

24 January 1974

His Excellency
The Chairman of the Security Council
of the United Nations
United Nations
New York

Your Excellency,

I wish to refer to my letter of January 20, 1974 requesting an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider the grave threat to peace caused by the acts of war perpetrated by the People's Republic of China in the area of the Hoang-Sa (Paracels) archipelago.

We made that request in the earnest hope that the Security Council would take constructive approach to the problem and adopt adequate measures to remedy the situation.

However, the Permanent Delegate of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Security Council had subsequently issued a thoroughly negative statement, presenting a distorted version of the facts and clinging to the false claims of Chinese sovereignty over the Hoang-Sa (Paracels) and Truong-Sa (Spratley) archipelagoes.

Since the People's Republic of China is a permanent member of the Security Council and has veto power, this leaves little hope for any constructive debate or positive actions.

Therefore, I wish to inform you that all my communications to the Security Council are for the purpose of drawing the attention of the Council on the grave situation existing in the Southeast Asia region, as a result of China's encroachment on the Republic of Vietnam's territory.

It belongs to the Security Council and its members to fulfill their responsibilities and to decide on what is to be done to correct that situation.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to reject once more the unfounded claim of the People's Republic of China over the Hoang-Sa (Paracels) and Truong-Sa (Spratley) archipelagoes and to reaffirm the indisputable sovereignty of the Republic of Vietnam over the islands.

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While the Republic of Vietnam is profoundly attached to the principle of settling international dispute by peaceful means, it has to take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Accepty Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed: VUONG VAN BAC