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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 27 January 1986 from the Permanent Representative
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué of the Twelfth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, held at Vientiane on 23 and 24 January 1986.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this communiqué circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States" and "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States".

(Signed) Kithona VONGSAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Communiqué of the Twelfth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, held at Vientiane on 23 and 24 January 1986

The Twelfth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was held on 23 and 24 January 1986 at Vientiane, capital of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

1. The Conference is of the view that the year 1985 initiated a new stage in the evolution of the world situation and of the situation in Asia, the Pacific and South-East Asia as a result of the achievements of the forces of revolution and peace. In spite of the obstacles set up by the forces promoting confrontation, dialogue and peaceful coexistence represent a powerful and irresistible trend creating new possibilities for improving the international and regional situation.
2. The Conference welcomes the new accomplishments of the three Indo-Chinese countries, their growth and their cohesion and also their links of solidarity with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. The Conference highly values the revolutionary gains of the Lao People's Democratic Republic given concrete form through the grand celebration of the tenth anniversary of its foundation, a celebration which demonstrates the resolve of its people to march forward towards new victories in the defence and building of socialism. The Conference is gratified by the success of the Fifth Congress of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, which illustrates the remarkable maturity attained by the Kampuchean people in the defence and building of the new Kampuchea. The People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam reaffirm that the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces will continue during 1986 and be completed in 1990 as previously stated.
3. Having been victims of the longest and bloodiest wars of aggression, the three Indo-Chinese peoples fervently desire peace and an early end to the undeclared war against the Kampuchean people in order to arrive without delay at a political solution to the question of Kampuchea and to the question of peace and stability in South-East Asia. In this spirit, the Conference reaffirms the five-point position and the proposals set forth in the communiqués of the Tenth and Eleventh Conferences of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three Indo-Chinese countries. It believes that a distinction should be drawn between the two aspects of a political solution to the Kampuchean question: the internal aspect and the international aspect.

(a) The internal problems of Kampuchea should be resolved by the Kampuchean people themselves without outside interference. The People's Republic of Kampuchea declares that it is ready to begin talks with individuals or groups of the Khmer opposition with a view to bringing about national reconciliation on the basis of the elimination of the Pol Pot clique and the organization of free general elections following the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces. The People's Republic of Kampuchea welcomes any mediation effort undertaken with a view to holding such talks.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam express their unreserved support for the just position, characterized by good will, of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

(b) A settlement of the international aspect of the Kampuchean question including an agreement on the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces should go hand in hand with the cessation of all material and military assistance to the Pol Pot clique and the other Khmer reactionary forces, of their use of Thai territory as a refuge, and of all outside intervention in Kampuchea's internal affairs and the end of all military hostilities conducted by foreign countries against the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Together with a peaceful solution to the question of Kampuchea, there is a need to ensure firm and durable peace, to reach an agreement on the establishment of a zone of peace and stability in South-East Asia in which the various States with different social systems would coexist peacefully on the basis of the principles set forth in the Bandung Declaration of 1955, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration of 1971, the Bali Declaration of 1976 and the Declaration of the three Indo-Chinese countries submitted by the Lao Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1981 to the United Nations General Assembly, and to put an end to foreign aggression, intervention and threats against the countries of the region.

4. The Conference attaches great importance to the meetings which took place during 1985 between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Viet Nam, representing respectively the two groups of countries in the region, and to the meeting of their working groups, which marked the beginning of a new phase in the ongoing dialogue to solve the problem of peace and stability in South-East Asia and the question of Kampuchea. These meetings helped the two parties to compare their respective positions, to understand and trust each other better and gradually to narrow their divergences of opinion. The Conference is convinced that, given the good will of both parties, the next meetings between the Indonesian and Vietnamese Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the dialogues to be initiated between the countries of Indo-China and the other ASEAN countries will give great impetus to this process and make it possible to conclude agreements on a basis of equality which will accommodate the interests of the countries of the region and of peace in Asia and the world.

The three countries of Indo-China desire and are ready to begin talks with Thailand to settle the substantive issues in their mutual relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence. The re-establishment and strengthening of relations of good-neighbourliness between the three countries of Indo-China and Thailand would be an extremely important factor for peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The Conference places a high value on the efforts and good will of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in connection with its relations with the Kingdom of Thailand, and hopes that the Lao Government's proposal to conduct negotiations at the government level will be given careful consideration by the Thai Government.

5. The People's Republic of Kampuchea is also ready to hold talks on the repatriation of Kampuchean refugees currently living in Thailand. Pending such repatriation, the refugee camps should be relocated far from the Thai-Kampuchean

border and placed fully under the supervision of the humanitarian organizations; any control of these camps by the Khmer reactionary forces or utilization of the camps for political and military purposes should be prohibited, and all armed elements should be expelled from them.

At the same time, the People's Republic of Kampuchea is ready to begin direct or indirect negotiations with the Thai authorities to settle the problem of the Thai soldiers and civilians captured on Kampuchean territory.

6. The Conference welcomes the further progress achieved in the co-operation between the Lao and Vietnamese Governments and the United States Government in the search for the Americans reported missing. The People's Republic of Kampuchea reaffirms its policy of readiness to co-operate with the United States in this area. It regrets that the American side has not yet demonstrated any interest in this humanitarian question.

7. As in the past, the three peoples of Indo-China continue to attach great importance to their long-standing friendship with the Chinese people and seek to re-establish that friendship without delay. Relations of friendship and co-operation between Kampuchea, Laos and Viet Nam, on the one hand, and the People's Republic of China, on the other, would be an extremely important factor in ensuring peace and stability in South-East Asia and in Asia as a whole. The Conference is of the view that talks should be an integral part of the settlement of disputes between the parties concerned. In this spirit, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Lao People's Democratic Republic reaffirm their full support for the efforts of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to bring about the unconditional resumption of talks between China and Viet Nam, with a view to normalizing their relations, these efforts being made in the interests of the two peoples and of peace in South-East Asia, Asia as a whole, and the world.

8. The Conference believes that, the serious divergences of view which exist between the Soviet Union and the United States notwithstanding, the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva revealed new prospects for the creation of a healthier international climate, the promotion of efforts to bring about nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the expansion of the arms race into space. The Conference expresses its full support for the position of principle of the Soviet Union and the important initiatives put forward by that country in the talks with the United States, particularly the historic Declaration of 15 January 1986 by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, M. S. Gorbachev, concerning an overall programme for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, an initiative that offers to deliver mankind once and for all from the nightmare of nuclear catastrophe which has haunted it for 40 years.

The Conference is deeply appreciative of the results of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Countries held at Luanda; the three countries of Indo-China will do everything possible to contribute to the success of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries to be held at New Delhi in April 1986 and the eighth summit conference of non-aligned countries to be held at Harare in August 1986, and to strengthen the solidarity among non-aligned countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and apartheid, and for peace, national independence and a new international economic order.