

## **June 20, 1978**

# **Four Notes Transmitted by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

### **Citation:**

"Four Notes Transmitted by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam", June 20, 1978, Wilson Center Digital Archive, S-0442-0365-01, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section. Obtained for CWIHP by Charles Kraus.  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/118405>

### **Summary:**

Four separate notes from the Government and Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the downturn in relations between China and Vietnam.

### **Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

### **Original Language:**

English

### **Contents:**

Original Scan



27 JUN 1978

PHAI DOAN THUONG TRU CONG HOA XA HOI CHU NGHIA VIET NAM RECORDS CONTROL

TAI LIEN HIEP QUOC

Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations

20 Waterside Plaza New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 685-8001

No. 69/78/HC

cc Sg  
Big GAZARIAN  
cc ZUFFUM  
POWELL  
AR/FMG  
RA

207 po 240 SUSA (6)  
→ po 240 VNA

New York, June 20, 1978

Mr. Secretary General,

BULKY ATTACH.  
NOT COPIED

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency the English translation of the following four Notes for your information :

1. Note dated June 17, 1978 addressed by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Government of the People's Republic of China,
2. Note dated May 18, 1978 addressed by the Government of the S.R.V.N. to the Government of the P.R.C.,
3. Note dated June 19, 1978 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the S.R.V.N. to the Embassy of the P.R.C. in Viet Nam,
4. Note dated June 19, 1978 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the S.R.V.N. to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the P.R.C.

I would be grateful if Your Secretariat would have these notes circulated to all Permanent Missions of the Member-States accredited to the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Pham Duong  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of the S.R.V.N.  
to the U.N.

To: H.E. Mr. Secretary General  
of the United Nations  
New York

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

ORIG

POSTAL ADDRESS—ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017  
CABLE ADDRESS—ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS NEWYORK

2

REFERENCE: NV/78/50

*ref p0240 SRVN (6)*  
*file → p0240 SRVN*

The enclosed communication, dated 20 June 1978, is transmitted to the permanent missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations.

21 June 1978



DOAN THUONG TRU CONG HOA XA HOI CHU NGHIA VIET NAM  
TAI LIEN HIEP QUOC

Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
to the United Nations

20 Waterside Plaza New York, N.Y. 10010  
(212) 685-8001

No. 69/78/HC

New York, June 20, 1978

Mr. Secretary General,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency the English translation of the following four Notes for your information :

1. Note dated June 17, 1978 addressed by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Government of the People's Republic of China,

2. Note dated May 18, 1978 addressed by the Government of the S.R.V.N. to the Government of the P.R.C.,

3. Note dated June 19, 1978 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the S.R.V.N. to the Embassy of the P.R.C. in Viet Nam,

4. Note dated June 19, 1978 sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the S.R.V.N. to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the P.R.C.

I would be grateful if Your Secretariat would have these notes circulated to all Permanent Missions of the Member-States accredited to the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pham Duong', with a horizontal line underneath.

Pham Duong

Charge d'Affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of the S.R.V.N.  
to the U.N.

H.E. Mr. Secretary General  
of the United Nations

New York

## N O T E

addressed by the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Government of the People's Republic of China

---

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Government of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to clearly express its views regarding the May 30, 1978 Note of the Government of the People's Republic of China as follows :

1. On May 12, 1978, the Chinese Government decided to cancel its aid to Viet Nam regarding 21 projects with complete equipment, allegedly to use the money to make arrangements for the life and work of the Hoa people "expelled" from Viet Nam to China. Less than 20 days later, in its May 30, 1978 Note, the Chinese Government, under the pretext of "continued expulsion" of Hoa people by Viet Nam, decided again to cancel 51 more projects with complete equipment as well as the amount of money to be used for these projects.

Thus, in the course of a short period, the Chinese Government has cancelled its aid regarding almost all projects with complete equipment, withdrawn a great number of Chinese specialists, and cancelled a series of agreements between the two Governments. These unilateral decisions of the Chinese side constitute an extremely serious action in the relations between the two countries.

