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STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 December 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly and to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the letter dated 1 December 1979 addressed by His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, to His Excellency Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and to His Excellency Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, President of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and request you kindly to have this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 46, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Ha Noi, December 1, 1979

*H.E. Mr. Kurt WALDHEIM
U.N. Secretary General*

*H.E. Mr. Salim Ahmed SALIM,
President of the U.N. General Assembly,
34th Session*

New York

Excellency,

On the occasion of the deliberation being held by the General Assembly at its 34th Session, of item 46 entitled "Strengthening of International Security", I would like to draw your attention to the serious situation in the South-East Asian region, caused by the acts of armed aggression and threats of war directed by the Chinese ruling circle against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Chinese authorities have long nurtured a design, and step by step carried out a plan, aimed at subjugating Viet Nam, annexing the three Indochinese countries and using them as a springboard for expansion in South-East Asia.

In January 1974, the Chinese authorities attacked and occupied the Hoang Sa (Paracels) islands of Viet Nam, which were then under the control of the Nguyen Van Thieu administration.

After the complete liberation of South Viet Nam the Peking authorities, with a design of encircling, weakening and subjugating the

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Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, used their puppet Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique as a shock force against Viet Nam. They rushed in Kampuchea tens of thousands of military advisors, a large amount of weapons, ammunitions and food, established a 23 division-strong mercenary army and used it to launch repeated military attacks and committed more and more serious encroachments upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam at an increasing rate. They even mobilized 19 out of the total 23 divisions to launch a large-scale attack on Viet Nam on December 23, 1978. During their war of aggression launched against Viet Nam from the latter's South-West, the Peking authorities and their henchmen killed tens of thousands of innocent Vietnamese by extremely barbarous means, caused more than 400,000 people displaced and more than 100,000 hectares of land uncultivated, destroyed 129 schools, 63 hospitals and dispensaries, 51 churches and pagodas.

On February 17, 1979, the Peking authorities mobilized an army of 600,000 aggressors, consisting of many regular army corps and independent divisions with hundreds of tanks and armed vehicles and thousands of artillery pieces to launch massive attacks on the whole northern borderline of Viet Nam from Quang Ninh to Lai Chau, brazenly violating Viet Nam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, grossly trampling upon the basic principles of the U.N. Charter and international laws, and perpetuating extremely wicked crimes of war. They massacred en masse Vietnamese civilians by extremely wicked means, levelled to the ground many provincial capitals, townships and hundreds of villages in six border provinces of Viet Nam, seriously destroyed many factories, mines, and nearly 100 agricultural and forest farms, took away tens of thousands of tons of fertilizers, and a similar amount of seeds of rice, subsidiary crops and vegetables, killed or took away 150,000 buffaloes, cows, horses and over 240,000 pigs. They destroyed 600,000 square metres of houses in provincial capitals, townships, 45,000 houses in the countryside, thus leaving more than 350,000 people homeless. They destroyed 735 schools at all levels, which provided schooling for 18,000 pupils, and destroyed

4 provincial hospitals, 24 district hospitals, more than 400 dispensaries and maternity homes and 460 kindergartens.

Suffering heavy defeats in their February 17, 1979 war of aggression against Viet Nam the Chinese authorities had to declare that they would withdraw their troops home and sit at a negotiating table with Viet Nam but up to now, they are still illegally occupying many areas on Vietnamese territory. At the negotiating table, they are deliberately trying to elude the reasonable and sensible proposals put forth by the Vietnamese side on the urgent measures to guarantee peace and security in the border regions, of the two countries. They are obstinately sticking to their arrogant and absurd demands which, in fact, constitute an ultimatum. That is why, the talks between the two countries have so far made no progress. At the same time, they are feverishly stepping up their war preparations against Viet Nam along the entire border, on land, at sea and on the air. They are frenziedly opposing Viet Nam by various wicked and treacherous means, creating constant tensions in the relations between the two countries. Since March 16, 1979, they have made more than 1,000 armed provocations, brazenly violating Viet Nam's sovereignty and territorial integrity, causing many losses in lives and property, undermining the normal life of the Vietnamese people living in the areas bordering China. Furthermore, leaders of the Chinese government have repeatedly uttered threats of war against Viet Nam, arrogantly given themselves the right as a big-power to "teach Viet Nam the second lesson". The Peking authorities' armed provocations, war preparations and threats of using force against Viet Nam have led to the danger of a war of aggression against Viet Nam which can break out at any moment, thus seriously menacing the security of Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries and peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam energetically denounce these dark schemes and criminal acts against Viet Nam by the Chinese authorities.

We demand that the Chinese authorities:

- withdraw all their armed forces from the Hoang Sa islands and the areas along the border they have illegally occupied;*
- make compensations for the losses caused by their aggressor army to the Vietnamese side during their February 1979 aggressive war;*
- stop the armed provocations, war preparations and threats of war against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;*
- seriously conduct the vice-foreign ministerial talks aimed at solving the problems concerning the relations between the two countries through peaceful means.*

We request you to draw the attention of the General Assembly to this matter and distribute this document as official document of the General Assembly in accordance with item 46, to the U.N. member countries, and we are confident that the vast majority of distinguished representatives of peace- and justice-loving governments and peoples in the world will extend their approval and support to our reasonable and sensible proposals.

With high regards

*MINISTER OF STATE
IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS*

NGUYEN CO THACH
