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October 9, 1978

Statement by Vietnamese Chief Delegate Hoang Bich Son at the 8th Meeting in the Negotiations between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China

Citation:

"Statement by Vietnamese Chief Delegate Hoang Bich Son at the 8th Meeting in the Negotiations between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China", October 9, 1978, Wilson Center Digital Archive, S-0442-0365-03, United Nations Archives and Records Management Section. Obtained for CWIHP by Charles Kraus. https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/118421

Summary:

Hoang Bich Son discusses the ethnic Chinese in Vietnam.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Leon Levy Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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

REFERENCE NV/78/82

PO 240 SRUN (6)

The enclosed communication, dated 9 October 1978, is transmitted to the permanent missions of the States Members of the United Nations at the request of the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations.

10 October 1978

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PHAI 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

New York, October 9, 1978

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour to transmit to You herewith enclosed the Statement made by H.E. Mr. Hoang Bich Son, Vietnamese Chief Delegate, at the Eighth Meeting on September 26, 1978 in the negotiations between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China.

I shall be grateful if Your Excellency would have this Statement circulated by the Secretariat as an official document to all Permanent Missions and Observers' Offices to the United Nations.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ha Van Lau
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam to the U.N.

H.E. Mr. Kurt Waldheim
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York

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STATEMENT

by Vietnamese Chief Delegate HOANG BICH SON, at the 8th Meeting, September 26,1978 in the Negotiations between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the People's Republic of China

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Chief Delegate Chung Hsi-tung,

Members of the Chinese Government's Delegation,

The negotiation between our governments' delegations is aimed at solving the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam. At the past seven sessions, showing its serious intent and goodwill, the Vietnamese Government's delegation has clearly expounded its basic stand as well as its specific views regarding this question. It can be summed up as follows:

1. On the basis of juridical, moral, and objective facts, we affirm that Hoa people in both North and South Viet Nam have long been Vietnamese citizens. In South Viet Nam, there are a number of Chinese residents bearing Taiwan or Hongkong identity cards... and over the past few years, this number has increased as the Chinese residents in Kampuchea fled to Viet Nam for refuge.

2. The policy of the Vietnamese Party and State towards Hoa people of Vietnamese citizenship and Chinese residents is a correct and friendly one. What was agreed upon by the Vietnamese and the Chinese Parties in 1955, the Vietnamese side has fully implemented, and what was not agreed upon but invented by the Chinese side, we have rejected.

As regards the Hoa, we have let them enjoy all the rights as other Vietnamese citizens. They have become part of the Vietnamese community, and

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over the past decades, they have, together with the entire Vietnamese people, been fighting and working for the defence and construction of the Vietnamese Fatherland.

Regarding Chinese residents, we have treated them as foreign residents. As for those who fled to Viet Nam for refuge, we have shared food and clothing with them with deep sympathy and humanity.

3. The cause of the difference and dispute between Viet Nam and China over the question of Hoa people is that the Chinese side has, since the mid-1960s, violated the 1955 agreement between the Central Committees of the two Parties, that it has more and more feverishly used the question of Hoa people as a political card to interfere in the internal affairs of Viet Nam and to carry out a hostile policy towards Viet Nam.

The 4-point proposal for the settlement of the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam put forth by the Vietnamese Government's Delegation at the 5th plenary session is aimed at eliminating the cause of the difference and dispute between Viet Nam and China over the question of Hoa people. This is a very practical, reasonable and sensible proposal.

In our opinion, when discussing and solving the question of Hoa people and Chinese residents in Viet Nam, we should take into account the following 3 categories:

First, the Hoa people in both North and South Viet Nam whom we affirm to be Vietnamese citizens but whom the Chinese side regards as Chinese residents.

Secondly, the Chinese residents in South Viet Nam who bear Taiwan, Hongkong... identity cards.

Thirdly, the Chinese residents who recently fled from Kampuchea to Viet Nam for refuge.

With regard to the first category, the two sides still have differing views. Though our viewpoints are well-grounded, we are prepared to continue the discussions with the Chinese side in the course of negotiations.

With regard to the second and the third categories, the two sides have a common basis for discussions, because they really are Chinese residents in Viet Nam, particularly, the question of the third category of people is most pressing and needs to be solved.

In this spirit, we think that we should discuss the urgent questions first, in particular, the question of Chinese residents fleeing from Kampuchea to take refuge in Viet Nam. They are real Chinese residents victimized by the Kampuchean authorities.

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At the last meeting, in his speech, chief delegate Chung Hsi-tung alleged that Viet Nam was seeking "regional hegemony", he has thus expanded the scope of our discussions. We do not want that, but as the chief delegate has raised the question we are obliged to reply.

After thirty years of continuous struggle and after the restoration of complete independence, the Vietnamese people have no more earnest aspiration than having lasting peace in order to heal the wounds of war, to build socialism, to bring about a happy life for themselves, and to live in friendship with neighbouring nations and the rest of the world.

Being skillful at making black white, when making allegations about Viet Nam's expansion and hegemony, the Chinese side wants to cover up its own expansionist and hegemonistic ambitions. On a map of China in a summary history textbook published in 1954, one can clearly see that, apart from the present territory, there are other large areas China claimed to have lost including Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Nepal, Bhutan, Korea, Mongolia, parts of India, Japan and the Soviet Union. Even now, China still feels pained by these so-called "losses", I should frankly say that that map demonstrates the extreme greediness of China which is in no way different from the old feudalists;it is, furthermore, a distortion of fact and a contempt for the sovereignty and independence of the above-mentioned countries.

