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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Note verbale dated 16 May 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Secretary-General's telegram dated 9 May and on the instructions of his Government, has the honour to inform him of the position of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the convening of a meeting on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people.

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam fully endorses all initiatives to render the greatest and most effective international humanitarian assistance possible to the Kampuchean people, who are only now emerging from a catastrophe unparalleled in the annals of history. In its bilateral relations, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is doing everything within its power to support efforts towards the reconstruction of Kampuchea and the normalization of the living conditions of the Kampuchean people.

With regard to the proposed international meeting in Geneva, the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea emphasized in its statement of 5 May 1980, circulated in document A/35/219, that the receipt and distribution of humanitarian aid granted by socialist countries and the international community was proceeding normally and that encouraging results were being achieved. The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea deems it unnecessary to convene an international conference to discuss emergency assistance to the Kampuchean people along the lines proposed by the ASEAN countries.

The People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea is not opposed to the holding of an international conference convened in a genuinely humanitarian spirit for the purpose of mobilizing additional resources still needed by the Kampuchean people,

* A/35/50.

but it strongly condemns all political designs for interfering in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea under the pretext of humanitarian assistance.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, for its part, considers that the problem of distributing international aid to the Kampuchean people, which is the chief reason for the proposal by the ASEAN countries to convene an international conference, is primarily the responsibility of the authorities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, who are working in close co-operation with the joint mission of international organizations in Phnom Penh, and that satisfactory practical arrangements for the distribution of aid have recently been worked out.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is of the view that a satisfactory and durable solution to the problem of Kampuchean refugees can be reached only through agreement between the parties directly concerned and not by third parties.

Viet Nam supports the just position of the People's Republic of Kampuchea on that issue, as expressed in its statement of 28 February 1980, circulated in document A/35/125 of 7 March.

Accordingly, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam considers that an international meeting to consider problems within the competence of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which is not expressly requested by that Government and does not include its direct participation would constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It is, therefore, obliged to decline the invitation that has been extended to it to participate in the international meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva on 26 and 27 May.

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam kindly requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for this note to be circulated to Member States under item 22 of the preliminary list.
