

January 21, 1974
**Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of China**

Citation:

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Summary:

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs disputes the Republic of Vietnam's dispatching of naval vessels to the Paracel and Spratly Islands.

Original Language:

Chinese

Contents:

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11/201

(Translation)

New York, January 21, 1974

PO 240 VINA (C)

Your Excellency,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China dated January 20, 1974. I would request that this Statement be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

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

(signed) Huang Hua,

Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

His Excellency Dr. Gonzalo J. Facio,
President of the Security Council.

STATEMENT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Starting from January 15, 1974, the Saigon authorities in South Viet Nam brazenly sent naval and air forces to encroach on Yungle Islands of China's Hsisha Islands. They ordered their naval vessels to ram and damage a Chinese fishing boat and dispatched armed troops to forcibly occupy China's Kanchuan and Chinyin Islands. What is particularly grave, on January 19 Saigon forces made an armed attack on China's Chenhang Island and sent naval vessels and aircraft to subject it to barbarous shelling and bombing, killing and wounding a number of Chinese fishermen and militiamen. Moreover, Saigon naval vessels opened fire first on China's warships on patrol duty. Driven beyond the limits of forbearance, our naval units, fishermen and militiamen fought back heroically in self-defence, meting out due punishment to the invading enemy.

The Saigon authorities in South Viet Nam have long attempted to invade and occupy China's Hsisha and Nansha Islands. They not only illegally incorporated into their bounds more than ten islands of China's Nansha Islands, including Nanwei and Taiping, but have now flagrantly carried out military provocations against China and seized China's territory by armed force. This is audacious to the extreme. The Chinese Government and people hereby express their utmost indignation at and strongly protest against this.

Concurrent with their armed intrusion into Chinese territory, the Saigon authorities, using the tactic of 'the guilty party filing the suit first', fabricated the lie about China's 'sudden challenge' to their alleged sovereignty over Hsisha Islands in an attempt to confuse public opinion and even asserted that Saigon had full "sovereignty" over Hsisha Islands and that none among the countries participating the 1951 San Francisco Conference raised any objection to their claim of sovereignty. As is known to all, Hsisha as well as Nansha, Chungsha and Tungsha Islands have always been China's territory. This is an indisputable fact, and is maintained by all Chinese. Although some islands of Hsisha Islands were occupied for a time by France before World War II and by Japan subsequently, after the war Hsisha Islands as well as other islands in the

outh China Sea were officially taken back by the then Chinese government. Moreover, as early as August 15, 1951, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai of the People's Republic of China solemnly pointed out in his "Statement on the U.S.-British Draft Peace Treaty with Japan and the San Francisco Conference" that "just like the entire Mansha Islands, Chungsha Islands and Tungsha Islands, Hsisha Islands and Wanwei Island have always been China's territory." The Chinese Government has since reiterated this position on many occasions. All pretexts used by the Saigon authorities in their attempt to seize China's territory are wholly untenable.

China is a socialist country. We never occupy other countries' territory, nor shall we tolerate occupation of our territory by other countries. In order to safeguard China's territorial integrity and sovereignty, the Chinese Government and people have the right to take all necessary actions of self-defence. The personnel of the other side whom we have captured in the fight of self-defence will be repatriated at an appropriate time. The Saigon authorities must immediately stop all their military provocations against China and their illegal activities of invasion and occupation of China's territory. Otherwise, they must take all the consequences arising therefrom.

January 20, 1974

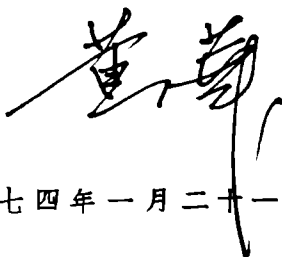
安全理事会主席

贡萨洛·法西奥博士阁下：

随函送上中华人民共和国外交部一九七四年一月二十日的声明。请将此声明作为安全理事会正式文件予以散发。

顺致最崇高的敬意。

中华人民共和国常驻联合国代表



一九七四年一月二十一日于纽约

中华人民共和国外交部声明

一九七四年一月二十日

一九七四年一月十五日以来，南越西贡当局悍然出动海空军入侵我国西沙群岛中的永乐岛。它们出动军舰撞坏我渔船；派遣武装部队强占我甘泉岛和金银岛；特别严重的是，一月十九日，西贡军队向我琛航岛发动武装进攻，派遣军舰和飞机向该岛进行野蛮的炮击和轰炸，打死打伤我渔民、民兵多人。西贡军舰还向正在执行巡逻任务的我国舰艇首先开炮袭击。舰艇部队和渔民、民兵在忍无可忍的情况下，进行了英勇的自卫还击，给予来犯之敌以应的惩罚。

长期以来，南越西贡当局就妄图侵占我国西沙群岛和南沙群岛。西贡当局不仅把我国南沙群岛的南威、太平等十多个岛屿非法划入其版图，现在，又明目张胆地对我国进行军事挑衅，以武力霸占我国领土，真是猖狂已极。中国政府和中国人民对此表示极大愤慨和强烈抗议。

西贡当局在武装侵犯我国领土的同时，还采用“恶人先告状”的手法，捏造了所谓中国“突然”对西沙群岛主权“提出异议”的谎言，企图混淆视听，居然说西贡对西沙群岛拥有完全的“主权”，还说什么在一九五一年旧金山会议上，没有任何国家对它的这个主权要求提出异议。众所周知，西沙群岛和南沙群岛、中沙群岛、东沙群岛历来就是中国的领土，这是无可置辩的事实，这是所有中国人都承认了的。尽管在第二次世界大战前，西沙群岛中的某些岛屿曾一度被法国侵占过，其后又被日本所占据。但是第二次世界大战结束后，西沙群岛同其他南海诸岛一样，已为当时的中国政府正式接收，而且早在一九五一年八月十五日，中华人民共和国外交部长周恩来在“关于美英对日和约草案及旧金山会议的声明”中，就曾严正指出：“西沙群岛和南威岛正如整个南沙群岛及中沙群岛、东沙群岛一样，向为中国领土。”此后，中国政府曾多次重申这一立场。西贡当局任何企图侵占中国领土的借口，都是根本站不住脚的。

中国是一个社会主义国家。我们从来不去侵占别人的领土，也决不容许别人侵占我国的领土。为了维护我国的领土完整和主权，中国政府和中国人民有权采取一切必要的自卫行动。在自卫战中，我们俘获的对方人员将在适当时机予以遣返。西贡当局必须立即停止对我国的一切军事挑衅，停止对我国领土的非法侵占活动，否则它必须承担由此引起的全部后果。

(完)