In Southeast Asia in particular, China has furthermore used Chinese residents and people of Chinese origin having taken another nationality, as a political card, a fifth column to exert pressure on their countries of residence and to carry out Chinese expansionist and hegemonistic design in the region. Obviously, an independent and sovereign Viet Nam diverting from the Chinese orbit has been considered by China as an obstacle for the furtherance of its dark schemes. That is the reason why China has been using the Kampuchean reactionaries to kindle a conflict on our South-West border, why it has fabricated the story about "victimized Chinese residents" in order to cut off its aid, to withdraw its experts and to cause troubles to Viet Nam, the so-called "aggression", "subversion", "Indochinese Federation", etc... trumpeted by the Kampuchean reactionary clique to slander and oppose Viet Nam, have been repeatedly refuted by Viet Nam, and the Chinese side is now repeating them, exactly in the same way as the Kampuchean reactionaries.

These Chinese designs and policies have caused Southeast Asian countries with a large number of ethnic Chinese to stand on the look-out and have aroused the anxiety of those Hoas who want to live an honest life there. We have not mentioned yet China's ambitions for expansionism and world hegemony.

At the last meeting, chief delegate Chung Hsi-tung also said that Viet Nam "tailed after the Soviet Union" and acted as her "accomplice". It can be said that it is blatant, groundless and inconsiderate to talk that way. In fact, Viet Nam has always stood for solidarity with the Soviet Union, China and other Socialist Countries, with all the forces of peace,

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democracy and social progress in the world. As for China, she arrogantly wants Viet Nam to go along with her and not with the Soviet Union. When Viet Nam perseveres in its correct line of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity, China claims that Viet Nam tails after the Soviet Union and is opposed to China, then China pursues a policy of utter hostility towards Viet Nam. The Chinese authorities words and deeds vis-a-vis Viet Nam and a number of international problems make one wonder : are the Chinese rulers serving the U.S. imperialists'manoeuvers and siding with the international reactionaries to oppose the revolutionary forces, are they making war preparations against the forces of peace ?

It should be pointed out that, at the negotiation table, the Chinese side has continuously put forward absurd allegations, tried to impose its insolent demands and extended the fields of debate, thereby making negotiations more complicated. At the same time, in the border areas, the Chinese side has continued its acts of provocation and its encroachments on the territorial sovereignty of Viet Nam. Once again, we urge the Chinese side to put an end to these erroneous acts and to engage in practical and serious discussions on the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam.

As a matter of fact, seven meetings have been held and the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam - the subject of our discussion - has made no progress. The Chinese side must bear full responsibility for this deadlock. Nevertheless,we always hope that, discussing in an equal and friendly spirit, making joint efforts, we will reach a satisfactory solution conforming to the desire of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples.

It is regrettable that at today's meeting, chief delegate Chung Hsi-tung has, with allegations completely contrary to the facts, deliberately shifted the blame on the Vietnamese side so as to find a pretext to postpone sine die our negotiation. Once more, one can witness the Chinese side's skill in making black white.

It should be recalled that, right at the first meeting, I dedicated my whole speech to express our sincerity and goodwill to make an active contribution to the success of the negotiation. In the meantime, chief delegate Chung Hsi-tung, on the contrary, put forth absurd allegations and most blatant distortions.

It is logical that, at the second meeting, while expounding our basic views on the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam we had, simultaneously, to reject the chief delegate's erroneous allegations.

From the third meeting onwards, it was the chief delegate himself who continued even more brazen distortions and slanders, and we were, therefore, compelled to reply. And so, each time the chief delegate took a step, I had to follow him. After a number of meetings, who uses the negotiation forum to oppose whom is now clearly known to public opinion.

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Our reasonable and sensible four-point proposal was flatly rejected by the Chinese side. As to the Chinese side's four-point policy, utterly absurd and arrogant as it is, we have repeatedly stated that we are prepared to hold discussions to find out what can be solved.

In face of such a goodwilled attitude of our side, the Chinese side has accused us of "closing the negotiation door", of "sabotaging the negotiation", this is something beyond everyone's understanding.

Proceeding from those completely irrealistic points, chief delegate Chung Hsi-tung has proposed to postpone sine die our negotiation, this is an unjustifiable request. For our part, with the desire to preserve the relations of friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, to preserve the faithful feelings between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, between the Vietnamese and Chinese revolutions, we are prepared at any moment, spare no efforts in finding a solution to the difference and dispute between Viet Nam and China over the question of Hoa people in Viet Nam. For that reason, we stand for continuing our negotiation in keeping with the desire of the Vietnamese people, the Chinese people and justice-loving people throughout the world.

If the Chinese side agrees to continue the negotiation, we propose that at the coming meeting, we will discuss concrete details of the agenda. Those pressing questions and those questions that can be rapidly solved will be discussed first, and those difficult questions will be discussed later in this direction, we propose the following agenda for discussion:

- First, the question of Chinese residents who fled Kampuchea for refuge in Viet Nam;

- Secondly, the question of Chinese residents in South Viet Nam who bear Taiwan, Hongkong... identity cards;

- Thirdly, the question of Hoa people in North and South Viet Nam.

Once again, we express our desire that a satisfactory solution to the difference and dispute between Viet Nam and China will be found through negotiation.

Thank you.