

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF VIETNAMESE IN AMERICA  
6433 Northanna Dr. Springfield, Virginia 22150  
Tel./fax (703) 719-5764 & (781) 207-7960

April 20, 2002

Honorable Yang Jiechi  
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China  
2300 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

This is to follow up our previous letter, asking for copies of the Land Borders Agreement between China and Vietnam.

Since we have not heard from you, we have to convey in the most forceful way our grave concerns with regard to relations between Vietnam and the People's Republic of China.

ONE, we vehemently reject and repudiate the illegal concessions that the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) has illegitimately made to China in 1999 and 2000 regarding the land borders between China and Vietnam and territorial waters belonging to Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin. The very name of this gulf. "Beibu Wan" in Chinese, is a clear indication that it is a territorial sea belonging to Vietnam.

TWO, the 720 square kilometers that Vietnam has reportedly lost to China in the treaty signed on December 30, 1999, and the 10,000 square kilometers conceded to China in a subsequent treaty signed on Christmas Day, December 25, 2000, are sacred territories bequeathed to us by our forefathers, which present-day Vietnamese are solemnly sworn to defend as they are part of the territorial integrity of the country of Vietnam.

THREE, the illegitimacy of these two treaties between Beijing and Hanoi is amply demonstrated by the secrecy which has been surrounding these two public documents that should have been discussed, debated and openly deliberated and passed by the national assemblies of the two nations—the highest instances of national will in a democracy. The very concealment of these two public documents from public eyes shows that there have been many irregularities contained therein, reminiscent of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Treaty between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, which led almost to the immediate

invasion of Poland in 1940. In other words, far from securing peace, such treaties must be denounced as they are most likely to lead to war.

FOUR, the pattern of Chinese invasion of Vietnamese land and territorial waters, starting with the Chinese claim to 80 percent of the Eastern Sea (to the Vietnamese and Nanhai, or South China Sea, in Chinese) since September 1958, followed by the forceful eviction of Vietnamese authorities from the Paracels Islands (January 1974) and from the Spratlys (March 1988), then the above two international documents of public diplomacy, is a clear indication that China has more ambition than just to take Vietnamese land and territorial waters. In fact, China's actions have been and are threatening not only the security and stability of all of Southeast Asia, they are threatening also the main sea lanes of communication (SLOCs) linking the oil-rich Middle East to the oil-starved countries of Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. Because of this, China's encroachments should be roundly condemned by the whole international community at large since 70 percent of the world trade with East Asia go through this Eastern/South China Sea.

FIVE, in view of the inability of the Vietnamese people inside Vietnam to raise their voices in protest against these encroachments and so-called "peaceful" invasions of Vietnamese territory and territorial waters several people having been arrested and silenced since they have denounced the treaties, including Attorney Le Chi Quang, Han-Nom scholar Tran Khue, and most recently Dr. Pham Hong Son it is incumbent upon overseas Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American communities to bring this matter to the attention of world public opinion.

SIX, at no other time since at least the Revolution of 1945 have the Vietnamese been this united both inside and outside of Vietnam. Petitions and protests circulated in the last few months have gathered tens of thousands of signatures, including a great many from inside Vietnam: a letter to Secretary General Kofi Annan of the United Nations has so far gathered over 50,000 signatures all over the world, making it the fifth most successful petition being circulated in the world at the present time; and a protest letter which has the input of democratic elements inside Vietnam after it has been drafted in California in January this year is also gathering nearly as many signatures all over the world. Clearly, the problem is not going to be swept under the rug.

SEVEN, the two treaties of 1999 and 2000 have been officially denounced in front of the annual meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on April 16 (See AFP report of same date). A nationwide referendum is urged to decide whether they should be ratified. This is a very sensible proposition that the international community should accept as a peaceful way to resolve the difference between the CPV and the national will of the Vietnamese people in this matter.

Mr. Ambassador,

It is for the above seven reasons that we would like to bring the matter to your attention as well as to the attention of your esteemed Government. In view of the urgency of the

matter, we strongly urge you and your Government to look into it and help solve the matter in an equitable fashion before it can blow up into a major confrontation between our two peace-loving nations.

Sincerely ,