MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

The Acting Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and has the honour to transmit herewith a message of greetings from His Excellency Mr. Vo Chi Cong, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the occasion of the Conference.

It would be highly appreciated if the Secretary-General of the Conference would have the message enclosed herewith brought to the attention of the Conference and circulated as a document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

New York, August 24, 1987
MESSAGE DATED 24 AUGUST 1987 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

On the occasion of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, I wish to extend to you my warmest greetings.

This Conference, held for the first time, is an important international event, marking the beginning of an intensive consideration by the entire international community of the two cardinal and inseparable issues of the nuclear-space age. Disarmament is nowadays the only way to remove the danger of a nuclear war which is threatening the very survival of humanity. Through practical disarmament measures, mankind would be provided with additional great material, financial, human and scientific resources, redressing the situation in which hundreds of billions of dollars are spent annually on weapons while two thirds of the world's population lives in poverty. The fine and healthy development of the world economy would in turn contribute to comprehensive international peace and security, creating favourable conditions for disarmament.

A year ago, the eighth summit conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, the capital of the Republic of Zimbabwe, asserted that the choice today is in fact no longer between war and peace but between life and death and consequently the struggle for peace and the prevention of a nuclear war constitutes the foremost task of all nations.

Being victims of continued wars of aggression over the past 40 years, the Vietnamese people ardently desire peace for their country and the world so that they can devote all their efforts to attain the objectives of economic development set forth by the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam. We believe that the comprehensive disarmament programme put forth by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics aimed at the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction corresponds to the aspiration of all nations. It constitutes a radical measure to achieve disarmament in service of development. We demand that the warlike imperialist forces put an end to their disregard for the legitimate aspirations of all nations and immediately respond to the proposals of good-will for the cessation of the arms race and for disarmament.

I wish the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development great successes and hope it will arrive at timely and concrete measures aimed at facilitating the cause of disarmament, removing the threat of nuclear war and improving the international situation, for peace and development.