

**July 24, 1978**

**Notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

**Citation:**

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**Summary:**

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces that it is recalling its Consul General from Ho Chi Minh City and complains about Vietnam's treatment of the Hoa people.

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The enclosed communication, dated 24 July 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.

24 July 1978

中 华 人 民 共 和 国 常 驻 联 合 国 代 表 团  
 PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
 OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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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 full texts of the notes of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam dated June 16 and July 19, 1978 respectively and a statement by the spokesman of the Information Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry dated July 12, 1978. It would be appreciated if the above notes and statement could be circulated as official documents 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,



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

CHINA CANCELS APPOINTMENT OF CONSUL-GENERAL TO  
HO CHI MINH CITY AND NOTIFIES VIET NAM TO CLOSE  
DOWN THREE CONSULATES-GENERAL IN CHINA

( Note of June 16, 1978 from the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of  
China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam )

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and has the honour to inform the latter of the following:

In the past 20 years or more, the Vietnamese side set up consulates-general successively in China's Kwangchow, Kunming and Nanning. The Chinese Government has always energetically given the three consulates-general all-out support and favoured treatment. In 1976 the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a view to promoting the friendly relations and cooperation between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples, developing bilateral trade and handling other consular matters, proposed to the Vietnamese side to set up consulates-general in Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang and Hai Phong; in December the same year the Vietnamese side indicated agreement to the establishment of Chinese consular missions in Ho Chi Minh City and Hai Phong, and in November 1977 it stated that the Chinese side could send an advance party to Ho Chi Minh City to prepare for the setting up of the consulate-general there. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered to the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs the letter of appointment of Wang Pu-yun as the Chinese Consul-General in Ho Chi Minh City, and the Chinese advance party for the establishment of the consulate-general in that City arrived in Hanoi long ago. Since then the Chinese side has repeatedly asked the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to make the earliest possible arrangements for the Chinese advance party to proceed to Ho Chi Minh City to perform its duties, but the Vietnamese side has refused to do so under various pretexts, and as a result the Chinese advance party has had to stay in Hanoi for nearly three months. Such repudiation of one's own promise on the Vietnamese part is most rare in international dealings, and it has done serious damage to the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Viet Nam. We express our deepest regret at it. In these circumstances, the Chinese Government could not but decide to cancel the appointment of Wang Pu-yun as consul-general and recall Consul Chou Hui-min and Deputy Consul Chung Ching-kun who were dispatched for the purpose of establishing the consular mission in Ho Chi Minh City and who remain stranded in Hanoi.

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On the principle of reciprocity, the Chinese Government hereby notifies the Vietnamese Government to close down forthwith its three consulates-general in China's Kwangchow, Kunming and Nanning, which are to stop all their consular activities from this date of notification and all of whose staffs are to withdraw within the shortest possible time.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam the assurances of its highest consideration.

CHINA PROPOSES SINO-VIETNAMESE TALKS  
AT VICE-MINISTER LEVEL

( Note of July 19, 1978 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam )

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and has the honour to state as follows:

Since June 1977 the Chinese side has made repeated representations with the Vietnamese side through various channels, earnestly calling upon it to value the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and stop all acts of discrimination against and ostracism, persecution and expulsion of Chinese nationals residing in Viet Nam. But the Vietnamese side has all along been unresponsive so that the situation has become increasingly grave. In these circumstances, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in China on May 26, 1978, proposing that the Chinese Government dispatch ships to Viet Nam to bring home victimized Chinese nationals. The Chinese Embassy in Viet Nam has held 17 meetings with the department concerned of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on the question of shipping victimized Chinese nationals, yet owing to the obstacles deliberately placed in the way by the Vietnamese side no progress has been made so far. The two ships China has sent to Haiphong Port and Ho Chi Minh Port for shipping the victimized Chinese nationals have been compelled to stay on the sea outside the Vietnamese ports, and it has been impossible for the work of shipping Chinese nationals to start. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese side has continued its persecution and massive expulsion of Chinese nationals so that the number of victimized Chinese nationals driven back to China has approached 160,000. In the few days since July 12 alone, more than 2,000 victimized Chinese nationals have been driven by the Vietnamese side to the Yuyi Pass and Tunghsing Pass in Kwangsi, China.

Out of its sincere desire to uphold the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples and to seek an overall settlement of the question of Chinese residents in Viet Nam, the Chinese Government hereby solemnly proposes that the Chinese Government and the Vietnamese Government hold negotiations on the question of the Chinese nationals residing in Viet Nam, that the negotiating representatives be vice-foreign ministers, and that the negotiations start in

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early August 1978 either in Hanoi or Peking. Once the negotiations at vice-foreign-minister level between the two countries start, the talks between the Chinese Embassy and the Vietnamese department concerned on the question of shipping victimized Chinese nationals can adjourn for the time being.

The Chinese side reiterates that the Chinese Government has always stood for a negotiated settlement of all the disputes between the two countries. The Chinese Government sincerely hopes that the Vietnamese Government will give a favourable response to its proposal.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam the assurances of its highest consideration.

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STATEMENT BY SPOKESMAN OF INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
OF CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

July 12, 1978

The Foreign Ministry of Viet Nam lodged a "strong protest" to the Chinese Embassy in Viet Nam on July 10, 1978, on the so-called despatch of fighter planes by China to intrude into the air space of Viet Nam on July 8, 1978.

Investigation goes to show that this is mere fabrication. On July 8, 1978, no Chinese military airplanes ever flew over China's Kwangsi Autonomous Region within 20 kilometres of the China-Viet Nam border, let alone "intruding" 30 kilometres into the air space of Viet Nam to manoeuvre for a long time.

To cover up the truth of opposing China and ostracizing Chinese residents and deceive the world public opinion and the Vietnamese people, the Vietnamese authorities went so far as to entirely ignore facts and resort to such mean tactics of fabricating lies out of thin air, smeared and attacked China. This cannot but arouse great indignation and reveal their miserable plight of using all kinds of tactics unscrupulously as a result of their guilty conscience and unjust case. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China lodged a strong protest over this matter with the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in China on July 12, 1978.