

**January 24, 1974**  
**Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Viet-Nam**

**Citation:**

"Letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet-Nam", January 24, 1974, Wilson Center Digital Archive, S-0442-0365-03, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section. Obtained by Charles Kraus.  
<https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/118415>

**Summary:**

Vuong Van Bac requests that the United Nations Security Council take up the disputes over the Spratly and Paracel Islands.

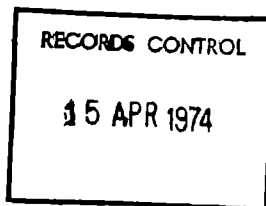
**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
866 United Nations Plaza  
Suite 547-9  
New York, N.Y. 10017



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PO 240 <sup>VINA</sup> ~~UNTA~~ (6)  
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No. 2146 UN/VN

24 January 1974

Excellency,

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the enclosed letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Viet-Nam.

I should be grateful if you would have the attached letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nguyen Huu Chi".

NGUYEN HUU CHI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Observer of the  
Republic of Viet-Nam to  
the United Nations

His Excellency, Mr. Gonzalo Facio  
President of the Security Council of  
the United Nations  
New York

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.

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

Signed: VUONG VAN BAC

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
666 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
SUITE 547-B  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

No. 2146 UN/VN

*Superseded  
by letter on  
plain bond  
paper*

24 January 1974

Excellency,

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I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency  
the enclosed letter from the Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of the Republic of Vietnam.

I avail myself of this opportunity to  
renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my  
highest consideration.

*Nguyen Huu Chi*

NGUYEN HUU CHI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Observer of the  
Republic of Vietnam to  
the United Nations  
in the  
United Nations

His Excellency, Mr. Gonzalo Facio  
Chairman of the Security Council  
of the United Nations  
New York