Letter dated 20 April 1972 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the attached TASS statement concerning the new acts of aggression committed by the United States of America in Viet-Nam circulated as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assembly (under item 34 of the preliminary list of items to be included in the agenda of the twenty-seventh session).

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations

* A/8700.
TASS STATEMENT

On 16 April United States warplanes carried out renewed attacks on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The port of Haiphong and the suburbs of Hanoi were subjected to bombing and strafing. There have been casualties among the peaceful population, and extensive material damage.

The Soviet people angrily denounce these acts of aggression by the United States in Viet-Nam.

The continued build-up of United States air and naval forces in the Indo-China area, the resumption of air attacks on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the decision by Washington to break off the Paris peace talks indefinitely are all in irreconcilable contradiction with the official declarations that the United States is striving to achieve a peaceful settlement in the area. No false pretexts can disguise the fact that what is really involved is the perpetuation and escalation of the United States militarists' crimes against the peoples of Indo-China. This cannot fail to complicate still further the situation in Viet-Nam and indeed the international situation as a whole.

It is entirely clear that neither the military pressure exerted within the framework of the notorious policy of "Viet-Namization" of the war nor the new threats and provocations will break the will of the courageous Viet-Namese people or of the Laotian and Cambodian patriots, who are waging a just struggle for their national rights, freedom and independence.

The Soviet Union, firmly adhering to the principle of international solidarity, has been and will remain at the side of heroic Viet-Nam and of all the patriots of Indo-China, affording them necessary assistance and support in repelling the imperialist aggression.

Emphatic demands are being made in the Soviet Union for a halt to United States bombing and other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The only path to a solution of the problems of Indo-China is the path of negotiation, without attempts at blackmail or dictating terms.

TASS has been authorized to state that the Soviet leadership is closely following the development of the situation in the light of the fresh acts of aggression by the United States in Viet-Nam.

Moscow, 17 April 1972