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SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 23 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a speech made by Han Nianlong, Head of the Chinese Government Delegation and Vice-Foreign Minister, at the 14th plenary meeting of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations on 22 November 1979.

I request that this speech be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) CHEN Chu
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

ANNEX

SPEECH BY HAN NIANLONG, HEAD OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT
DELEGATION AND VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER, AT THE FOURTEENTH
PLENARY MEETING OF THE SINO-VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATIONS

November 22, 1979

Head of the Vietnamese Government Delegation
Dinh Nho Liem,
Colleagues on the Vietnamese Delegation,

In view of the recent stalemate in the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations, the Chinese side has appealed repeatedly and sincerely to the Vietnamese side, expressing the hope that it would make joint efforts together with the Chinese side and do something practical to promote progress in the negotiations. However, the Vietnamese side ignored the Chinese proposal, deliberately used the negotiations as a means for propagating lies, put forward unreasonable arguments in defence of its policy for regional hegemony and wantonly attacked and vilified China in an attempt to lead the negotiations astray. The Chinese side cannot but regret the arbitrary acts of the Vietnamese side in obstructing the negotiations.

At the last plenary meeting, the Vietnamese Delegation completely distorted the actual situation in Kampuchea, alleging that Vietnamese aggression, occupation and domination have brought the Kampuchean people a "normal life", "the right of being masters of their own house" and "increasing stability". It also alleged that Kampuchea has now become "a factor of peace, friendliness and stability in Southeast Asia as well as in the world". You have fabricated fantastic lies, confused right and wrong, confounded black and white and described Kampuchea, which is trampled underfoot by Viet Nam, as a paradise on earth. This is flagrant contempt and mockery of human conscience and dignity.

It is clearly evident to the whole world that the Vietnamese authorities established an atrocious fascist rule in Kampuchea and plunged the whole nation into dire misery through their war of aggression. The Vietnamese aggressor troops kill and loot the people, burn their houses and commit all kinds of crimes wherever they go. Kampuchean cities, towns and villages are being destroyed, the properties and natural resources of the Kampuchean people are being plundered. Even the world-famous historic site of Angkor Vat was not spared. Over the past year, nearly one million Kampuchean people have died tragic deaths during ruthless mopping-up operations and massacres by the Vietnamese aggressor troops. And at present millions of poverty-stricken people are struggling

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on the brink of death. However, the Vietnamese side has the insolence of talking at the conference table about "peace" and "stability" in Kampuchea and about its "sovereignty". Are they not afraid of making themselves a laughing-stock before the world?

As a result of the tyrannical rule of and plundering by the Vietnamese authorities, agricultural production in Kampuchea suffered unprecedented damages. The land in the once rich and beautiful Mekong River valley and Tonle Sap area lies in waste and is strewn with bodies of the victims of starvation. A most serious famine is threatening the very existence of the several million Kampuchean people. Faced with such a scene of misery, a number of world organizations, out of humanitarian considerations, have provided relief food supplies to the Kampuchean people, who are struggling on the brink of death. However, the Vietnamese authorities have tried by every means to put up obstacles or misappropriated a lot of relief supplies and turned them over to the Vietnamese aggressor troops, who are slaughtering Kampuchean people. The Vietnamese authorities have moved a great number of Vietnamese settlers into Kampuchea with a view to perpetuating their attempt to annex Kampuchea. Much evidence shows that up to now no less than 300,000 Vietnamese have settled down in the hinterland of Kampuchea and become masters of Kampuchean land. Meanwhile, a great number of Kampucheans were driven out of their homesteads where they had lived for generations, and are plunged into dire misery. From the beginning of this year to October, nearly 400,000 people have fled Kampuchea. Countless blood-curdling facts show that the Vietnamese authorities are clearly pushing the most ruthless fascist colonization and genocide of the 1970s. However, you still try to hide the truth from the world and shirk your responsibility for these crimes. But you will never succeed.

Now the Vietnamese aggressors have started another offensive against Kampuchea. Using artillery, tanks, planes and even the inhuman weapon of poisonous gas, the Vietnamese troops are engaged in a frantic attack against the patriotic Kampuchean armymen and people who are carrying on resistance in many areas. There is fierce fighting in the western part of the country near the Thai border, posing a direct threat to the security and territorial integrity of Thailand. Many incidents have been reported of Vietnamese troops shelling Thai territory and making inroads into Thai border areas. The frenzied acts of aggression of the Vietnamese authorities have led to growing tension in Indochina and Southeast Asia, thus evoking very strong reaction from countries in the region and the world as a whole. However, in the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations, you have gone to the length of asserting that Viet Nam's

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dry-season offensive in Kampuchea is "a tale concocted by China". Your ability in telling barefaced lies is quite unique in the world.

