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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

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 4 March 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to bring to your attention the latest developments in the Chinese authorities' activities against Viet Nam in recent days.

The situation on the Sino-Vietnamese border in recent days has been very tense due to the Chinese authorities' intensification of war preparations against the Vietnamese people.

The Chinese side has been sending numerous infantry and tank units to the border areas thus bringing the total number of Chinese combat troops stationed adjacent to the border to nearly 20 divisions. It has positioned dozens of artillery and mortar units along the border between the two countries and at the same time deployed hundreds of combat aircraft at the bases close to the border. It has ordered the Chinese population to evacuate from the border areas to the interior, strengthened and consolidated combat trenches and shelters, moved war matériel to the border, and sent numerous groups of reconnaissance scouts to the border areas of Viet Nam.

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\* A/40/50 and Corr.1.

The act of the Chinese authorities has been undertaken following Chinese Foreign Minister Xu Xue Qian's statement that China would "teach Viet Nam a second lesson", and following a series of visits to the border areas by highest ranking Chinese leaders such as Deng Xiao Ping, Hu Yao Ban and other generals who repeatedly slandered Viet Nam, called for the Chinese troops' "combat readiness" and their resolve to "eliminate" what they called "the threat from Viet Nam". This act also has taken place after China turned down Viet Nam's proposal on bilateral cessation of military activities on the occasion of the New Lunar Year and instead carried out repeated fierce artillery attacks against the four border provinces of Viet Nam.

Public opinion also notes that, like the previous times when the Chinese February 1979 war of aggression against Viet Nam took place in the wake of Dang Xiao Ping's visit to the United States and the Chinese war escalations in April 1984 precisely at the time when United States President Reagan was visiting China, China's intensification of war preparations this time is taking place simultaneously with the visit to China by the United States Assistant Secretary of State Wolfowitz who, after his talks with Chinese leaders, told the press that the United States had no comment on a possible Chinese military action against Viet Nam.

The above-mentioned actions of the Chinese side are taking place at a time when the United Nations Secretary-General in his personal capacity and many countries are making major efforts aimed at promoting dialogue for the political solution to the question of peace and stability in South-East Asia and the question of Kampuchea. This points to the fact that the Chinese authorities, in defiance of world public opinion, are persistently pursuing their hostile policy against Viet Nam and against the three Indo-Chinese countries in general, running counter to the aspirations and interests of the Chinese people themselves. This constitutes the major threat to peace and stability in South-East Asia.

Having been victims of the 30-year-long war of aggression, the most atrocious and fierce in their history, the Vietnamese people, more than anyone else, cherish peace. They set great store by the traditional friendship with the Chinese people and are desirous of an early restoration of the age-old friendship with them and of the normalization of relations between the two countries. But, at the same time, they are determined to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We consider that it is time for the parties concerned to sit down together to work out a solution aimed at achieving peace and stability in South-East Asia as stated in the 18 January 1985 communiqué of the Conference of the three Indo-Chinese Foreign Ministers (see A/40/91, annex).

Having brought to your knowledge the aforesaid situation, we hope that you will exert your influence to contribute to halting the Chinese authorities' war escalations and to promoting dialogue between the parties concerned with a view to restoring peace and stability in the South-East Asian region.

It would be highly appreciated if you could have this note circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 40, 72, 132 and 133 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON  
Permanent Representative