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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

**by Mr. Nguyen Duy Chien, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Viet Nam
to the United Nations on Agenda Item 15: Question of Palestine
at the Plenary of the 60th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly**

(New York, 29 November 2005)

Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure of the Vietnamese Delegation to participate in the Plenary today on the important agenda item relating to the Question of Palestine. I would like to join other speakers in thanking the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for their Reports relating to the question of Palestine, as contained in documents A/60/539 and A/60/35.

Mr. President,

It is Viet Nam's long-standing position that achieving a final and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of peace and stability in the Middle East. A comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine must be based on the relevant UN resolutions and the following essential principles: the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and from other occupied Arab territories; recognition and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people,

primarily the right to their State of Palestine on their own homeland; respect for the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and internationally recognized boundaries.

Mr. President,

The two Reports have shown that the situation relating to the question of Palestine during the period under review was marked by promise and hope, as well as by developments on the ground that complicated efforts to resume the peace process within the framework of the road map.

The Palestinian people and institutions have succeeded in achieving a peaceful, democratic and responsible transition. As noted in the Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, serious efforts have been made by the Palestinian Authority, President Mahmoud Abbas, and the Palestinian leadership to end violence, strengthen national unity of the Palestinian people and achieve a solution of the question of Palestine through exclusively peaceful negotiation.

The positive developments also include the resumption of dialogue at the highest level between Palestinian and Israeli leaders and the removal of all Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip and parts of the northern West Bank and the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip, which, we hope, would lead to the Israel's withdrawal from other occupied Palestinian territory. The recent assumption of the control over the Rafar Terminal by Palestine constitutes an important step in the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Despite the positive progress, we are deeply concerned over the continuing violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We are further concerned over the intensified expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the acceleration in the completion of the illegal wall built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in defiance of the 2004 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice and the position of the

international community. In this regard, we hold that the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ and international law must be respected and call upon Israel to comply with its legal obligations, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion as well as the General Assembly's resolution A/RES/ES-10/15 dated 20 July 2004.

Mr. President,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, our Delegation wishes to reaffirm the consistent support of the Vietnamese people and Government for the just cause of the Palestinian people in the struggle for their inalienable rights. In this regard, we welcome and support efforts of the international community, including ongoing efforts of the Quartet, to promote the peace process in the Middle East and call upon concerned parties to exert all efforts necessary to facilitate a speedy resumption of the peace process and the conclusion of a final peaceful settlement. We believe that, with the support of the international community, the just cause of the Palestinian people will achieve full victory.

I thank you, Mr. President.