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EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION

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N O T E

from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of China

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam acknowledges receipt of the March 31, 1979 Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and wishes to make clear the views of the Vietnamese side as follows :

1- Since February 17, 1979, the Chinese rulers have mobilized over half a million troops to wage a war of aggression against Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country, the Chinese aggressor troops have committed many savage crimes against the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese people have risen up as one man in a valiant fight to preserve the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their fatherland.

For the sake of peace and justice, the people of the whole world have strongly supported the Vietnamese people's just struggle and sternly condemned the Chinese rulers unjust war.

In their own interests and for the sake of the friendship between the two peoples, there have developed among the Chinese people and troops an opposition to the Chinese ruling circles' war of aggression in Viet Nam.

In face of this situation, the Chinese rulers have declared that they will bring home all their troops.

2- The serious position and good - willed attitude of the Vietnamese people and government is clear and unswerving :

while exercising their legitimate right to self - defence to safeguard their fatherland, the Vietnamese people and Government, for the sake ^{of} peace and friendship, persistently stand for a negotiated settlement of the problems in the relations between the two countries.

On March 6, 1979, one day after the Chinese rulers statement about beginning troop withdrawals, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam made it clear : The Chinese rulers, having started a war of aggression against Viet Nam, must put a permanent end to their aggression, withdraw immediately, completely and unconditionally all their troops to the other side of the historical border-line which the two sides have

agreed to respect. After the complete withdrawal of the Chinese troops, the Vietnamese side will be prepared to enter immediately into talks with the Chinese side at the level of Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on the restoration of normal relations between the two countries.

But, until now, the Chinese troops have not been withdrawn from all the points they have occupied on the Vietnamese territory, moreover, they have continued digging trenches and building fortifications in these places. In addition, the Chinese rulers have sent troops reinforcements and war materials close to the Vietnamese border. The Chinese side has also claimed that Viet Nam intends to provoke a new military conflict. This is an attempt to deceive world public opinion and the Chinese people.

3- In its previous notes to the Vietnamese side, the Chinese side claimed to have brought home all its troops as of March 16, 1979. This contention does not conform to the facts. In its Note of March 27, 1979, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that the Chinese troops were still stationed in over ten places on the Vietnamese territory and named each of those places. In its Note of March 31, 1979 in reply to the Vietnamese Note, the Chinese side also admitted the presence of Chinese troops in some of the points mentioned

by the Vietnamese side. It should be recalled that the correct position of the Vietnamese side has been made clear in the previous notes of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As a sign of good-will and with the desire of preserving the traditional friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam and China, reaching a settlement of the disputes in the relations between the two sides, meeting the aspirations of the two peoples and of the world's peoples, and contributing to the preservation of peace and stability in Southeast Asia, the Vietnamese side declares once again its willingness to start with the Chinese side the negotiations at the level of Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in order to discuss the problems in the relations between the two countries : the urgent measures to maintain peace and stability in the border areas on the basis of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the restoration of normal relations between the two countries. We propose that the negotiations will begin around April 10, 1979, the delegation of the Chinese Government will be welcomed if it is present in Hanoi at that time.

We hope that the Chinese side will give an early response./.

Hanoi, April 4, 1979.

INTERVIEW

by Prime Minister PHAM VAN DONG to
Mr. ERIK ERIKSSON, Swedish TV correspondent

Question 1 :

According to the Chinese leaders, the Chinese attack on Viet Nam was aiming at "teaching Viet Nam a lesson" did the Chinese leaders succeed ?

Answer :

Broad sections of world public opinion have laid bare the Peking rulers' boastful statements. They themselves must learn the well - deserved lessons about their disastrous adventure militarily and politically, both in their own country and in the eyes of the world's people.

Questions 2-3 :

Is the war ended now, or is this only a temporary break ?
What is the Vietnamese position on a negotiated settlement of the conflict with China ?

Answer :

The Peking rulers said that all their troops had been withdrawn from Viet Nam, but as a matter of fact, Chinese troops are still occupying many places on Vietnamese territory. This is something unacceptable.

Our position is that, having invaded Viet Nam, China must forever put an end to their aggression, completely and unconditionally withdraw their troops to the other side of the historical border-line and respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam. For the sake of peace and the long-standing friendship between the Vietnamese people and

the Chinese people, we are willing to start negotiations to settle the disputes and to restore normal relations between the two countries. But the Vietnamese people as well as the world's people are waiting for the total withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnamese territory, as stated clearly above.

Question 4 :

How could you describe the relations between the recent development in Kampuchea and the Chinese attack on Viet Nam ?

