

Appendix 1. Chronology of the 1978–1979 Sino-Vietnamese Border Crisis

*Note: Beijing's calculus of warnings regarding the Sino-Vietnamese border that culminated in the PRC's "punitive" attack in February–March 1979 was embedded among Beijing's protests and statements over other issues in the broader Sino-Vietnamese tangle over regional power. The border warnings are therefore indicated in **bold type** in the following chronology (appendix 1 only) to distinguish them from Beijing's protests over other issues.*

Date	Leadership Statements	Official Statements	Authoritative Commentary	Other
1977				
12/31				Xinhua reports contending Vietnamese and Cambodian government statements on border clashes—first PRC media attention to escalating SRV (Socialist Republic of Vietnam)-DK (Democratic Kampuchea) dispute
1978				
4/30	Liao Chengzhi statement: first PRC public reference to SRV treatment of Hoa people			
6/9		FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT on SRV expulsion of Hoa (Chinese) people; responds to May 27 SRV Foreign Ministry statement		

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1978				
6/10			<i>People's Daily</i> COMMENTATOR ARTICLE on Hanoi provoking SRV-Cambodia border crisis	
6/15				PRC ships <i>Minghua</i> and <i>Changli</i> depart Guangzhou to pick up “victimized Chinese nationals” from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City
7/3		PRC GOVERNMENT NOTE to Hanoi suspends economic and technical aid to SRV		
7/11			<i>People's Daily</i> COMMENTATOR ARTICLE links SRV “persecution” of Hoa people and SRV instigation of Viet-Cambodian border tensions to Hanoi’s “expansionist” ambitions	Joint Guangxi-Yunnan communiqué protests SRV driving Hoa people across border, establishes regulations for entry of Hoa people into PRC along SRV border
7/15		PRC chargé at Hanoi embassy says talks over Hoa people deadlocked in 16 th session		

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1978				
7/16			<i>People's Daily</i> COMMENTATOR ARTICLE on Hanoi stirring up anti-China fever	
7/19		Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) note to Hanoi proposes vice foreign min- isterial talks on Hoa people issue		
7/22			<i>People's Daily</i> COMMENTATOR ARTICLE on SRV ingratitude for PRC aid	
7/25		PRC Embassy "strong protest" over SRV slander of embassy		
7/26 and 7/29				PRC border of- ficials in Guangxi and Yunnan pro- test continuing SRV pushing Hoa people across bor- der
8/1			<i>Red Flag</i> COMMENTATOR ARTICLE attacks Soviet complicity in SRV's anti-China activities	
8/8		1 st session of PRC-SRV vice foreign ministerial talks open in Hanoi		Guangxi border officials protest Peilun Bridge incident

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1978				
8/9		PRC Hanoi chargé “strong protest” rejects SRV protest over August 8 border incident		
8/14		PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY Asia Department delivers “strong protest” over August 10 border incident: “infringed” Chinese sovereignty		
8/19		PRC Vice Foreign Minister Zhong Xidong puts forward four-point proposal at 3 rd session of Hanoi talks		
8/25		PRC Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Haifeng delivers a “strong protest” to SRV envoy on August 25 “provocative incident” at Youyi Pass, an “extremely serious step” and “new crime” in effort to sabotage ongoing Sino-Viet talks in Hanoi		

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1978				
8/25 (cont.)		PRC vice foreign minister Zhong Xidong protests same at 4 th session of Hanoi talks		
8/29		PRC chargé in Hanoi issues “strong protest” over August 12 Guangxi border incident		
9/4		PRC State Council Overseas Chinese Office statement denounces SRV’s “engineering” August 25 Youyi Pass incident	<i>People’s Daily</i> COMMENTATOR ARTICLE on SRV’s escalating anti-China activities	
9/5		FOREIGN MINISTRY Asia Department Director Shen Ping delivers “strong protest” over SRV suspending rail traffic at Yunnan border		
9/7		Vice Foreign Minister Zhong Xidong complains about lack of progress at 5 th session of Hanoi talks		

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1978				
9/12		Vice Foreign Minister Zhong Xidong puts forward new proposals at 6 th session of Hanoi talks		
9/19		Vice Foreign Minister Zhong Xidong complains of SRV bad faith at 7 th session of Hanoi talks		
9/26		Vice Foreign Minister Zhong Xidong suspends talks at 8 th session of Hanoi talks; departs for Beijing on 27 th		
10/20				Xinhua reports Le Duan inspecting SRV-Cambodia border zone
10/26		FOREIGN MINISTRY “strong protest” over repeated SRV border incidents in September and October		

