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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Letter dated 14 April 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a statement made on 13 April 1982 by a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam rejecting recent US allegations about the use of chemical poisons by Viet Nam in Laos and Kampuchea, and request Your Excellency kindly to have this note and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 54 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) NGUYEN NGOC DUNG
Ambassador

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam to the
United Nations

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ANNEX

S T A T E M E N T

BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM REJECTING
RECENT U.S. ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE USE OF CHEMICAL
POISONS BY VIET NAM IN LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA.

"In his report to the U.S. Congress in late March, U.S. Secretary of State A. Haig again charged Viet Nam with using Soviet - made chemical poisons in Laos and Kampuchea.

"It is still remembered that in September 1981 the U.S. Secretary of State himself and all the mouthpieces of the US Government launched a campaign concerning the so-called use of chemical poisons in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia. The campaign was designed to oppose the Soviet Union, Viet Nam, Laos and the People's Republic of Kampuchea. But facts have shown that this was merely a fabrication. Progressive public opinion and many scientists, including American scientists, have pointed out that evidence produced by the US Government was groundless. On March 15, the Pugwash Conference in Geneva, attended by scientists from 31 countries affirmed that there was no concrete proof of the use of chemical poisons as alleged by the US government. Even health experts in a so-called UN' investigation team' returning from Southeast Asia and South Asia in November 1981, and February 1982 also concluded that there was no fact to back the US claim about the use of chemical poisons in Kampuchea and Afghanistan. A number of persons in this team even denounced the U.S. for pressuring them into producing false evidence to suit the US allegations.

"The US Government's intention in this smear campaign about the Soviet Union and Viet Nam is to divert public attention from its scheme of stepping up the arms race and the mass production of chemical and bacteriological weapons, delay negotiations for a treaty banning production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, and obstruct disarmament talks.

"By concocting the story about the use of Soviet - made toxic chemicals in Afghanistan, Laos and Kampuchea, the U.S. Government also seeks to whitewash its crimes against the three Indochinese peoples. All people of conscience can still remember that the US imperialists conducted a long-term, large-scale chemical war against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea for

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more than ten years. They sprayed hundreds of thousands of tons of toxic chemicals, killing hundreds of thousands of people, destroying hundreds of thousands of hectares of crop land, with disastrous consequences to the environment, to many generations of Vietnamese, and to tens of thousands of Americans who fought in Indochina. Mankind will keep record of the US aggressors' crimes.

"By conducting the biggest chemical war in mankind's history, and by trying to repeat this war with modern means and on a larger scale, the United States has seriously violated the 1925 Geneva Convention. The US Government, therefore, is not qualified to speak about justice at all.

"The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam once again completely rejects the US slander, and demands that the US Government end its collusion with the reactionary Chinese ruling circle in vilifying Viet Nam and the other Indochinese countries".

HA NOI, 13 April 1982.
