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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Letter dated 20 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, dated 18 January 1985.

It would be greatly appreciated if this letter and its enclosure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia".

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam, issued on 18 January 1985

Consecutively from Jan. 15-17, Chinese troops from the hills they had occupied in Vi Xuyen district, Ha Tuyen province since April 1984, launched land-grabbing attacks on neighbouring areas deep in Vietnam's territory. At the same time, Chinese artillery slammed heavy gun fire on other areas inside the Vietnamese territory. Within only these three days, they had fired more than 50,000 assorted mortar rounds, perpetrating numerous crimes against the local population.

In the meantime, according to foreign sources, the Chinese authorities have sent five more divisions and many more war planes to the Sino-Vietnamese border area, preparing a new war escalation against Vietnam.

The armed forces and population in Vi Xuyen (Ha Tuyen), heightening their vigilance and combat preparedness, have repulsed the enemy's attacks, killing thousands, wounding hundreds of invaders.

The Chinese authorities' new war acts are a crude violation of the sovereignty and security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and a blatant encroachment upon the fundamental principles of international law. To cover up their crimes, the Chinese propaganda machine is seeking to slanderously charge Viet Nam with "making armed provocations against China". This, however, is only a "thief-crying-stop-thief" trick which can deceive nobody.

China's new war acts against Vietnam took place only one day before Vietnam's cease-fire proposal came into effect. That spells out the Chinese authorities' intention to carry on with their hostile policy toward the Vietnamese people, further strain the situation along the Sino-Vietnamese border, and run counter to the aspiration of the peoples of the two countries.

The Chinese side's acts of war against Viet Nam coincided with the arrival in Beijing of the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. This is a new evidence of Beijing's collusion with Washington in opposing Viet Nam and the other two Indochinese countries, preventing the trend of dialogue, and undermining peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam energetically denounces to the world public opinion the new criminal acts of war of the Chinese authorities and demands that the Chinese side stop immediately all its land-nibbling attacks on the Vietnamese territory. The Chinese authorities must bear full responsibility for the present tension along the Sino-Vietnamese border.
