

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

FILE  
INFORMATION

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE  
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

June 12, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER  
FROM: RICHARD H. SOLOMON *RHS*  
SUBJECT: PRC Foreign Ministry Statement Attacks U.S. on Vietnam Bombings

Two days after another official protest from Hanoi of June 10 in response to U.S. air raids of June 6 and 8, the Foreign Ministry in Peking has now issued a strongly worded statement supporting Hanoi and suggesting in terms not heard for some time that China's security is being threatened by the U.S. bombing. While Peking's statement toned down much of the political invective in the Hanoi version (for instance, Peking did not attack the President by name, only "U.S. imperialism"), the bombing was described as a "grave provocation against the Chinese people."

In the first interlinking of the matter of China's security with the Indochina war since the Lam Son 719 exercise in early 1971, Peking asserted that the U.S. "has steadily expanded the sphere of bombing up to areas close to the Sino-Vietnamese borders, threatening the security of China." And for the first time in months it was noted that China and Vietnam are "closely related like the lips and the teeth."

In a most unusual final paragraph, which seems directly addressed to high Administration officials, the statement asserts that "U.S. imperialism should know that the heroic peoples of Vietnam and the other Indochinese countries are by no means alone in their struggle."

Despite the verbal escalation in this statement, it does not imply that the PRC will take any action against the U.S. or challenge our evolving relationship.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

The timing and tone of the official protest can be accounted for at a number of levels of interpretation:

- It may very well reflect PRC concern about our interdiction campaign, which has U.S. planes bombing only minutes away from their border, if that far.

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- Hanoi may have needed the Chinese for a stronger statement, given the low-key nature of recent PRC protests.
- The Chinese almost certainly feel that they have been put into an embarrassing predicament now that their efforts to normalize relations with us are so clearly contrasted with our interdiction campaign against Hanoi. As with the Chinese blast at the U. S. delivered at the Stockholm conference -- where perhaps they did not want to appear less militant than the Swedish Foreign Minister -- PRC officials may have felt the time was overdue for a statement reaffirming their anti-imperialist credentials.
- Finally, this statement and the Stockholm attack may be seen as an effort to "set the record straight" for all parties concerned in advance of the coming visitation.

The PRC Foreign Ministry statement is at Tab A.

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PEKING FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON U.S. BOMBING

0121506 PEKING NORA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1501 GMT  
12 JUN 72 B

(TEXT) PEKING, JUNE 12, 1972 (HSINHUA) -- STATEMENT OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
JUNE 12, 1972

ON JUNE 10, 1972 THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ISSUED A STATEMENT, STEADILY  
CONDEMNING U.S. IMPERIALISM FOR FURTHER DISPATCHING LARGE NUMBERS  
OF AIRCRAFT ON JUNE 6 AND 8 FOR SAVAGE RAIDS AGAINST THE HANOI  
SUBURBS, THE CITY OF HAIPHONG AND OTHER AREAS, AND EXPRESSING  
THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S FIRM DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THEIR  
RESISTANCE TO AGGRESSION UNTIL COMPLETE VICTORY. FOR THIS THE  
CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR RESOLUTE SUPPORT.  
(CONT)

12 JUN 1520Z O'D/P\*\*\*\*\*

ONLY ADD 48 (PFC FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT)

AND THEIR RESOLUTE SUPPORT.

(CONTD) FOR OVER A MONTH, U.S. IMPERIALISM, IN RESPONSE TO THE FIERCE CONDEMNATION AND OPPOSITION OF THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, HAS CONTINUED TO ESCALATE ITS WAR AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. IT NOT ONLY HAS MINED AND BLOCKADED THE PORTS OF NORTHERN VIETNAM AND DAILY SENT OUT LARGE NUMBERS OF AIRPLANES AND WARSHIPS TO MAKE FRANTIC RAIDS ON MANY CITIES, VILLAGES AND COASTAL INHABITATION CENTRES, BUT HAS STEADILY EXPANDED THE SPHERE OF BOMBING UP TO A MILE CLOSE TO THE SINO-VIETNAMESE BORDERS, THREATENING THE SECURITY OF CHINA. THESE FRENZIED ACTS OF AGGRESSION ON THE PART OF U.S. IMPERIALISM ARE NEW WAR CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, AND AT THE SAME TIME GRAVE PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE INDIGNANTLY CONDEMN U.S. IMPERIALISM FOR ITS NEW WAR ESCALATION. CHINA AND VIETNAM ARE NEIGHBOURS CLOSELY RELATED LIKE THE LIPS AND THE TEETH; THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLES ARE COMRADES AND BROTHERS SHARING WEAL AND WOE; AND IT IS THE UNSHIFTABLE INTERNATIONALIST DUTY OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THEIR WAR AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION AND FOR NATIONAL CALMATION. NO MATTER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY YET ARISE IN THIS WAR, WE WILL RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THE VIETNAMESE AND OTHER INDOCHINESE PEOPLES IN CARRYING THEIR WAR OF RESISTANCE TO THE END, TILL COMPLETE VICTORY IS WON.

U.S. IMPERIALISM SHOULD KNOW THAT THE HEROIC PEOPLES OF VIETNAM AND THE OTHER INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ARE BY NO MEANS ALONE IN THEIR STRUGGLE.