Answer :

The Peking rulers' policy to oppose Viet Nam, to weaken and to subjugate Viet Nam, and to make it dependent on China has been dealt a heavy blow with the defeat of the Kampuchea - Viet Nam border war which was aided and abetted by Peking and with the collapse of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary puppet clique. As a result of the revolutionary storm raised by Kampuchean people who rose up to topple an odious genocidal regime and have become the actual masters of their land, the People's Republic of Kampuchea was founded, opening a new era in the Kampuchean national history.

After China's normalization of relations with the United States and Deng Xiao Ping's visit to the United States, the Peking rulers have started extensive war against Viet Nam. As everyone knows, Vietnamese regional armed forces have energetically repulsed the aggressors, /... about the Vietnamese people's glorious victory. bringing

The Chinese expansionist and hegemonistic ambition is great, their design to oppose Viet Nam, very perfidious, but they cannot escape the ignominious fate of the aggressors.

Question 5 :

For a long period, the Kampuchean forces directed by the Pol Pot regime attacked Viet Nam. However that aggression was successfully fought back. Among many people abroad, and also among political parties supporting Viet Nam, there is an opinion that it might have been a question of national security for Viet Nam to destroy these Kampuchean forces, and also to temporarily enter Kampuchean territory. The character and

size of the Vietnamese military participation in the Kampuchean conflict is however a matter of discussion abroad. Could you, please, comment on this problem ?

Answer :

As you justly said, the military attacks by the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique on the south western border of our country has been energetically repulsed. The Vietnamese armed forces fought well, defeated the enemy and put out of action considerable forces of this mercenary army. This created favourable conditions for the Kampuchean people to successfully complete their struggle for national salvation against the scourge of genocide, to liberate the whole of their country on January 7, 1979, and declare the founding of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

After the Kampuchean people became completely the masters of their land, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam signed a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation, in the interests of the two peoples and for the benefit of peace and stability in this region.

The people and the armed forces of Kampuchea are wiping out the remnants of the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique on Kampuchean territory. At the request of the Kampuchean people's revolutionary council, the Vietnamese armed forces are and shall be giving the Kampuchean people necessary support and assistance in the spirit of the treaty signed between the two countries. What is of paramount importance here is that the Kampuchean people have now become masters of their country and of their fate. This is something irreversible, and nobody has the right to interfere with it.

That is an historical fact that will be realized more and more clearly by broad sections of world public opinion. To distort it is to support the genocidal Pol Pot - Ieng Sary clique which have been overthrown by the Kampuchean people and condemned by the world's people.

Hanoi, March 21, 1979.

VICE-PREMIER ON VIETNAMESE ARMED
FORCES' PRESENCE IN KAMPUCHEA

Hanoi VNA March 28.- " the presence of Vietnamese armed forces in Kampuchea is a question which only concerns those two countries and is for them to decide upon," said Nguyen Duy Trinh, Viet Nam's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, in a recent conversation with Alain Ruscio, correspondent of the French Communist Party's paper l'Humanite in Hanoi.

Nguyen Duy Trinh said :

" Viet Nam and Kampuchea are close neighbours who, together with Laos, fought together against the French colonialists and the US imperialists, and who are strengthening their militant solidarity in the struggle against the common enemy-expansionist China - for their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In accordance with the Viet Nam - Kampuchea Treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation, and at the request of the people's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, Viet Nam has agreed that Vietnamese armed forces assist the Kampuchean people in defending their country. I stress that this is a contribution to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The all-sided cooperation and mutual assistance between our two countries rely on the principle of an entirely voluntary agreement and of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty. They aim at preserving the revolutionary gains made by each country and are in conformity with the spirit of the United Nations Charter and with the objectives and principles of the non-aligned movement."

"Anyway, the presence of Vietnamese armed forces in Kampuchea is a question which only concerns the two countries, and is for them to decide upon". Nguyen Duy Trinh pointed out.

On China's attempt to use this Vietnamese aid to Kampuchea to discredit the Vietnamese Government, Nguyen Duy Trinh said :

" The reactionary authorities in China have sustained heavy defeats in their policy of annexation against Kampuchea and of aggression against Viet Nam. They have been strongly

condemned by world public opinion, and opposed by the Chinese people including Chinese soldiers. They are now trying to make use of certain governments in slandering Viet Nam. They have staged a farce, 'calling on Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. This move aims only at covering up their crimes of aggression against Viet Nam and their acts of intervention in in Kampuchea and Laos, because these very acts are posing a grave threat to independence, peace and stability in Southeast Asia. An urgent problem for this region at present is to conduct a resolute struggle in order to foil Peking's criminal policy of aggression vis-a-vis Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos. In this way, it will be possible to effectively prevent the leaders in Peking from carrying out their policy in the whole of Southeast Asia.

The victory of the revolution in Kampuchea is irreversible. Attempts to intervene in Kampuchea's internal affairs only benefit the expansionists in Peking, and are doomed to failure."
