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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING  
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 14 January 1982 from the Permanent Representative of  
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith to Your Excellency a statement issued on 14 January 1982 by the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Viet Nam's proposal for cessation of hostile armed actions and firing along the Sino-Vietnamese border on the occasion of Tet, the Lunar New Year.

I kindly request Your Excellency to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

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

ANNEX

S T A T E M E N T  
BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ON VIETNAM'S PROPOSALS  
FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILE ARMED ACTIONS AND FIRING  
ALONG THE SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER ON THE OCCASION OF TET

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As is publicly known, the Chinese authorities, on February 17, 1979, sent 600,000 troops in a war of aggression against Viet Nam. Although they were defeated in this war by the Vietnamese people and forced to withdraw, the Chinese authorities are still occupying a part of Vietnamese territory. Now, pursuing their hostile policy against Viet Nam, the Chinese authorities are frenziedly conducting a type of sabotage war in many fields to weaken Viet Nam so as to subdue and occupy it. They maintain a big military force close to the border while continuing to occupy many points in Viet Nam or nibbling at others, and conducting armed provocations or causing clashes along the border. As a result, the situation at the border is permanently tense and is likely to become explosive.

The Vietnamese people are resolved to exercise their right to self-defence to protect their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is also the sacred right to self-defence of all peoples to defend their countries from foreign aggression. On the other hand, the people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam are consistently advocating the settlement of all problems with China through negotiations in order to normalize relations between the two States and restore the time-honoured friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples. Viet Nam has successively taken many positive steps, proposing for a bilateral Treaty for Peaceful Coexistence between the two countries, and demanding with insistence the resumption of the talks unilaterally interrupted by China. And, for the traditional Lunar New Year, it has repeatedly called for cessation of hostile armed actions and firing at border areas so that the two peoples may safely celebrate the return of Spring. However, all these

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constructive proposals have been stubbornly rejected by the Chinese authorities.

On January 4, the Chinese authorities rejected another proposal made in a note addressed by the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China on December 28, 1981, that the two sides stop hostile armed actions and cease firing along the common border on the occasion of the Year of the Dog. So it is very clear that the Chinese authorities have not given up their hostile policy towards Viet Nam and do not want to ease tension along the common border.

Even so, as an expression of the good will of the people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and for the friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, Vietnamese soldiers and guards at the border will unilaterally act upon the proposal made in the note of December 28, 1981, i.e. cessation by both parties of hostile armed actions and firing along the common border in <sup>a</sup> period from January 20 through January 29, 1982 to enable people on both sides of the common border to safely see the New Year in.

If China takes advantage of the good will of Viet Nam by continuing armed provocations and other hostile actions, the Vietnamese people and their armed forces will have to react in self-defence, and the Chinese authorities will have to fully account for all consequences of their acts.

Ha Noi , January 14, 1982

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