Thirty-fourth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 46

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 2 November 1979 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 the "Memorandum by
the Press and Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the Chinese authorities' feverish preparations
for war against Viet Nam" and request you to have this letter and its enclosure
circulated under agenda item 46.

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

Memorandum, dated 28 October 1979, by the Press and Information
Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam on the Chinese authorities' feverish
preparations for war against Viet Nam.

In defiance of strong denunciation and protest by the Vietnamese people and
by progressive public opinion in the world, the rulers in Peking are bent on
stepping up preparations in all fields for a new war of aggression against the
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

1. A great tempo of war preparations

- Big armed forces have been moved from the heartland to the border, and the
  number of divisions positioned along the border has been increased from 12 to 15:
  squad- or platoon-sized forces posted at enclaves along the border have also been
  increased to companies or battalions.

- Many pieces of long-range artillery, rockets, tanks and other modern war
  means have been moved into key areas including hilltop positions and entry points
  facing the areas of Hoanh Ho (Quang Ninh), Huu Nghii Quan and Ba Son (Lang Son), and
  elsewhere. Communications and command centres are working without let-up to
  supervise the deployment of troops and war matériel.

- The transportation of troops and war means to the border has been stepped up. Instead of the usual average of about 100 truckloads, 500 trucks are being
  used every day. Matériel is also transported by mules to remote mountain areas in
  preparation for deep thrusts by mountain units.

- Joint exercises have been conducted repeatedly by the armoured, artillery
  and air force. Early this month, a multi-service exercise was mounted on a length
  of more than 100 kilometres along the border from Quang Ninh to Lang Son.

- China is also plotting political riots inside Viet Nam. Chinese agents
  have infiltrated mountain areas in Cao Bang, Hoang Lien Son, Ha Tuyen and Lei Chau
  to induce or coerce minority nationals to cross over to China. "Minority ethnic
  teams" have crossed the border into Viet Nam to try to sow division and set up
  bases for reactionary activities. Anti-Viet Ham leaflets have been spread.

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2. **Stepped up armed provocations to violate Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty, worsen relations between China and Viet Nam, and threaten Viet Nam's security and peace in South-East Asia**

(a) **On land:**

Activities by Chinese armed forces have taken place on a greater frequency and in a growingly serious manner. Within less than a month, China conducted more than 100 artillery, rocket or infantry attacks on most of the districts in the six Vietnamese border provinces including population centres and border posts, killing some 30 Vietnamese civilians and soldiers and wounding dozens of others. Fire attacks would last several hours on end. Certain areas would be attacked again and again, and there were days when many areas were attacked simultaneously. Many attacks were conducted by the infantry under fire support from China.

A number of typical cases:

At 9.30 a.m. on 23 September, a Chinese company, supported by militia, intruded into the area of Lung Thoang in Ngoc Khe village, Tra Linh district, Cao Bang, one kilometre this side of the border. The Chinese troops fired at harvesting peasants. Mr. Tran Van Lu was wounded and was stabbed to death. Many other people were wounded. The raiders wantonly fired at the hamlet and broke into houses to loot.

- On 28 September, an area in Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son, was attacked with dozens of 82 mm mortar rounds, and subsequently raided by hundreds of Chinese troops, who came so far as three kilometres into Vietnamese territory.

On the same day, Chinese troops lobbed dozens of artillery rounds into a regional army unit in Pa Vay Su village, Xin Nan district, Ha Tuyen. Following that, dozens of Chinese troops crossed the border to attack this area.

- On 1, 2, 3 and 5 October, the Chinese army fired dozens of mortar artillery and heavy machine-gun rounds at the villages of Chi Ca and Pa Vay (Ha Tuyen), Cao Lao village in Cao Loc district (Lang Son) and Pha Long and Tung Chung villages, Muong Khuong district (Hoang Lien Son), killing a number of civilians, destroying many houses, and doing great damage to crops.

A Chinese company on 6 October assaulted a Vietnamese border unit at Xin Chai area, I Ty village, Bat Xat district (Hoang Lien Son). Meanwhile another company positioned on the other side of the border, supported the attacking unit by firing more than 50 mortar rounds and hundreds of bursts from heavy machine-guns. Two Vietnamese guards were killed, many others wounded.

