

Texts of Chinese Statement and Letter

5-12-72
n i / T

Following are the texts of a Chinese Government statement broadcast in Peking, and of a letter, provided in an English version by the Chinese Mission, from Huang Hua, the representative of China, to Secretary General Waldheim and George Bush, the United States representative, now President of the Security Council:

Peking Statement

On May 8, 1972 U.S. President Nixon brazenly ordered the mining of the ports of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the cutting off of the land and water communications of North Vietnam and the intensification of air and naval strikes. This is a new grave step taken by the United States in escalating its war of aggression against Vietnam.

This act of war escalation by U.S. imperialism seriously encroaches upon the territory and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, grossly violates the freedom of international navigation and trade and wantonly tramples upon the Charter of the United Nations and international public law. It is a provocation not only against the Vietnamese people, but also against the people of the whole world. The Chinese Government and people express their utmost indignation at and strongly condemn it.

As in the past, the pretexts used by U.S. imperialism to escalate the war this time are most absurd.

'U.S. Is Aggressor'

In the war in Vietnam, the United States is the aggressor and Vietnam the victim of aggression. This is a fact known to all. It is the United States that crudely violated the Geneva agreements of 1954, created its puppet regime in South Vietnam and frenziedly massacred Vietnamese people, thus provoking the armed resistance of the South Vietnamese people.

It is the United States that moved its forces into South Vietnam, thus bringing on the South Vietnamese peoples' war against United States aggression and for national salvation. It is the United States that used its air and naval forces to attack the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, thus expanding the war to the whole of Vietnam.

And again it is the United States that made massive invasions into Cambodia and Laos, thus merging the battlefields of Indochina into one. Yet now the United States Government describes its aggression as resistance to North Vietnamese "invasion." This is wholly reversing black and white!

The U.S. aggressor forces have used all kinds of barbarous means and massacred

thousands upon thousands of people in Vietnam and Indochina. The U.S. Government keeps silent about this and yet clamors about "safeguarding" the lives of American soldiers.

In fact, it is entirely due to the U.S. Government's policy of aggression that American youths have lost their lives on the Vietnam battlefield. The question should have been very simple. If only the U.S. Government stops its aggression immediately, withdraws all its forces unconditionally and ceases supporting the puppet cliques, the U.S. prisoners of war will return home at an early date and the lives of American soldiers will naturally be safeguarded.

By continuing to escalate the war in a big way, the U.S. Government will only cause more American youths to lose their lives. How is it possible to speak of "safeguarding" their lives?

The U.S. Government claims that all these doings on its part are not to expand or escalate the war but to end the war. This hypocritical assertion fully reveals the feeble nature of the U.S. aggressors.

We want to tell the U.S. Government in all seriousness: gone forever are the days when big nations could bully small ones at will. The struggle of the Vietnamese people is a just one. The people of the whole world, including the American people, stand on the side of the Vietnamese people. The U.S. attempt to force the Vietnamese people to submit by relying on so-called "air and naval superiority" will prove to be a perpetual fond dream.

The statement of the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has put it well: "The Vietnamese people have enough determination and enough strength to persist in their just, certainly victorious struggle, even if it will last for five or 10 other years, or much longer."

Repeats Support for Hanoi

The Chinese Government and people resolutely support the solemn and just stand taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in its statement of May 10, 1972. The Chinese Government reaffirms that "the 700 million Chinese people provide a powerful backing for the Vietnamese people; the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear area."

No matter what happens, this stand of ours will remain firm and unshakable. So long as U. S. imperialism does not stop its war of aggression against Vietnam, and no matter what forms the war may assume, whether

it is fought by the United States itself or by using its puppets and whether fought by ground forces or air and naval forces, we will resolutely support and assist the Vietnamese people in their war of resistance to the end till final victory.

The U. S. aggressors are bound to be defeated!

The Vietnamese people, the three Indochinese peoples are sure to win!

Huang Hua's Letter

On May 8, 1972, the United States representative to the United Nations wrote to the President of the Security Council of the United Nations and requested that his letter and the enclosed May 8 announcement of the U.S. President be circulated as a Security Council document. In this connection, I am instructed by the Chinese Government to state the following:

The United States is the aggressor on the Vietnam question. The new measures in Vietnam as announced recently by the U.S. President, including the mining of the entrances to the ports of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, constitute a further expansion of the war of aggression against Vietnam and an open violation of the freedom of international navigation.

This is a grave provocation to the Vietnamese people as well as to the peoples of the world. These acts of aggression on the part of the United States are absolutely impermissible by international law and the U.N. Charter. The United States has no right whatsoever to invoke the provisions of Article 51 of the U.N. Charter concerning the exercise of the right of self-defense.

It must also be pointed out that the Vietnam question has nothing to do with the United Nations in the first place. The United Nations has never meddled in the Vietnam question since the Geneva conference was held in 1954.

The United States representative to the United Nations has, by his letter to the Security Council, attempted to impose on the United Nations such insolent measures as the flagrant blockade of the territorial sea and ports of Vietnam in violation of the U.N. Charter and the principles guiding international relations. That must be condemned.

In view of the above, the United States representative's request that his letter and the U.S. President's announcement be circulated as a Security Council document is devoid of any legal basis. This is absolutely unacceptable to China.

I request that my letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.