At present, the situation in Kampuchea is a center of world attention. The acts of aggression of the Vietnamese authorities have intensified the gravity of the situation in Indochina and Southeast Asia. The Kampuchean question and the question of Indochina as a whole figure prominently and assume a dimension of increasing gravity and urgency. Naturally, no peace-loving and justice-upholding country or people in the world can turn a blind eye to such developments. At the thirty-fourth session of the UN General Assembly, representatives of many countries righteously condemned the Vietnamese authorities for their crime of armed aggression, of creating famine, and of genocide in Kampuchea; they demanded that the UN take effective measures to bring the Vietnamese aggression to an end and make the Vietnamese authorities pull out all their troops from Kampuchea forthwith. With Soviet backing, Viet Nam resorted to various manoeuvrings, but suffered ignominious failure in each case. On November 14 the plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly adopted by an overwhelming majority a resolution submitted by the ASEAN and twenty-five other countries, calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea and demanding that the Kampuchean people be left alone to decide their own future and destiny without outside interference, subversion and coercion and that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Kampuchea be scrupulously respected. This General Assembly resolution gives expression to the strong demand and will of world public opinion. It is another evidence that the Vietnamese authorities have thoroughly discredited themselves and become the target of condemnation through pursuing a policy of aggression, expansion and regional hegemony.

The Chinese Government is always opposed to aggression and upholds international justice. The unbridled striving of the Vietnamese authorities for regional hegemony, and their aggression against Kampuchea, control of Laos and antagonism to China pose a grave threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole and to the security of China. The Chinese people can never take this lightly. The Chinese Government firmly condemns the aggression in a criminal attempt to annex Kampuchea by the Vietnamese authorities and resolutely supports the Kampuchean people and all Kampuchean patriotic forces resisting Vietnamese aggressors. The Chinese Government firmly supports Thailand and the other ASEAN countries in their just struggle against foreign aggression and in defence of their state sovereignty. This stand of the Chinese Government and people is firm and unshakable.

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At the last meeting, the Vietnamese Delegation, while wilfully trying to justify their acts of aggression and expansion, again engaged in rumour-mongering and mudslinging against China with regard to the situation along the Sino-Vietnamese border, harping on the worn-out theme of the so-called "threat" from China. This is no surprise to anyone. Developments in recent years have already proved time and again that there is a direct link between the Vietnamese authorities' pursuance of the policy of opposition and hostility to China and their attempt to seek regional hegemony. Their acts of aggression in Kampuchea are invariably accompanied by provocations and slanders against China, which serve to divert attention from what they are really doing. At the end of 1977, when the Vietnamese authorities launched their first war of aggression in Kampuchea, they created tension step by step along the China-Viet Nam border, speeded up their nibbling at Chinese territory and provoked border disputes. In the second half of 1978, when they were preparing for a massive invasion of Kampuchea, they again intensified tension in the border areas, which led to armed conflicts along the China-Viet Nam border. Now, it has come into public notice that the Vietnamese authorities have once again stepped up their provocations against China along the Yunnan and Guangxi border and kept sending armed personnel to encroach upon and harass Chinese border areas and to indulge in wanton shooting and bombardment, causing losses of life and property on the Chinese side. The Vietnamese side even sent groups of up to a hundred fully-armed military personnel to intrude into Chinese territory and attack Chinese sentry posts and villages along the border. Your unchecked provocations have aroused grave concern on the Chinese side. It must be pointed out that the abnormal situation in the China-Viet Nam border areas is entirely the creation of the Vietnamese authorities and, like the deterioration in China-Viet Nam relations, it is the evil consequence of the regional hegemonism pursued by them. There can be no fundamental approach to restore normal relations between China and Viet Nam and resolve the various issues and differences between the two countries unless the Vietnamese side abandons its aggression and expansion, gives up its policy of opposition and hostility to China and stops its provocations against China. You are treading on dangerous ground if you believe that you can attain your sinister goals by making wanton provocations against China and creating and intensifying tension again and again along the China-Viet Nam border.

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The Chinese side has always held that the negotiations now going on between the Chinese and Vietnamese Governments should be carried on seriously in a spirit of realism and through consultation on the basis of equality, and not be used as a forum for deceptive propaganda. In order that the negotiations may go on smoothly, the Chinese side put forward, long ago, the eight-point proposal for handling the relations between the two countries and suggested that the two sides discuss first of all the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the principle of not seeking hegemony. Developments in the past several months have given further proof to the necessity and urgency of the Chinese proposal. We still hope that the Vietnamese side will give serious consideration to the views of the Chinese side and will not act against the desire of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and the people of the world so that the negotiations may make progress.
