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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

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

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-
NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 19 June 1984 from the Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Communiqué, dated 8 June 1984, issued by the Commission for Investigation of the Chinese Expansionists and Hegemonists' War Crimes against Viet Nam, on China's war crimes against Viet Nam in April and May 1984.

It would be greatly appreciated if this letter and its enclosure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 37, 68 and 124 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON
Permanent Representative

* A/39/50.

ANNEX

COMMUNIQUE ON CHINA'S WAR CRIMES AGAINST VIET NAM IN APRIL AND MAY 1984

By the Commission for Investigation of the Chinese
Expansionists and Hegemonists' War Crimes against
Viet Nam

In preparation for new criminal acts against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the reactionaries in the Beijing leadership have mobilized many divisions and Army Corps (including the 14th Army Corps which participated in the war of aggression against Viet Nam in February 1979) of the Kunming and Quangzhou Military Regions to reinforce the 15 divisions already stationed close to the Vietnamese border, especially the areas opposite Dong Van, Yen Minh and Vi Xuyen districts (Ha Tuyen province), Trang Dinh, Cao Loc and Dinh Lap districts (Lang Son province).

The Chinese forces of the said military Army Corps, including the Air Force, are put on red alert, and have conducted repeated military exercises in combat coordination by land and sea in simulated attacks on Viet Nam. Munitions materials and other modern war means have been expeditiously sent to the Vietnamese border and the network has been extended while more trenches, shelters and artillery and mortar grounds were set up close to the Sino-Vietnamese border.

At the same time, the Chinese authorities have launched a disinformation campaign slanderously charging Viet Nam with "Building fortifications and battlefields and putting up barbed wire on Chinese territory". They even alleged that "Viet Nam is conducting armed provocations, causing disturbances in populated areas on the Chinese border and has occupied many places in Chinese territory". And they threatened to "teach Viet Nam another lesson".

In April and May 1984, the Chinese reactionaries took new steps of war escalation, launching a large-scale campaign of artillery bombardment and armed encroachment. They fired more than 130,000 of long-range artillery rounds with high destructive and killing power such as 130mm, 152mm, 120mm cannons, DK 74, 82mm, 120mm and 160mm mortars, H12 rockets and various kinds of boring shells on a total of 160 places in 26 districts and one provincial town spanning from Quang Ninh to Lai Chau provinces. Lang Son and Ha Tuyen were subjected to most fierce bombardments for the longest period of time.

In Ha Tuyen, Chinese troops fired 60,000 mortar rounds of assorted calibres on 28 among the 33 villages bordering on Yunnan and QuangXi provinces of China, and even on villages lying 10-15 km deep inside Viet Nam such as Phuong Tien,

Phuong Do, Phong Quang, Thuan Hoa (Vi Xuyen District), Na Khe, Sung Chang and Sung Thai (Yen Minh district). Many areas have been targets of continuous bombardments since early April, such as Thanh Thuy, Thanh Duc, Lao Chai, Xin Chai, Minh Tan (Vi Xuyen), Bach Dich, Phu Lung, Thanh Mo (Yen Minh district), Dong Van, Lung Tao, Ma Le (Dong Van district). On some days, the bombardments were particularly intense : 10,000 shells on April 2,3 and nearly 20,000 on May 15 alone.

In Lang Son, China fired more than 40,000 rounds on almost all villages in five district which have the common border with Guangxi province of China. In some places, the shelling went on for several days and nights, such as Quoc Khanh village (Trang Dinh district), Thach Lan (Cao Loc district), Ban Chat (Dinh Lap district), etc.

The shellings were mostly directed at populous areas, store-houses for grain, consumer goods and agricultural materials, hydro-electric power stations and water conservancy projects, rice-fields, forests of precious timber and communication centres. Also subjected to shellings were schools, hospitals, dispensaries, kindergartens, markets and places of temporary evacuation. This was obviously aimed at destroying the material and technical bases and welfare projects which had been rebuilt after China's February 1979 war of aggression.

More brutal still, at 16,15 Hrs on May 22 China pounded the centre of Ha Giang town (capital of Ha Tuyen province), 20 km from the borderline, with heavy artillery killing six persons and injured seven others, reducing to rubble many houses in Yen Dien and Quang Trung wards, destroying the Ha Giang engineering factory, the local distillery, a food-processing mill and some other public establishments.

Along with their fierce bombardments, the Chinese authorities blatantly pushed up their land-grabbing attacks against several heights in Vietnam's northern border areas; since early April, 1984 they have mobilized division-sized infantry forces to attack in force some heights in Lang Son and Ha Tuyen.

On April 6, after wantonly firing thousands of artillery shells, Chinese infantry attacked heights 820 and 636 at Quoc Khanh village, Trang Dinh district, Lang Son province, but they met strong counterattacks from Vietnamese armed forces and had to retreat to the other side of the border.

