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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
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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 19 September 1980 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Philippines to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the attached statement I am issuing in due course as a press release in my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 22, 50 and 78, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos P. ROMULO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee

ANNEX

STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. CARLOS P. ROMULO  
CHAIRMAN OF THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE  
AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
New York City, 19 September 1980

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

The ASEAN member-states wish to point out that General Assembly Resolution 34/22 of 14 November 1979 on "The Situation in Kampuchea" has not been implemented because of Vietnam's continued refusal to comply with the said resolution and its repeated assertion that the question of Kampuchea is irreversible and non-negotiable.

The foreign invasion and continued occupation of Kampuchea are in violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law.

The ASEAN member-states stress that all member-states of the United Nations should strictly abide by the time-honoured principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law, which constitute the only sound bases for orderly and peaceful inter-state relations.

The pursuit by militarily powerful States of a policy of intervention, in contravention of the principles of the United Nations Charter, could only lead to international anarchy and chaos. The ASEAN member-states reject the premise that a state can justify its invasion or occupation of another state in order to change a government held to be repressive or on any other pretext.

The ASEAN member-states stress that they cannot, for any reason, condone the foreign invasion of Kampuchea and the continued occupation of that country by foreign forces. To do otherwise would encourage similar courses of action in the future. The ASEAN member-states also cannot accept that a country should enjoy the fruits of its aggression. Therefore, in order to safeguard their security, independence and territorial integrity, the ASEAN member-states continue to reject the establishment of proxy regimes. They therefore reject the puppet regime in Phnom Penh and call upon all members of the United Nations to do the same and support the continued seating of Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations.

The presence of foreign troops in Kampuchea prevents the Kampuchean people from exercising their right to decide their own future and destiny and to choose their Government, free from outside interference, subversion, or coercion.

The ASEAN member-states underline that the Kampuchean problem is the direct result of Vietnam's military intervention in Kampuchea, which has resulted in protracted fighting in that country and has created massive sufferings for the Kampuchean people.

The continued occupation and protracted fighting in Kampuchea have caused a large-scale dislocation of the Kampuchean population, ruined the harvests in Kampuchea, brought on famine, pestilence and death, driving the population not only to the Thai-Kampuchean border but also beyond that border into Thailand. Thailand has borne the brunt of caring for about two hundred thousand Kampuchean civilians now in holding centres in Thailand, while another 1.5 million Kampuchean civilians depend on cross-border relief assistance, made possible through the cross-border flow of international relief aid from Thailand.

The ASEAN member-states emphasize that it is the inalienable right of every Kampuchean who has sought temporary refuge abroad to return to his homeland.

The armed conflict in Kampuchea, particularly the intensified fighting close to the Thai-Kampuchean border, has resulted in repeated violations of Thailand's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the spirit of ASEAN solidarity, the ASEAN member-states reaffirm their strong support for Thailand and will resist any attempt to isolate her.

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Vietnam's incursion into Thailand and the destruction of refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border, demonstrate a total disregard not only for Thailand's sovereignty but also for the lives of Kampuchean civilians. Such actions and subsequent Vietnamese attempts to seal the Thai-Kampuchean border have disrupted cross-border feeding operations which have been instrumental in saving the lives of more than a million Kampuchean civilians.

The ASEAN member-states are convinced that the presence of a large number of foreign troops close to the Thai-Kampuchean border has heightened tension in the region. They noted with grave concern the new deployment of troops and weapons in Kampuchea along the Thai-Kampuchean border. New incursions into Thailand cannot be ruled out.

The ASEAN member-states stress that effective solutions to the humanitarian problems cannot be achieved without a just and lasting political settlement of the Kampuchean conflict. Any just and lasting political settlement must involve the withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea, the restoration of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right of the Kampuchians to determine their own future free from outside interference, subversion or coercion.

The ASEAN member-states emphasize that neither they as a group nor Thailand has any dispute with Vietnam. The problems faced by Thailand are the results of the spill-over of the Vietnamese intervention in and occupation of Kampuchea. The continuation of the Kampuchean conflict has also led to interference by extra-regional powers in the affairs of the region. The best way to put an end to such interference is to find a speedy solution to the Kampuchean problem.

The ASEAN member-states recognize that there is an urgent need to defuse tensions in the region, particularly in Kampuchea and along the Thai-Kampuchean border. Toward this end, the ASEAN member-states, taking into account General Assembly Resolution 34/22, call for the convening of an international conference on Kampuchea in early 1981.

This international conference should negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on, inter alia:

- (a) Total withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea within a specific time frame;
- (b) Measures to ensure law and order and the observance of the fundamental principles of human rights in Kampuchea;
- (c) Measures to ensure non-interference by outside powers in the internal affairs of Kampuchea;
- (d) Establishment of a United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Kampuchea for these purposes;
- (e) United Nations-supervised free elections in Kampuchea;
- (f) Guarantees against the introduction of any foreign forces in Kampuchea;
- (g) Guarantees to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kampuchea;
- (h) Guarantees that an independent and sovereign Kampuchea will not be a threat to its neighbours.

Pending the settlement of the conflict, the ASEAN member-states call for the stationing of a United Nations observer team on the Thai side of the border in order to observe the situation along the border and to verify that only civilian Kampuchians obtain international relief aid. At the same time they call for the establishment in western Kampuchea of safe areas under United Nations supervision, for the safety of uprooted civilian Kampuchians encamped near the Thai-Kampuchean border and those in Thailand who wish to return to their homeland.

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Kampuchean civilians presently in Thailand, who wish to exercise their inalienable right to return to their homeland of their own free will, should be encouraged to settle in these safe areas, after having gone through the procedures established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Their departure may also be scrutinized by U.N. observer who can ensure that the returnees are not armed.

The ASEAN member-states reiterate their commitment to the promotion of peace and stability in their region through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law. The ASEAN member-states do not wish to have a state of confrontation develop among the states of Southeast Asia. They are geographical neighbours, and should concentrate on their respective tasks of economic construction and development.

The ASEAN member-states are convinced that after a comprehensive political solution to the Kampuchean conflict, the countries of Southeast Asia should exert renewed efforts to establish a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

The ASEAN member-states reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to those adopted by the Asian-African Conference in Bandung, and by the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967. These principles are the foundations of the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation signed in Bali by the ASEAN Heads of State/and Governments on 24 February 1976, which is open for accession by other countries in Southeast Asia. This Treaty stipulates that in their relations with one another, the Parties to the Treaty should be guided by the following fundamental principles:

- a. Mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national identity of all nations.
- b. The right of every State to lead its national existence free from external interference, subversion or coercion.
- c. Non-interference in the internal affairs of one another.
- d. Settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means.
- e. Renunciation of the threat or use of force.
- f. Effective co-operation among themselves.

The ASEAN member-states express their hope that genuine progress can be made by the States in the region towards the search for durable peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

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