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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 10 February 1979 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an urgent message, dated 10 February 1979, addressed to you by Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

I should be grateful if you would have this message distributed as an official General Assembly document under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

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

Annex

Message dated 10 February 1979 from the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the serious situation which has arisen in Viet Nam.

The Chinese authorities have recently intensified armed activities at the Vietnamese frontier and undertaken feverish preparations for war against Viet Nam. They have deployed about 20 divisions, hundreds of fighter aircraft, many tanks and other war matériel in the immediate vicinity of the frontier between China and Viet Nam. They have engaged daily in armed activities which violate Vietnamese territory, thus creating an extremely dangerous situation along the entire length of the frontier between China and Viet Nam.

While these hostile acts were taking place, the Deputy Prime Minister of China, Teng Hsiao-ping, during his visits to the United States and Japan, openly confirmed the news reports concerning the massive concentration of Chinese troops near the Vietnamese frontier and the shameless threats of war against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. This situation has aroused and continues to arouse serious concern on the part of the Governments of many countries and world public opinion.

The aforementioned acts are the result of the anti-Vietnamese policy of the Chinese authorities and of their expansionist aims in South-East Asia. Since the beginning of the 1970s, they have seized the Hoang Sa (Paracel) Islands by military means, advanced absurd claims to other Vietnamese islands in the Eastern Sea (South China Sea) and provoked frontier disputes between the two countries. They have incited the Hoa in Viet Nam to cause disturbances, profiting from the difficulties caused in Viet Nam by natural disasters. They have cut off their aid and withdrawn their experts in an effort to subjugate Viet Nam, they have called on other countries to stop assisting Viet Nam, contrary to the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on aid for the reconstruction of Viet Nam. They used the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique as a tool to unleash war against the Vietnamese people and provoke conflicts with other neighbouring countries, thus threatening peace and stability in South-East Asia. At the same time, they have sought to create discord between the ASEAN countries and Viet Nam and to set the countries of South-East Asia against each other.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam strongly denounce the belligerent acts of intimidation committed by the Chinese authorities. These are reckless acts which could have dangerous and unforeseeable consequences for peace and security in South-East Asia and throughout the world. By their acts and words, the Chinese authorities have acted in a manner contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and have flouted the basic principles of international law. This is a serious challenge to the peoples and countries throughout the world that care for peace and justice.

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A/34/81
English
Annex
Page 2

The Vietnamese people, still attached to the traditional friendship between Viet Nam and China, is pursuing its policy of settling disputes by negotiation, but is determined to defend the independence, sovereignty and sacred territorial integrity of its homeland and the fruits of its peaceful labour. The Vietnamese people is firmly convinced that the peoples and Governments of countries that care for peace and justice throughout the world will do all they can to counter in time the reckless and bellicose acts of the Chinese authorities, and will strengthen their solidarity with the Vietnamese people for the defence of Viet Nam.

I hope that in view of your great responsibilities you will consider the serious situation described above and take any steps you may deem appropriate.

I would suggest that you arrange for this message to be distributed as an official United Nations document to all Members of the Organization.

Nguyen Duy Trinh
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