As has been repeatedly pointed out by the Vietnamese side, during the long revolutionary struggle against imperialism and in the construction of socialism, the Vietnamese and the Chinese peoples have always supported and assisted each other.

The precious support and assistance of the Chinese Party, Government, and people brought a major contribution to the Vietnamese people's victory in their great patriotic war against U.S. aggression. This is something that the Vietnamese people will never forget.

The Vietnamese people's staunch struggle and victory against the U.S. imperialist aggressors constitutes a worthy contribution to the revolutionary cause of the working class and the oppressed peoples throughout the world. This is something that has been recognized by the whole of progressive mankind.

- 3 -

The Chinese side has said on many occasions : "The Chinese Government has hitherto considered its aid to other countries, not as a unilateral benefaction, but as mutual aid". Chairman Mao also said : "The Chinese people and the Chinese Communist Party must be grateful to the Vietnamese people for having defeated U.S. imperialism ; Viet Nam's victory has compelled Nixon to come to Peking". Prime Minister Chou En-lai also said : "The Vietnamese people are waging a war of resistance and are shedding blood at the front line against the U.S. ; This is very great support for the Chinese people in their socialist revolution and construction of socialism, the Chinese people must thank you, comrades. As for the Chinese people's aid to your war of resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation, and to your construction of socialism, it is a proletarian internationalist duty that we cannot avoid, it is something that we must accomplish".

However, soon after the Vietnamese people's complete victory the Chinese side pursued a policy contrary to the tradition of solidarity and friendship between the two peoples. While the Vietnamese people are making every effort to heal the wounds of war and to overcome the difficulties caused by natural calamities, and when there is a world-wide people's movement to contribute to the reconstruction of Viet Nam, the Chinese Government has followed a policy of cutting its aid to Viet Nam and abolishing what it has solemnly committed to undertake.

It is necessary to point out that the reasons invoked by the Chinese side to cut its aid to Viet Nam are completely at variance with the truth. It is the Chinese side that has fabricated the myth of Viet Nam "ostracizing, persecuting, expelling" Hoa people, to have a pretext to cut its aid, allegedly to use this money and materials to make arrangements for the work and life of "the victimized Chinese residents" expelled to China by Viet Nam. This is a premeditated action and a perfidious manoeuvre against Viet Nam.

2. Over the past decades, the Vietnamese Party, Government and people have unswervingly treasured and done their utmost to preserve and consolidate the militant solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam and China. In spite of the differences between Viet Nam and China, over the past several years, for the sake of friendship between the two countries, Viet Nam has neither said nor done anything detrimental to that friendship. Even regarding the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam, the present subject of difference between Viet Nam and China, having in view the interests of the two countries, Viet Nam has sincerely proposed an early meeting between the representatives of the two Parties and Governments to settle that difference, but the Chinese side has rejected that proposal.

While the Vietnamese side has shown goodwill in its attitude and actions, the Chinese side, on the contrary, has ceaselessly given all-round support to the Kampuchean authorities in launching their border war of aggression against the Vietnamese people ; It has slanderously accused Viet Nam of "ostracizing, persecuting, expelling" Hoa people. It has carried out provocative propaganda among the Chinese people in an attempt to arouse hatred between the two nations, and at the same time it has rejected the Vietnamese proposal for negotiation, has cut almost all its aid

- 4 -

to Viet Nam and has continuously attacked and slandered Viet Nam on the international arena. These self-evident facts show that the Chinese side is carrying out an anti-Vietnamese policy aimed at causing difficulties and obstacles for the peaceful construction of the Vietnamese people and sabotaging the tradition of solidarity and friendship between the two peoples.

The relations between Viet Nam and China have now seriously deteriorated ; the Chinese side must bear full responsibility for that.

