

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY
COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/374
S/14085
5 August 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-fifth session
Items 22, 50 and 78 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 2 August 1980 from the Permanent Representative of the
Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to request that the attached copy of the letter addressed to the Secretary-General (annex I) and copy of the statement (annex II), both by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee and both dated 1 August 1980, be reproduced and circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22, 50 and 78 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alejandro D. YANGO
Permanent Representative

* A/35/150.

ANNEX I

Letter dated 1 August 1980 from the Chairman
of the ASEAN Standing Committee to the
Secretary-General

The ASEAN member States welcome your timely visit to South-East Asia in view of the continuing conflict in Kampuchea and the threat this poses to the security of the countries in the South-East Asian region. The continued presence of the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea and the attendant fighting have not only created tensions along the Thai-Kampuchean border but have also increased the gravity of the problem of Kampuchean refugees.

These developments, particularly the recent armed aggression against Thailand, bring to the fore the urgent need for the early implementation of General Assembly resolution 34/22 of 14 November 1979, which calls for a political solution based on the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea to allow the Kampuchean people to exercise their right of self-determination. The ASEAN member States would like to reiterate the request contained in resolution 34/22 for the Secretary-General to follow the situation closely and to exercise his good offices in order to bring about a peaceful solution to the problem.

The recent developments have affected the distribution of relief assistance to the Kampuchean people along the Thai-Kampuchean border and have consequently aggravated their sufferings. The ASEAN member States express their grave concern over Viet Nam's moves to effect closure of the border and over the pressures being exerted on international relief organizations to divert all aid to Phnom Penh.

As the Secretary-General is aware, cross-border feeding from Thailand has saved more than 1 million people in western Kampuchea from mass starvation. The ASEAN member States believe that uninterrupted relief operations through the land bridges must continue. This is part and parcel of the over-all relief programme which also includes the distribution of relief assistance within Kampuchea.

The General Assembly resolution on Kampuchea (resolution 34/22) stresses that humanitarian relief and assistance to the Kampuchean civilian population, including those who have sought refuge in Thailand, should reach those for whom it is intended on a non-discriminatory basis.

The ASEAN member States request the Secretary-General's assistance toward the early implementation of recommendations made at the Geneva meeting of 26 and 27 May 1980 on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people. Among others, the ASEAN member States would like to emphasize the need for

/...

effective monitoring as regards the end-use of food and relief supplies, which would also ensure the maintenance and continuation of the relief programme.

In conjunction with all these efforts to ensure the effective and safe distribution of relief goods to the needy Kampuchians, the ASEAN member States would like to reiterate their request for the stationing of a United Nations observer team on the Thai side of the border as well as to propose the establishment of demilitarized peace zones in Kampuchea under United Nations supervision. All parties to the conflict shall refrain from all acts of hostility against these zones so as to ensure the safety of the refugees and the uninterrupted flow of relief aid and assistance to them.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations would request the Secretary-General to kindly raise the foregoing ASEAN recommendations and proposals in his discussions with Vietnamese leaders and officials. In putting forward these proposals, the ASEAN member States would like to underscore their continuing commitment to the cause of peace and stability in the South-East Asian region.

(Signed) Carlos P. ROMULO
Chairman
ASEAN Standing Committee

/...

ANNEX II

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines
as Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee
Manila, 1 August 1980

I have been authorized by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers to make the following statement:

1. The ASEAN Member-States express grave concern over the continuing conflict in Kampuchea and the threat this poses to the security of countries in the Southeast Asian region.

2. The ASEAN Member-States welcome the timeliness of the U.N. Secretary-General's visit to Southeast Asia in view of the continued presence of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea, despite the call by the U.N. General Assembly for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and the attendant fighting, which have not only heightened tensions along the Thai-Kampuchean border but have also increased the gravity of the Kampuchean refugee problem.

3. They underscore the fact that the main cause of the present strife and tension in Southeast Asia which has produced a sustained threat to the security of Thailand is the continued Vietnamese military occupation of Kampuchea. They oppose all maneuvers to divert world attention from its fundamental issue. They therefore reject any and all efforts aimed at legitimizing the presence of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea and the regime sustained by them as well as attempts to create a military fait accompli which are in flagrant violation of the time-honored principles of the U.N. charter and of international law. They call for a prompt implementation of U.N. General Assembly resolution No. 34/22 which requires the immediate and total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea so as to allow the Kampuchean people to exercise their right of self-determination free from outside interference, subversion, or coercion.