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1978				
11/3				Soviet Union-SRV security treaty signed; Xinhua reports SRV preparing "large-scale aggression" against Cambodia
11/7		<p>PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY "strong protest" over November 1 "extremely serious bloodshed incident" on border; notes Beijing has so far "exercised the greatest restraint and forbearance"; and warns that Hanoi should not mistake Beijing's restraint as "weakness and submissiveness"</p>		
11/8	<p>DENG XIAOPING in Bangkok denounces USSR-SRV treaty and Soviet global and SRV regional hegemonism; "we will attach importance" to this event</p>			

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1978				
11/10			<p><i>People's Daily</i> EDITORIAL entitled "What are the Vietnamese Authorities up to?" warns that November 1 incident shows that Hanoi's "arrogant hostility to the Chinese people" has become "quite intolerable"; links Vietnamese border provocations to Soviet support for Vietnamese aggression in Cambodia and signing of Soviet-Vietnamese alliance; and "sternly" warns Hanoi to pull back from Chinese territory and "not to turn a deaf ear to China's warnings." "How far will you go? We will wait and see"</p>	<p>Xinhua reports continuing SRV border intrusions</p>
12/6				<p>Xinhua reports Hanoi setting up Cambodian liberation front body</p>
12/10				<p>Xinhua reports new SRV border intrusions</p>

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1978				
12/11	<p>Guangxi CCP chief Zhao Xiaoguang speech at Nanning rally denounces continuing SRV border intrusions; warns that China will “certainly counterattack” any enemy’s encroachment</p>			
12/13	<p>Vice Premier Li Xiannian tells Thai delegation that “China’s forbearance has limits and the Vietnamese authorities are deluding themselves by thinking that we are weak and can be bullied”</p>	<p>FOREIGN MINISTRY “strong protest” over “incessant” Vietnamese encroachments and provoking “serious incidents of bloodshed”; charges that Hanoi has “turned a deaf ear” to Beijing’s repeated protests; warns that “there is a limit to China’s forbearance and restraint” and Hanoi must bear responsibility for the consequences if provocations continue</p>		

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1978				
12/16			<i>People's Daily</i> EDITORIAL on USSR-SRV collusion in planned aggression in Cambodia, Southeast Asia	
12/20				Xinhua reviews SRV border intrusions in Guangxi since August; notes PLA “did not return fire” even when SRV troops opened fire
12/24		FOREIGN MINISTRY “strong protest” over December 23 SRV border intrusion in Guangxi, notes Chinese militia “compelled to return fire in self defense”; FOREIGN MINISTRY “strong protest” over December 10–16 Guangxi border intrusions		Xinhua reports repeated September–December SRV border intrusions, firing at people in Yunnan
12/25			<i>People's Daily</i> EDITORIAL entitled “Our Forbearance is Limited” reviews SRV aggression against China and states that Hanoi “has gone far enough”; (cont.)	

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1978				
12/25 (cont.)			China “will not allow itself to be bullied by others,” will “certainly counterattack if attacked,” and “means what it says”; if Hanoi continues, it “will meet the punishment it deserves”; “don’t complain later that we did not give you clear warning in advance”	SRV invasion of Cambodia begins
12/28	LI XIANNIAN at overseas Chinese affairs conference warns that SRV provocations have become “intolerable” and that if Hanoi does not cease, it “will meet the punishment it deserves”			
1979				
1/5	DENG XIAOPING in meeting with U.S. journalists denounces SRV invasion of Cambodia, pledges “various forms of material assistance” to Phnom Penh			

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1979				
1/7		PRC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT denounces SRV invasion of Cambodia, pledges support to Phnom Penh		
1/12				Xinhua report reviews SRV border intrusions in early January, firing on Chinese people
1/14		PRC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT denounces SRV continuing invasion of Cambodia; China “will do its utmost” to support Phnom Penh		
1/19		PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY note denounces SRV stoppage of border rail traffic		
1/20				Xinhua reports new SRV border intrusions in Guangxi

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1979				
1/31	DENG XIAOPING at Washington press conference declares that "we mean what we say" and that Hanoi must be taught "some necessary lessons"			
2/1				Xinhua reports new SRV border intrusions, Chinese border guards "firing back in self defense and giving the intruders due punishment"; says SRV actions have "aroused the deep indignation of the Chinese army and people"
2/11	LI XIANNIAN in talks with Pakistani defense minister warns Hanoi "not to turn a deaf ear to what China has said"			

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1979				
2/17		<p>PRC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT declares PRC forces have been “driven beyond forbearance” and “forced to counterattack”; PRC does not want “an inch” of SRV territory but neither will it tolerate “wanton incursions”; pledges to reopen negotiations if Hanoi ceases provocations; attack on northern SRV begins</p>		
2/18			<p><i>People’s Daily</i> EDITORIAL entitled “Rise in Counterattack in Defense of Frontiers” declares that in Hanoi “restraint and forbearance were regarded as invitations to bullying” and “advice and warnings fell on deaf ears”; calls PRC counterattack a “just action in defense of our frontier”</p>	