3. The Vietnamese people's friendship towards the Chinese people is based on a Marxist-Leninist and proletarian internationalist position. Even in the period when the relations between the two countries were undermined by bad elements, the Vietnamese people firmly maintained that faithful and pure revolutionary feeling. And today, despite the difficulties and complications caused by the Chinese side, the Vietnamese people, imbued with the spirit of genuine patriotism and proletarian internationalism, are determined not to be incited by narrow-minded nationalism and will do their utmost to defend the long-standing friendship between the two peoples.

In their history of revolutionary struggle for national defence and construction, the Vietnamese people have experienced periods of extreme difficulty and hardship before achieving the present complete victory holding aloft the banner of national independence and socialism, firmly maintaining their line of independence, sovereignty, and international solidarity, enhancing the spirit of self-support and self-reliance, and enjoying assistance from their brothers and friends the world over, the Vietnamese people are sure to successfully defend and build a peaceful, independent, unified and socialist Viet Nam, thus making a worthy contribution to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence , democracy and social progress.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Government of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its high consideration.

Ha Noi, June 17, 1978

TO: THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
PEKING

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Government of the People's Republic of China and has the honour to bring the following to its knowledge :

On May 12, 1978 the Chinese Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in Peking, informing it of the Chinese Government's decision to cut off the financial aid and complete equipment for 21 projects. The reason put forward by the Chinese side was that the amount of money would be used to arrange for the work and life of the Hoa people who had been "expelled" back to China.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was extremely surprised and regretful on learning of this decision, because by a mere note of its Foreign Ministry, the Chinese side has unilaterally abolished the agreements between the leaders of the two Parties and Governments. The Vietnamese Government deems it necessary to express its view as follows:

1. Hitherto, in the struggle against imperialism and in the building of socialism, the peoples of Viet Nam and China have always supported and helped one another. The great, valuable and effective assistance extended by the Party, Government, and people of China to the Vietnamese people was an important contribution to the great victory of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national liberation. That victory is also the common victory for the two peoples, beneficial to the national defence and socialist construction of both Viet Nam and China.

After the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, in the June 1973 talks between the Delegation of the Party and Government of Viet Nam and the Delegation of the Party and Government of China, Comrade Chou En-lai solemnly pledged, on behalf of the Party and Government of China, to continue their gratuitous aid to Viet Nam at the 1973 level for five more years.

After the complete victory of the Vietnamese revolution, in pursuance of President HO CHI MINH's Testament, a high-ranking delegation of the Vietnamese Party and Government paid a visit to China to express their profound gratitude to the Chinese Party, Government and people for their assistance and at the same time to propose long-term cooperation in many fields with China at the new stage : the Vietnamese side has earnestly asked the Chinese side to continue its aid for a number of years more as



- 6 -

promised in order to help the Vietnamese people heal the wounds of war, rehabilitate and develop the economy and rebuild the country. But it is regrettable that China has not responded to that request by Viet Nam.

Since the end of 1975, China has stopped its non-refundable aid to Viet Nam and since 1977 it has also cut off its loans. At the same time, the Chinese side appeared to have many difficulties in implementing the aid which had been agreed upon some years ago.

With regard to the projects now under construction, the Chinese leaders had promised to abide by the principles of activity and considered it their international obligation which they ought to fulfil. But in reality, the delivery of designs was late, the procurement of machines and equipment either delayed or non-homogeneous. Chinese experts, on many occasions, had no work ; therefore the construction of many projects proceeded slowly, greatly affecting construction plans and the putting into operation of those projects. The Vietnamese side has repeatedly requested the Chinese comrades to take active measures aimed at stepping up the speed of construction of the projects, but the aforesaid situation has not been improved.

In the meantime, the Chinese side has created unnecessary difficulties to the normal activities of Chinese experts working in Viet Nam. On May 4, 1978 the Chinese comrades stated that the Vietnamese had been unfriendly in taking "unilateral action" with regard to the suicide of Chinese expert Hsued-wei T'ang working in Vinh Phu Textile Plant. Using something which was completely untrue as a pretext, China has withdrawn all its experts working in that plant before their term expired.

