

In its Declaration on September 4, 1958, the Government of the People's Republic of China declared the breadth of its territorial sea to be twelve nautical miles. The Declaration stated solemnly: "This provision applies to all territories of the People's Republic of China, including...the Dongsha Islands, the Xisha Islands, the Zhongsha Islands, the Nansha Islands and all other islands belonging to China." On September 14, 1958 Premier Pham Van Dong of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam stated in his Note to Premier Zhou Enlai that the Vietnamese Government "recognizes and supports" the declaration of the Chinese Government on China's territorial sea and "respects this decision". The text of this Note reads:

Comrade Zhou Enlai,

We have the honour to solemnly inform you, Comrade Premier, that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam recognizes and supports the declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China on its decision concerning China's territorial sea made on September 4, 1958.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam respects this decision and will instruct the responsible state organs that in all their intercourse with the People's Republic of China on the sea, they should strictly respect the decision that the breadth of China's territorial sea is twelve nautical miles.

We extend to you, Comrade Premier, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Pham Van Dong
Premier of the Government of the
Democratic Republic of Viet Nam
Hanoi, September 14, 1958

Comrade Zhou Enlai
Premier of the State Council
People's Republic of China
BEIJING