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

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FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REJECTS
CHINESE DISTORTION OF VIETNAMESE-SOVIET CO-OPERATION

Hanoi VNA July 24.- A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry today issued the following statement :

"The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam completely refutes the wrong and arrogant allegations contained in the July 21 ~~statement by a spokesman~~ for the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Vietnam's co-operation with the Soviet Union in the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas on Vietnam's Southern continental shelf. This statement was a violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity and Vietnamese - Soviet relations.

"The Hoang Sa archipelago, which China is occupying illegally, and the Truong Sa archipelago, have always been integral parts of Vietnamese territory. The Vietnamese Government and people have many times affirmed and proved unquestionable sovereignty over these two archipelagoes and over all natural resources in the whole of their territorial waters and continental shelf.

"Vietnam's exploration and exploitation of these natural resources and its co-operation with other countries in doing so is a matter of sovereignty of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Chinese authorities have no right to meddle with it."/.