

September 7, 1978

Chinese Protests against Vietnam

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Summary:

Three protest notes from the Chinese government over Vietnam's treatment of Chinese nationals and its suspension of railway traffic between the two countries.

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The enclosed communication, dated 7 September 1978, is transmitted to the permanent missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations.

7 September 1978

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(78) CM. No. 49

The Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the English translation of the texts of a protest lodged by the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister on August 25 against Viet Nam's bloody suppression of Chinese nationals, a statement issued by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China on September 4 and a Chinese protest lodged on September 5 against Viet Nam's unilateral suspension of traffic on Sino-Vietnamese border railway. It would be appreciated if this note and the aforesaid texts could be circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

The Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of his highest consideration.

New York, September 7, 1978



His Excellency Mr. Kurt Waldheim,
Secretary-General of the United Nations

CHINESE VICE-MINISTER PROTESTS AGAINST VIET NAM'S
BLOODY SUPPRESSION OF CHINESE NATIONALS

On August 25, 1978, the Chinese Government lodged a strong protest with the Vietnamese Government over the provocative incident which occurred on the morning of the same day, during which the Vietnamese authorities sent troops and police to suppress and dispel the victimized Chinese nationals stranded outside Yu Yi Kuan on the Vietnamese side of the border.

The protest was made in Peking when Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Chang Hai-feng met by appointment Vietnamese Ambassador to China Nguyen Trong Vinh.

In his protest, the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister pointed out that the Vietnamese authorities used between one to two hundred army and public security men to pull down the shelters where the victimized Chinese nationals were living. Wielding bayonets, daggers and sticks and hurling stones, the Vietnamese cruelly beat up and drove away the two thousand odd Chinese residents. Four Chinese residents were killed on the spot, dozens more were wounded -- many seriously. And all the belongings of the victimized Chinese were either smashed or taken away. This premeditated incident constitutes a new crime committed by the Vietnamese authorities in their bloody oppression and ostracism of the Chinese residents. Being deliberately created, this incident is a most grave and wanton step taken by the Vietnamese side to undermine the two countries' talks at vice-ministerial level.

Vice-Foreign Minister Chang Hai-feng demanded that the Vietnamese side should immediately stop persecuting and dispelling Chinese nationals, punish severely the culprits, return all the properties that had been seized, and ensure against the recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

STATEMENT BY THE OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE
STATE COUNCIL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

September 4, 1978

On August 25, the Vietnamese authorities flagrantly mobilized a force of several hundred armed soldiers and policemen at Yuyi Pass on the Vietnamese side of the Sino-Vietnamese border for a bloody suppression and forcible expulsion of victimized Chinese nationals, killing and wounding scores of them in the action. At the same time, this Vietnamese force intruded into Chinese territory and wounded more than a dozen Chinese border functionaries. This outrageous massacre and expulsion of Chinese nationals was another planned and premeditated crime committed by the Vietnamese authorities as well as a step of utmost gravity taken by the Vietnamese side in a glaring attempt to sabotage the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations at the vice-foreign minister level through the deliberate engineering of a bloody incident. The Chinese Government has already lodged a strong protest with the Vietnamese Government against this incident and made the demand that it stop forthwith the persecution, suppression and expulsion of Chinese nationals, severely punish the culprits, return to the victimized Chinese nationals all their possessions and guarantee that there will be no recurrence of similar incidents in the future.

With great indignation at their cruel and bloody crime of persecution, expulsion and suppression of Chinese nationals, we strongly denounce the Vietnamese authorities for engineering this grave incident.

Now, the more than 2,000 of the victimized Chinese nationals who were once stranded at Yuyi Pass on the Vietnamese side of the border have been driven into China by this bloody suppression and forcible expulsion perpetrated by the Vietnamese authorities. The Chinese Government has had to adopt appropriate measures to resettle them.

It must be pointed out that the said grave incident at Yuyi Pass of bloody suppression and forcible expulsion of victimized Chinese nationals by armed Vietnamese soldiers and policemen was a premeditated and meticulously planned operation undertaken by the Vietnamese Government, whose hypocrisy and duplicity have been laid bare fully by the sanguinary facts. It is entirely futile for the Vietnamese Government to make denials or try to shift the blame onto others by distorting the facts.

The policy of the Chinese Government regarding Chinese nationals residing abroad has been a consistent one. It has all along urged them to live in amity with the people in their country of residence and contribute to the enhancement of friendship between the Chinese people and the people of the country concerned. The Chinese Government has the responsibility of protecting their proper rights and interests and hopes that these will be guaranteed by the countries concerned. At present, the anti-China acts and ostracism of Chinese residents committed by the Vietnamese authorities are getting worse and worse, the proper rights and interests of the Chinese residents in Viet Nam are seriously infringed upon, and they are not even ensured of their personal safety. We hereby express our utmost indignation at and condemnation of such acts.

There is a deep traditional friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples forged during long years of struggle. To uphold such friendship and solidarity accords with the fundamental interests of our two peoples and is their common desire. The Chinese Government and people have always valued the friendship of our two peoples and have never done anything harmful to it. We have exercised restraint and forbearance in regard to the Vietnamese authorities' anti-China acts and ostracism of Chinese nationals. The Vietnamese authorities have now gone far enough along the road of antagonizing China and ostracising Chinese nationals. We strongly demand that the Vietnamese authorities stop forthwith the persecution and expulsion of Chinese nationals and truly guarantee their proper rights and interests and their personal safety.

CHINESE PROTEST AGAINST VIET NAM'S UNILATERAL SUSPENSION
OF TRAFFIC ON SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDER RAILWAY

On September 5, 1978, the Chinese side lodged a strong protest with the Vietnamese side against its unilateral blocking of the Sino-Vietnamese Friendship Bridge and suspension of traffic on the railway in violation of Sino-Vietnamese railway agreement.

The protest was lodged by Shen Ping, Director of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a meeting with Tran Trung, Counsellor of the Vietnamese Embassy in Peking.

Shen Ping pointed out that on early morning August 30, a covered wagon was pushed onto the Sino-Vietnamese Friendship Bridge at Hokou, Yunnan Province, by Vietnamese personnel to a place about 10 metres away from the boundary on the Vietnamese side. Barbed wire and railings were put in front of and behind the wagon and the signal control at the Lao Cai station in Viet Nam was sealed, thus blocking completely the Sino-Vietnamese Friendship Bridge. Then the Vietnamese railway department concerned sent a message to the Chinese side at 11:00 a.m. saying that the railway would be blocked from 9 a.m. August 30 to 6 p.m. September 30 because of "repair" to the bridge and the railway line.

Shen Ping pointed out that the protocol of the Sino-Vietnamese border railway conference and the Sino-Vietnamese protocol on repair and maintenance of the Hokou Bridge have stipulated clearly that whenever one side wants to carry out repair and maintenance on the Hokou Bridge and make use of a section of the railway line, prior notice must be given to the other side to obtain its approval. Now the Vietnamese side unilaterally blocked the bridge and suspended railway traffic without seeking the approval of the Chinese side, thus seriously violating the relevant agreements reached between the two sides.

This arrogant behaviour of the Vietnamese side is obviously not for "repair or maintenance" of the railway, but is deliberately intended to worsen relations between the two countries, Shen Ping stated emphatically. The Chinese side lodges a strong protest against this and the Vietnamese side must bear full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom, he said.