Thirty-fourth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 46

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 1 November 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith enclosed the text of the statement made on 3 September 1979 by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman on the communiqué of the Chinese General Department of Civil Aviation dated 23 July 1979 and kindly request you to have this letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 46.

(Signed) MA VAI LAU
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations
ANNEX

Statement made on 3 September 1979 by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman on the communiqué of the Chinese General Department of Civil Aviation dated 23 July 1979

The Chinese General Department of Civil Aviation on 23 July 1979 released a communiqué stipulating four danger areas in the international waters and in the territorial sea of Viet Nam of Hoang Sa Archipelago, and indefinitely forbidding all flights at a certain altitude over those areas.

This is a brazen violation by the Chinese side of the territorial sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam over the Hoang Sa Archipelago, and a gross infringement on the principle of settling disputes among nations by negotiations. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has time and again affirmed its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa Archipelago, and vehemently condemned all illegal actions of the Chinese side concerning this Archipelago. This arrogant big nation hegemonic action of the Peking authorities, who have reserved the right to stipulate danger areas in the international waters for an indefinite period of time, has openly violated the international law on free flights over the international waters, and contradicted the aims of the International Civil Aviation Organization of which China is a member. China's action seriously threatens the safety and security of air transports along long-established international routes, and is harmful to the interests of many countries which have long established their routes through these areas for transport and trade among nations.

It should be pointed out that China's action is not merely a problem of civil aviation, but it is related to the Peking rulers' threat to attack Viet Nam again. It is also connected with China's long-term hostile policy toward Viet Nam and its attempt to control step by step the Eastern Sea, to create permanent tension in South-East Asia and jeopardize peace and stability in this region.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam resolutely rejects that arrogant and illegal action of the Chinese side. The Chinese authorities must strictly respect Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty over the air space and waters of the Hoang Sa Archipelago, honour the principle of free flights over the international waters and respect the common interests of all countries in international air transport, particularly those of the countries now using regular air routes over these areas.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has taken due measures to defend its territorial sovereignty and national security. The Vietnamese side will continue to fulfill its duties in ensuring the normal operation of the international air routes through Viet Nam in conformity with the agreements already reached with ICAO.

The Chinese side must bear responsibility for the consequences of its arrogant actions.