Following a series of such incidents, the Chinese Government's decision to cancel a number of projects with complete equipment clearly lies in the framework of its intentions to reduce its aid to Viet Nam.

2. We have carefully studied the allegations mentioned in the Chinese note saying that Viet Nam was "ostracizing, persecuting, and expelling" Hoa people. They are completely contrary to the truth and to the policy of the Party and Government of Viet Nam ; they are used only as a pretext for China to put into effect its intention to cut off aid to Viet Nam.

As you have known, since 1955, the Central Committee of the Chinese Party and the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Party have agreed that the Chinese residents in Viet Nam would be placed under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and would gradually become Vietnamese citizens. Over the past 20 years and more, the Vietnamese Party and Government have always respected and correctly implemented that agreement. The Hoa people in Viet Nam have had the same rights and obligations as Vietnamese citizens. In no other country in the world, have Hoa people been as favoured and well-treated as in Viet Nam. The majority of Hoa people in Viet Nam are workers employed in Vietnamese collective production organizations, such as agricultural and handicraft cooperatives or State-run enterprises. Thousands of Hoa people have become cadres and members of the Communist Party of Viet Nam; many of them have held leading positions at various levels of the Party, administration, and Fatherland Front, and mass organizations. Their children study in Vietnamese schools and universities

- 7 -

as do Vietnamese children, and a great number of them have become engineers, doctors, and high-level technicians working in various economic branches of Viet Nam. In the emulation movement in production, hundreds of cadres and workers among Hoa people were elected "emulation fighters" ; some were even awarded the title "labour hero".

Hoa people have taken part in the struggle against U.S. aggression for national liberation and in socialist construction, making their worthy contribution to the common cause of the Vietnamese nation. The Vietnamese Party and Government have highly appreciated the contribution of Hoa people ; and have always cultivated among the Vietnamese people the spirit of solidarity, respect and mutual affection and assistance between the Viet and Hoa people, who have lived in harmony together in the great family of socialist Viet Nam.

Deeply treasuring the friendship between Viet Nam and China and imbued with their tradition of humanity the Vietnamese people have given care and assistance to thousands of Chinese residents persecuted and expelled by the Kampuchean authorities who have taken refuge in South Viet Nam, and have shared with them every means of living.

Since the Viet Nam - Kampuchea incident began rumours have been spread among Hoa people that "China support Kampuchean against Viet Nam, large-scale war will break out, Hoa people in Viet Nam will suffer losses; they must therefore find ways to leave Viet Nam quickly" , "the Chinese Government calls on overseas Chinese to come back, those who do not do so are traitors to their country" , etc. This is precisely what has caused many Hoa people who have been living peacefully in Viet Nam to suddenly return en masse to China in an illegal manner ; although the local Vietnamese administration and people have advised them to stay on without anxiety, and not to listen to the bad elements' rumours.

We have enough evidence about the acts of the bad elements among Hoa people who have deceived, instigated, threatened and coerced Hoa people in an attempt to sabotage production, create difficulties to the economy and the Vietnamese people's life and to sow division between the Viet and Hoa people, which is detrimental to the friendship between Viet Nam and China. After returning to China, many Hoa people have escaped back to Viet Nam. This clearly shows that they were not expelled by Viet Nam but they were deceived into going.

After being ravaged by war for many years, the Vietnamese people have now entered the stage of rebuilding their country, and have to overcome countless difficulties so they have no reason to "expel" Hoa people in order to bring more economic and social difficulties upon themselves. There is also no reason and no interest for Viet Nam to create complications in its relations with neighbouring socialist China which has stood shoulder to shoulder with Viet Nam in the protracted revolutionary struggle of each country.

- 8 -

We deeply regret that the Chinese comrades on the basis of false reports and under the pretext that Viet Nam has "ostracized Hoa people", have come to a serious unilateral decision unprecedented in the relations between the two countries. That decision has caused Viet Nam many great immediate difficulties, but what is more serious is that it has damaged the age-old friendship between the two people.