More seriously still, on April 28 and 30 and on May 1st, two Chinese divisions of the 14th Army Corps of the Kunming Military Region, supported by independent divisions and artillery regiments, made land-grabbing attacks against heights 1509 and 772 and particularly Height 233, which lies more than 1,000 metres inside Vietnam's territory in Vi Xuyen district, and height 1250 in Yen Minh districts, both in Ha Tuyen province.

The local militia valiantly fought back against the Chinese intruders, killing a number of enemy troops, and captured many others.

On May 15, a Chinese infantry regiment attacked height 1030 in Vi Xuyen district. More brazenly still, on May 27, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China adopted a resolution to set up the "Hainan administrative region" comprising the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes of Viet Nam. This is an arrogant act of the Chinese ruling circles which violates Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and tramples on the most elementary norms of international law. This, however, is a completely invalid decision.

These artillery shellings and massive intrusions into Vietnamese territory on an unprecedented scale by China since its February 1979 aggression have caused great losses in lives and property to the Vietnamese people.

Their shellings have killed 60 civilians and wounded 180 others, most of them old people, women and children including many teachers and pupils. Particularly, Chinese shells hit the family of Mr. Pham Duc Hai and Mrs. Nguyen Thi Yen, both being teachers of the Ha Giang town's primary school. Their three children, namely the nine-year-old Pham Duc Thanh, a fourth-form pupil, and six-year-old Pham Ngoc Lan, a first-form pupil, and nine-month-old Pham Duc Thai, were staying in an underground shelter when shells landed on May 22, 1984. The shelter was destroyed, Lan and Thai were killed instantly while little Thanh received head wounds.

The shelling burned and destroyed more than 500 dwelling houses, dozens of storehouses, shops and schools and demolished the hydro-electric power station 304 in Vi Xuyen district (Ha Tuyen province), which is about 10 kilometres from the Sino-Vietnamese border, the Doan Tinh Dam, the Quat Dong hospitals, the Tran Phu secondary school and the Hai Ninh pottery enterprise's creche. They wantonly shelled thousands of other houses in Ha Tuyen province alone, eight schools, eight hospitals and medical stations and 212 houses were razed to the ground and more than one thousand other houses were smashed by artillery fire.

- Chinese troops killed or took to China thousands of buffaloes, cows, horses and pigs.

- The shellings devastated tens of thousands of hectares of rice and subsidiary crops. In Truong Ha village, Ha Quang district (Cao Bang province) alone, two-thirds of the cultivated land was destroyed. In Ha Tuyen province, about 1,000 tonnes of food were burned out and thousands of hectares of rice and subsidiary crops with an expected output of more than 2,500 tonnes were ruined.

- The Chinese shellings hindered normal traffic at many crossroads and road sections along highways 4A and 1B in Lang Son province from Ha Giang to Thanh Thuy and from Ha Giang to Quan Ba, Yen Minh and Dong Van.

- They caused permanent strain along the border, seriously jeopardizing the people's life, causing thousands of families to leave their native hamlets and crop fields for other localities. Also, as a result, many schools had to discontinue study and graduation examinations, for the primary and secondary schools could not be held according to schedule.

On orders from the Chinese rulers, many scouts and commandoes have intruded into Vietnam's northern border provinces. They conducted reconnaissance and psychological-war activities, built counter-revolutionary forces, and kidnapped and murdered local inhabitants.

Chinese armed vessels made more than 300 intrusions into Vietnam's territorial waters in Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Ha Nam Ninh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe Tinh and Binh Tri Thien provinces to gather information, hinder and threaten Vietnamese fishermen's normal work and life.

These are the most serious acts of aggression committed by the Beijing rulers which have strained the situation along the Sino-Vietnamese border to a very high degree and threatened to make it more explosive after the defeat of their invasion of Viet Nam in February 1979.

The Chinese rulers' crimes against Vietnamese civilians and their activities of sabotage against Vietnam's economy, Vietnamese-Chinese friendship, and peace and stability in Indochina and Southeast Asia as a whole have revealed all the more clearly their warlike and reactionary nature and their hostile policy toward Vietnam and the other two Indochinese countries, a policy which remains unchanged and is becoming more wicked and obdurate.

The Commission for Investigating the Chinese Expansionists and Hegemonists' War Crimes against the Vietnamese People sternly denounces to the public at home and abroad, the Chinese public in particular, the barbarous crimes committed by the Chinese reactionary forces. It earnestly calls on progressive mankind, for the sake of peace and justice, to demand that the Chinese authorities stop at once all their acts of aggression and strictly respect Vietnam's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Hanoi, June 8, 1984