Also that day, following a fire attack on Ngoc Khe village in Trung Khanh district, and an intrusion by scouts, China sent almost 200 soldiers and militiamen, all heavily armed across the border, at market post 65 into Lung Thoang area to rob the population.
On 11 October, a Chinese platoon attacked a Vietnamese border post 1 kilometer between Lao Cai and Muong Tho (Hoang Lien Son) the attackers killed a Vietnamese soldier and wounded a number of others.

On the same day, Chinese troops fired machine guns, automatic rifles, and mortars at peasants at eight places in Quang Hoa district (Cao Bằng), Muong Tho (Hoang Lien Son) and Xín Van (Ha Tuyên). One peasant was killed, many others wounded, and great damage was done to houses and crops.

On 15 October, Chinese troops fired more than 100 82 mm mortar rounds at Thu Huu village, Muong Te district, Lai Châu province.

Also on that day a group of Chinese soldiers ambushed a Vietnamese patrol at Luu Cu area, Đôn Van district (Ha Tuyên) more than 30 metres inside the border. The raiders killed two Vietnamese guards.

On 17 October, a Chinese company under artillery support crossed the border and attacked a Vietnamese unit in Xín Van district (Ha Tuyên) at a place more than one kilometer inside Vietnamese territory.

More serious were the repeated intrusions by Chinese scouts into Thượng Phùng village, Đê Vac district (Ha Tuyên), on 21, 22 and 23 October 1979, for spying. At 11 a.m., on 24 October 1979, a big Chinese force entered the village where they fired at civilians and border guards and did great damage to houses and crops. Chinese artillery on the other side of the border also attacked this village and the nearby village of Xín Cai for several hours on a length of 25 kilometres. Two Vietnamese were killed, many others wounded, three of them seriously.

(b) On the sea:

Along with armed activities on land, the Chinese authorities have used a big number of military vessels and other naval craft in repeated incursions into Vietnamese territorial waters, seriously threatening Viet Nam’s security in these areas as well as on its off shore islands. In September Chinese naval craft made more than 600 single entries into Vietnamese territorial waters. In the first 20 days of this month, the figure increased sharply to more than 700, of which almost 500 were concentrated on the area around Bach Long Vi island.

On 22 September more than 20 Chinese vessels operated around the islands of Bach Long Vi, Vinh Thrac and Tran.

On 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 September, the area around Bach Long Vi was violated by almost 100 Chinese vessels.

On 30 September, 30 Chinese vessels intruded into the areas around Bach Long Vi and Co To.

In the first five days of this month, almost 160 Chinese vessels violated Vietnamese waters around Bach Long Vi.
From 5 to 10 October, more than 250 Chinese vessels operated around Bach Long Vi, Thanh Lan, Tran, and between buoys 0 and 2 on the Bac Luan river.

From 11 to 14 October, the area around Bach Long Vi was again violated by more than 70 Chinese vessels.

More than 120 Chinese violations were mounted around Bach Long Vi, Thanh Lan, Co To and Tran from 15 to 17 October.

Again, from 18 to 21 October, more than 50 Chinese vessels entered Vietnamese waters around Bach Long Vi. Attention must also be drawn to the fact that many of these violations on the sea were coupled with activities by Chinese combat aircraft. The Chinese authorities have also arrogantly established four 'danger zones' over international waters and Vietnamese waters around the Hoang Sa archipelago, banning all flights over these zones at a certain altitude without fixing any deadline for the interdiction. That was a blatant violation of Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty, and a gross contravention of international law.

Most recently, they have set up many military installations on the Hoang Sa archipelago which they seized from Viet Nam in 1974.

All this unerringly points to frantic war preparations against Viet Nam.

(c) In the air:

China has recently moved a great number of bomber aircraft of various types to Hai Van island. Chinese combat aircraft, meanwhile, have conducted frequent exercises along the Sino-Vietnamese border, while bombers trained in long range, sea and night attacks. In September, Chinese aircraft made an average of 100 sorties a day. Most recently, the figure was raised to almost 200, many of which in Vietnamese air space.