3. It is in the basic interests of our two peoples to preserve our solidarity and friendship and to strive jointly for the common goal - i.e. the building of socialism and communism. Over the past decades, the Communist Party, Government and people of Viet Nam have done their utmost to preserve and consolidate the militant solidarity between the two peoples. Even when the Viet Nam - China relationship was undermined by bad elements during the period of the Chinese cultural revolution or when it was hindered by the gang of four, the Vietnamese people have always been persistent and unswerving in safeguarding solidarity and friendship with China.

The Chinese Government's decision to cancel 21 projects with complete equipment in Viet Nam, including essential projects for our national defence and economy, has forced us to readjust our plan in order to carry out successfully the economic construction and cultural development tasks set by our Party.

No matter what difficulties and complications there are in the relations between the two countries, the Vietnamese people will never forget the assistance extended to their revolutionary cause by the Chinese Party and Government.

Having always held firmly to their line of independence, sovereignty and unswerving solidarity, the Vietnamese Communist Party, Government and people are determined to preserve and consolidate the solidarity and friendship between our two peoples who are "both comrades and brothers", a solidarity and friendship painstakingly built up by the Vietnamese Communist Party and President Ho Chi Minh, the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam takes this opportunity to renew to the Government of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its high consideration.

Ha Noi, May 18, 1978

NOTE SENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM TO  
THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
IN VIET NAM  
(June 19, 1978)

TO: THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA IN VIET NAM

HA NOI

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Viet Nam and has the honour to inform the Embassy of the following urgent matter:

On June 5, 1978, the Vietnamese Government announced it would let Chinese ships enter ports designated by the Vietnamese side, as of June 20, 1978, to pick up Hoa people who wish to leave for China, after they have complied with the procedures for foreign ships to enter Vietnamese ports according to the Vietnamese laws and regulations now in force. The Vietnamese side also informed the Chinese side that it is prepared to receive a Chinese work team coming to Viet Nam to discuss concrete arrangements for Hoa people's departure.

On June 12, 1978, the Chinese side replied that it acknowledged the Vietnamese permission for Chinese ships to enter Vietnamese ports on June 20, 1978; at the same time, it informed the Vietnamese side that "the Chinese Embassy in Viet Nam will be responsible for discussing with the Vietnamese side concrete arrangements for the reception of Chinese residents".

On June 13, and 16, 1978, the Director of the Department for Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam expounded and handed to the representative of the Chinese Embassy the text of the six concrete and indispensable matters concerning the sending of Chinese ships to Viet Nam to take Hoa people to China. The six concrete matters are as follows :

1. Chinese ships coming to Viet Nam to pick up Hoa people who wish to leave for China, when arriving at buoy No. 0 (zero) of Hai Phong Port and buoy No. 0 (zero) of Ho Chi Minh City Port, will be guided by Vietnamese pilots to the mooring places. The duration for Chinese ships to moor at Vietnamese ports and for Hoa people to embark is three days at most each time.

- 10 -

When going in and out of the ports and when mooring at the ports, Chinese ships and sailors must abide by the regulations of Vietnamese ports.

2. The duration for Chinese ships to come to Viet Nam to take Hoa people to China will last three months, as of the first shipment which will take place on June 20, 1978. We would like to have at an early date the schedule for Chinese ships coming to Viet Nam to take Hoa people to China during that period : how many times, how many ships each time, how many persons can each ship carry; all this for facilitating the arrangements. In the immediate future, please let us know how many persons will be carried in the first shipment so that the local administrations may be informed and may prepare the passenger lists for this time and forward the lists to you.

3. Before the Chinese ships enter Vietnamese ports, the Chinese Embassy will be informed of the lists of Hoa people who will leave Viet Nam on board these ships. Each household of Hoa people will be issued an exit permit by the Vietnamese authorities.

