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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 29 August 1983 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement dated 29 August 1983 by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

I should be very grateful if Your Excellency could have this letter and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 37 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON
Permanent Representative

* A/38/150.

ANNEX

**STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN
FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

Proceeding from the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and the Chinese peoples and from the desire for restoring the good neighbourly relationships between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, on August 19, 1983, the Vietnamese Government proposed to the Chinese Government the following :

On the occasion of the coming National Day of Viet Nam (September 2) as well as that of China (October 1), the two sides should agree to refrain from all armed actions and other hostile activities and from opening fire on their common border, effective from zero hour (Ha Noi Time) on August 30, 1983 to zero hour on October 8, 1983 in order that the people on either side of the border may celebrate their respective National Days in peace and friendship.

This constructive proposal of the Vietnamese side fully conforms to the aspiration of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, and contributes to creating a favourable atmosphere for both sides to settle the abnormal relations between the two countries. It is also in keeping with the desire of the peoples in the region for peace and stability. However, it is regrettable that until now the Chinese side still fails to answer the above-mentioned proposal of the Vietnamese side.

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Despite this, prompted by its goodwill to contribute to easing the tension in the relations between Viet Nam and China, on August 29, 1983, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam ordered the Vietnamese armed forces all along the Northern border line to strictly carry out the proposal. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam once again requests the Government of the People's Republic of China to actively respond to the above proposal and order its armed forces to do likewise.

If the Chinese side takes advantage of the Vietnamese side's goodwill to continue armed provocations and other hostile activities, the people and armed forces of Viet Nam will be compelled to exercise their right to self-defense. In that event, the Chinese authorities will have to bear responsibility for all consequences arising from their own actions.

The Vietnamese people firmly believe that the Chinese people as well as public opinion in the region and the rest of the world will approve of and strongly support the sincere proposal and constructive attitude of the Vietnamese side.

HANOI August 29, 1983