- On 18 October, many flights of Chinese combat planes intruded into Dinh Vac district (Ha Tuyen) some 10 kilometres this side of the border.

- On 19 October, nine flights of Chinese combat planes flew over Bach Long Vi, meanwhile two other flights intruded into Xin Van district (Ta Tuyen) 10 kilometres inside Viet Nam.

- On 20 October, two flights of Chinese combat planes flew over Dinh Lap district (Lang Son) more than 10 kilometres behind the border.
3. Repeated war threats

Since late September, a number of Chinese leaders regardless of international law and the United Nations Charter and heedless of strong public protest in the world have claimed for themselves the right to "teach Viet Nam a second lesson", repeatedly threatening Viet Nam with another invasion. On 18 October, Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua from Peking and Paris made blatant charges and crude threats against Viet Nam, saying that China would not let Viet Nam act at will, that the Chinese would do what they said and would never change their stand and so on and so forth.

These threats made in the context of actual war preparations were aimed at conditioning the public for new military adventures against Viet Nam.

4. Psychological war to rouse the Chinese people and army against Viet Nam

On 17 September, the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party ordered the "conferment of honorary titles" to the units and individuals that had perpetrated crimes during the invasion of Viet Nam in February last. Then on 13 and 15 October, the Kwangchow and Kunming gueit military regions made a show of "ceremonies" to confer "honorary titles" on units and individuals taking part in the recent aggression against Viet Nam to encourage them to make "new exploits".

The Chinese periodical Hongri in its current edition carries an article by Chinese Defence Minister Po Xien-qian who praises the "victories" of the Chinese army in seizing the Vietnamese Poqng Sa archipelago (Paracel) in 1974, and in the war of aggression against Viet Nam in last February. He even urges the Chinese army to prepare itself for a war which may break out sooner than expected for big attacks, even for a big nuclear war.

The Chinese authorities are also using those Chinese troops who perpetrated grave crimes against Vietnamese women, children and the old in rousing the Chinese people and army against Viet Nam. They have also ordered writers to produce cheap stories and plays to distort truth, blacken the image of Viet Nam and mislead the Chinese people.

To cover up their schemes and acts of war against Viet Nam and distract the world public opinion which is watching for their new crimes, the Chinese authorities are intensifying their collusion with imperialism and other reactionary forces in making utterly vicious slanders against Viet Nam. While preparing for a new war against Viet Nam and threatening it with war they charge it with opening a big offensive in Kampuchea of firing on Thailand's territory and encroaching on Thailand's sovereignty while stepping up armed provocations in violation of Vietnamese sovereignty on land, on sea and in the air. They charge Viet Nam with armed provocations along the Chinese border while prolonging and undermining...
negotiation with Viet Nam. They charge Viet Nam with blocking talks while
instigating Vietnamese to flee abroad and re-exporting to Hong Kong and South-East
Asian countries those same people they have lured into China by persuasion or
coercion. They charge Viet Nam with continuing to drive its citizens away while
they themselves and the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique must answer for the famine in
Kampuchea. They try to shift the blame on Viet Nam and work hand in glove with
imperialist and other reactionary forces to breathe life into Pol Pot-Ieng Sary
and their like for use against the Kampuchean people.

The people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam strongly
and sternly denounce and condemn these recent criminal actions of the Chinese
rulers. We firmly demand that China put an immediate end to the dangerous war
preparations, all acts of provocation and all threats of war against Viet Nam.

It is only because of the Chinese authorities that the relations between
Viet Nam and China have deteriorated to a serious extent. The Vietnamese have
consistently treasured their long-standing friendship with the Chinese people and
have patiently strived to settle through negotiations all problems in the
relations between the two countries. We, however, are always on our guard and
are ready to crush all military adventures by war-mongering elements in the
Chinese leadership.

The people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam firmly
believe that the peoples and Governments of peace- and justice-loving countries
including the Chinese people will continue supporting the just struggle of the
Vietnamese people by taking timely actions to check all schemes and acts of war
by the Chinese authorities.

If the Chinese authorities recklessly make war on Viet Nam again, they will
incur upon themselves still heavier defeat.