The Hoa people who leave for China will be helped by the Vietnamese services concerned to places of regroupment before they board the ships.

4. The Chinese Embassy is requested to let us know as early as possible the lists of its staff who will go to Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh City Ports; they will, together with us, make arrangements for the embarkment of Hoa people and witness their departure from Viet Nam.

5. In order to facilitate the departure of Hoa people and to minimize the costs, we intend to give Chinese ships access also to Qui Nhon Port. We expect to learn of the views of the Chinese side on the subject.

6. Newspaper and television correspondents of China and other countries, who wish to carry out activities at the ports when Hoa people embark for China, must ask previous permission from the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and must abide by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Government's regulations concerning foreign correspondents.

But up to now, June 19, 1978, the Chinese Embassy has not yet replied or discussed the matter with the Vietnamese side. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam requests the Chinese Embassy to contact this Ministry immediately to discuss concrete matters and to make timely preparations for the first and subsequent Chinese ships to enter Vietnamese ports to pick up those Hoa people who wish to leave for China.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like also to inform the Embassy that : the piers where Chinese ships will berth will be Chua Ve in the area of Hai Phong Harbour, Vung Tau in the area of Ho Chi Minh City Harbour, and the Port of Quy Nhon.

- 11 -

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Viet Nam the assurances of its high consideration.

Ha Noi, June 19, 1978

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

---

NOTE SENT BY 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 (June 19, 1978)

---

TO: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PEKING

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the People's Republic of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs and would like to express its views on the June 16, 1978 Note of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follows:

After Viet Nam and China had established diplomatic relations in 1950, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Government of the People's Republic of China agreed to let Viet Nam set up its consulates in Kunming and Nanning cities in 1955 and in Canton city in 1956.

Over the past twenty years and more, the Vietnamese consulates general have made an active and effective contribution to the consolidation and strengthening of the solidarity, friendship and fraternal cooperation between the two peoples, especially between those in the border provinces.

Now, following a series of arrogant and unreasonable actions against Viet Nam, the Chinese Government has decided that the three Vietnamese consulates general should stop their activities and all their staff should return to their country in the shortest time. This is another extremely serious act of the Chinese side in the relations between the two countries.

It should be pointed out that the allegation that the Vietnamese side's refusal to let China set up consulate general in Ho Chi Minh City has caused the Chinese side to make the aforesaid decision, is completely untrue.

With regard to the Chinese request for establishing consulates general in Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang, as early as December, 1976, the Vietnamese side had replied that it agreed to the establishment of Chinese consulates general in Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh City, and that it would consider the Chinese proposal to establish a consulate general in Da Nang. Eighteen months have elapsed since, but the Chinese

side had not yet established its consulate general in Hai Phong. Regarding the establishment of the Chinese consulate general in Ho Chi Minh City, the Vietnamese side has informed the Chinese side that the consulate would be established at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 1978.

Obviously, in view of the relations of friendship between the two countries, the Vietnamese side has done all it could to overcome difficulties and to give a satisfactory response to the Chinese proposal. The Chinese side now invokes the pretext that the Vietnamese side did not let it set up a consulate general in Ho Chi Minh City as it desired to abolish the agreement between the two Governments and to compel the Vietnamese side to withdraw its consulates general. This is an extremely absurd act. This unilateral decision of the Chinese side has further deteriorated the relations between the two countries and seriously undermined the traditional friendship between the two peoples. The Chinese side must bear full responsibility for this situation.

The Vietnamese Government has given instructions to the Vietnamese consulates general in China to arrange for their cadres and staff to leave for Viet Nam. The Vietnamese Government requests the Chinese Government to take effective measures in keeping with international law and practices to ensure their safe departure from Chinese territory.

With regard to the Vietnamese residents under the charge of the above-mentioned consulates general, the Chinese Government is requested to protect their lives, property and legitimate interests.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam takes this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its high consideration.

Ha Noi, June 19, 1978

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM