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M E M O R A N D U M
on intensified Chinese armed activities
and war preparation against Viet Nam

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The Chinese authorities, heavily defeated in the war of aggression they started against Viet Nam on February 17, 1979, and vehemently protested and condemned by the Chinese people and elsewhere in the world, had to withdraw their troops and sat down for negotiations with Viet Nam. They did that to appease the public and cover up their war crimes against the Vietnamese people. In negotiations, however, China has persistently eluded the fair and logical demands of Viet Nam for urgent measures to ensure peace and security on the common border while obstinately clinging to its arrogant absurd demands, thus stalemating the negotiations. At the same time, China has feverishly prepared for war, increasing its forces and war material along the Sino-Vietnamese border, stepping up armed provocations, encroaching upon Viet Nam's territory on land, in the air, on the sea threatening the lives, property and peaceful labour of the Vietnamese people, straining the situation and gravely threatening Viet Nam's security and peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

A few straits of the concrete situation :

1) China is feverishly increasing its armed forces and war material along the Sino-Vietnamese border areas, preparing for new military adventures, creating a dangerous situation in which a war against Viet Nam may break out at any moment.

Since China's announcement of the withdrawal of its troops (March 16) from Viet Nam, Chinese troops have still illegally

occupied many points on Vietnamese territory. China still maintains 12 infantry divisions close to the Sino-Vietnamese border and five army corps behind them. Recently, China has deployed more troops and war material to reinforce the units already massed at the border. Foreign sources have alerted the public to the same signs that had been seen prior to February 17, 1979.

- China has moved large quantities of weapons and other war material to the border. In July, August and September, hundreds of lorries and dozens of trains were used for this purpose every day. China has hurriedly installed many artillery and rocket sites, strengthened underground trenches, fortifications and communications installations, and built more military roads close to the border. Many army air force and naval units, in cooperation with the marines, have conducted big scale exercises along the common border.

Coupled with these war preparations, the Chinese authorities including Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, Vice Premier Li Xiannien, and Deputy Chief of the General Staff Wuhsiu Chuan, have repeatedly threatened to attack Viet Nam again even at the Sino-Vietnamese talks, the Chinese Head Delegate has arrogantly declared that the Chinese ruler's threat to attack Viet Nam again is still valid.

2) China is stepping up its armed activities and its encroachments on Viet Nam territory on land, in the air and on the sea. It keeps straining the relations between the two countries, and poses a great danger to Viet Nams' security.

A/ On land China's armed activities in violation of Viet Nam's territory have occurred in a greater frequency and in a more and more serious manner on the whole length of Viet Nam's Northern border. From March 16 to early September China mounted more than 800 armed provocations at over²⁰/districts in the six Vietnamese border provinces, killing or wounding more than 100

civilians and border guards, instigating or forcing about Vietnamese to cross over to China, burning many houses, taking away almost 200 head of cattle, and destroying a great quantity of property and crops. Almost every day, Chinese troops attack Vietnamese border hamlets with small arms fire, artillery or rockets. They frequently cross the border to spring ambushes or open attacks on civilians and border guards. Sometimes they came in whole battalions and armed with mortars artillery and rockets, causing many losses in lives and property to the Vietnamese.

Some of the serious cases :

- On April 1, 1979 a Chinese battalion raided Ma Li Pho village, Phong Tho district, Lai Chau province, causing heavy losses to the population.

- On June 21, 1979 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chinese troops fired more than 200 rounds of 82mm mortar and dozens of rockets, and hundreds of small arms rounds in Xin Phin Che area of Meo Vac district, Ha Tuyen province killing or wounding many civilians.

- At 7.00 on July 15, 1979 Chinese troops repeatedly fired 82 mm mortars on the areas on Coc Xi, Coc Muoi and Che Lech, and on hill 1030 in Coc Pang village, Bao Loc district Cao Bang province. At 9.00 on the same day a Chinese battalion crossed the border at marker posts 131 and 132 and moved deep into Vietnamese territory, firing at people, burning down many houses and ravaging the crops. On the following day, Chinese troops fired many 82 mm mortar rounds on the same area.

- On July 21, 1979 a Chinese platoon attacked a regional army unit in Thuong Phung village, Meo Vac district, Ha Tuyen province.

- On July 24, Chinese troops fired hundreds of mortar rounds on the area around marker post 16 in Tan Thanh village, Van Lang district in Lang Son causing heavy losses to the

population.

