agents steal or kill oxen and buffalo, poison wells, lay mines in fields and gardens and under roads, and introduce disease-ridden animals into Vietnamese territory.

At the Viet Nam-Laos and Viet Nam-Kampuchea frontiers:

In concert with Laos reactionaries, remnants of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary troops are organizing smuggling and drug traffic networks and introducing luxury goods into Viet Nam so as to obtain gold and precious stones from the country. Agents are employed to sabotage production, economic establishments and communication lines in the three countries of Indo-China.

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The criminal actions of the reactionaries among the Chinese rulers have caused and are causing grave damage to Viet Nam and are sabotaging peace in South-East Asia.

We denounce their crimes to the Chinese people.

We call upon all peace-loving and justice-loving peoples in the world, including the Chinese people, in the interests of peace and friendship among peoples, to intensify the struggle to compel the Chinese reactionaries to put an end to their policies hostile to Viet Nam and to the other countries of Indo-China.

February 1981