4. The ASEAN Member-States express the view that durable peace in Southeast Asia can only come about through a strict observance, in precept and in practice of U.N. charter principles, particularly the principle of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

5. They reiterate that the unity and solidarity of ASEAN cannot and will not be broken and they oppose any attempt to isolate Thailand from the rest of ASEAN. They further reiterate that any incursion of foreign forces into Thailand directly affects the security of the other ASEAN Member-States and endangers peace and security in the whole region. In this regard, the other ASEAN Member-States express their firm support of and solidarity with the government and people of Thailand in the preservation of Thailand's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

/...

6. The ASEAN Member-States note that the tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border has spread to the Thai-Lao border. They express serious concern over the resort to the use of force against Thailand. This has not contributed to the peaceful solution of the problem and is in contravention of the spirit of the understanding reached between the Prime Ministers of Thailand and Laos, as reflected in their joint communiqués and other memoranda of understanding. The other Member-States of ASEAN express appreciation of the positive steps taken by Thailand to prevent the escalation of the tension at the Thai-Lao border. They also express the hope that the existing problem between Thailand and Laos would be peacefully resolved so as to preserve their good neighborly relations and cooperation with each other.

7. They express concern over the growing problem of Kampuchean refugees, which has resulted from large-scale population movements and exodus from Kampuchea due to wide-spread starvation, arising from the continued occupation of Kampuchea by foreign forces and the persisting conflict in that country. This has been further aggravated by recent developments, which have prevented refugees and displaced persons who have fled from the fighting, to return to their homeland - a basic human right which is indisputably theirs. In this context, the other ASEAN Member-States wish to express their full appreciation of the important role that Thailand has played in alleviating the plight and deprivation of these Kampuchean refugees/illegal immigrants. Notwithstanding the important role that Thailand has played in this regard, there are now attempts to leave the responsibility of caring for these Kampuchean refugees, who are already in Thailand for reasons beyond their control, to Thailand and other third countries. The ASEAN Member-States reject all such moves, for it should be noted that the Vietnamese are responsible for the creation of the Kampuchean refugee problem.

8. The ASEAN Member-States note that the sufferings of the Kampuchean people along the Thai-Kampuchean border are now being aggravated by Vietnam's latest moves to effect closure of the border and by the pressures exerted upon international relief organizations to divert relief assistance only to Phnom Penh. These Vietnamese moves, which are essentially aimed at making this humanitarian issue a political tool for their own purposes, must be rejected. For these refugees are people indigenous to the area, who have gravitated to the Thai border in the hope of finding food, safety and freedom, which have not been provided by Phnom Penh. Since it was cross-border feeding from Thailand that saved more than one million people in Western Kampuchea from starvation in the recent past, they feel that such cross-border relief efforts, through the land bridges, must continue. These are part and parcel of the overall relief program which also includes the distribution of relief assistance within Kampuchea. This is in accord with U.N. resolution No. 34/22 which stresses that humanitarian relief and assistance to the Kampuchean civilian population, including those who have sought refuge in Thailand, should reach those for whom it is intended on a non-discriminatory basis.

9. The ASEAN Member-States recall that at the Geneva meeting of May 26-27, 1980 on humanitarian assistance and relief to the Kampuchean people, a consensus was reached on measures to improve humanitarian relief and assistance to the Kampuchean people in order to alleviate their plight. They reiterate their support for these measures and emphasize the need for ensuring effective monitoring as regards the end-use of food and relief supplies.

10. The ASEAN Member-States emphasize Thailand's non-involvement in the armed conflict in Kampuchea. They therefore reiterate their request for the stationing of a U.N. observer team on the Thai side of the border. They also propose the establishment of demilitarized peace zones in Kampuchea under United Nations supervision.

11. The ASEAN Member-States have always stated that they would welcome the convening of an international conference to consider the Kampuchean problem in a comprehensive manner in accordance with the U.N. General Assembly resolution No. 34/22. They maintain that the implementation of this resolution will contribute to the attainment of a durable solution to the Kampuchean problem including that of Kampuchean refugees. This will also set an example and serve as a model for the achievement of a durable political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

12. The ASEAN Member-States reiterate their commitment to the ASEAN concept of establishing Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. In such a zone, all nations of the area would enjoy peaceful coexistence and the fruits of mutual cooperation on the basis of sovereign equality, free from external power rivalry and interference.