- On August 12, 1979 Chinese troops broke into Na Doong hamlet, Hung Quoc village, Tra Linh district, Cao Bang province destroying many houses and took away property of the population. On September 17 a Chinese platoon attacked a Vietnamese border unit in Ban Lau village, Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son province, wounding two guards. Along side military provocations ground assaults and shellings China has sent more spies and commandos into Viet Nam to gather intelligence, join hands with local reactionaries to conduct agitation activities, sow confusion, entice or force ethnic minority nationals to cross over to China, destroy houses and crops and steal cattle in an attempt to disrupt normal life on the border.

B/ On the sea :

Thousands of Chinese vessels have openly violated Vietnam's territorial waters in the provinces of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Nghe Tinh and Quang Nam Da Nang. They have interfered with the work of Vietnamese fishermen and violated the sovereignty and threatened the security of Viet Nam. Since late August Chinese vessels including warships have intensified their provocations off Quang Ninh province. Some serious incidents :

- On September 1 more than 100 Chinese vessels intruded into Vietnamese territorial water around Vinh Thuc island, Quang Ninh province.

- On September 2 almost 20 Chinese vessels violated Vietnamese territorial waters around Tran island. At the same time dozens of Chinese military boats operated from Dau Ruoi harbour to bouys 1, 2 and 3 on the Bac Luan river, Quang Ninh province.

To increase tension and carry out its designs on Viet Nam China on July 23 declared four danger zones covering part of international waters and part of Viet Nam's territorial sea

in the Hoang Sa archipelago, and banned all aircraft from these zones without setting any time limit. This was a gross violation of Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty while negotiations at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister were being held in Peking to discuss problems in relations between the two countries. China, in mid July arrogantly signed contracts with four U.S. companies on oil exploration west of Hai Nan island an area over which there are disputes with Viet Nam.

As admitted even by the United States, the Chinese side has also overtly encouraged the US to send warships to the Eastern Sea allegedly to pick up boat people. But in fact they have colluded with each other in carrying out sinister activities against Viet Nam.

C/ In the air :

While stepping up military activities on land and on the sea, the Chinese side has increased military reconnaissance flights and bombing exercises, including bombing exercises at night. Along the Viet Nam - China border Chinese warplanes have on many occasion violated Viet Nam's air space. Below are some instances :

- On April 15, 1979 one day after the Chinese Delegation arrived in Hanoi for talks at Vice Foreign Ministerial level between the two countries a Chinese warplane carrying the mark "August 1st" intruded very deep into Viet Nam's air space and crashed into Truc Thu village, Hai Hau district, Ha Nam Ninh province (nearly 100 kms South of Hanoi).

- On April 24 many flights of Chinese warplanes violated Viet Nam's airspace over Than Phu, Po Hen areas, Quang Ninh province, over 10 kms inside Viet Nam.

- On May 17 and 19 many flights of Chinese warplanes intruded into the airspace of Mong Cai district town, Quang Ninh province, over 12 kms behind the border.

- On September 5, a flight of Chinese war planes violated the airspace over Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son province six to eight kilometres inside Viet Nam. At 13.25 the same day, another flight of Chinese warplanes intruded into the airspace over Hoang Lien Son and Ha Tuyen provinces.

The frenzied Chinese war preparations and armed activities have caused along the common border a very tense situation fraught with an explosive danger of war. To justify their arrogant actions the Chinese authorities have distorted facts and made slanderous charges against Viet Nam with a view to seeking a pretext for another war of aggression against this country.

They have cynically trampled upon international law and the UN Charter by giving themselves the right to teach Viet Nam a lesson and by openly threatening to invade an independent and sovereign country, a member of the United Nations. This has further exposed the war-like nature and crazy ambition of the Chinese authorities who in pursuit of big-nation hegemonism are plotting to subjugate Viet Nam and expand to Southeast Asia. The Vietnamese people and Government strongly denounce and sternly condemn these fresh criminal actions of the Chinese authorities and firmly demand that they immediately stop their extremely dangerous war preparations, armed provocations and war threats.

The Vietnamese people set great store by their friendship with the Chinese people and want to settle problems in relations with China through negotiations. We however are prepared to break any plot of aggression in defence of our independence sovereignty and territorial integrity.

China must bear full responsibility for all consequences of its dangerous actions./.
