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

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Thirty-sixth year

Letter dated 19 June 1981 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith excerpts from the joint communiqué issued by the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), concerning the Kampuchean problem, at the conclusion of their annual meeting on 18 June 1981 at Manila.

I would appreciate it if this letter and its enclosure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22 and 34 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Reynaldo O. ARCILLA  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

\* A/36/50.

A N N E X

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED  
ON 18 JUNE 1981 BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS  
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS  
(ASEAN) CONCERNING THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM

SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

The Foreign Ministers noted with grave concern that despite the constructive efforts by ASEAN and the international community, the Kampuchean armed conflict remained unresolved. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the concern that the security interests of ASEAN states and the peace and stability in the region were being directly threatened as a result of the situation in Kampuchea. They also reiterated the view that the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea is in gross violation of the principles of international law and of the principles of the United Nations Charter. They particularly deplored the continued presence of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea despite the decisions expressed in the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 34/22 and 35/6, which were overwhelmingly endorsed by the United Nations in 1979 and 1980, respectively.

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to these resolutions which call for the cessation of all hostilities forthwith by all parties to the conflict and for the immediate and total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. This will enable the Kampuchean people to exercise their right of self-determination, free from outside interference, subversion and coercion.

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that further escalation of the fighting in Kampuchea or incursion of foreign forces into Thailand would directly affect the security of the ASEAN Member States, and would endanger the peace and security of the whole region. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore reiterated their firm support and solidarity with the government and people of Thailand, or any other ASEAN country, in the preservation of its independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Foreign Ministers stressed that the so-called elections held in Kampuchea from March to May 1981, constituted a desparate attempt to confer legitimacy upon the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. They firmly emphasized that these fraudulent elections did not constitute a genuine expression of the free will of the Kampuchean people, for these elections were held under the shadow cast by the presence of 200,000 Vietnamese soldiers. They restated their firm belief that as long as Vietnamese occupation forces remained in Kampuchea, the Kampuchean people could not pursue their national interests, form a government of their own choice or freely elect their leaders.

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The Foreign Ministers commended the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to implement the United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/6 and welcomed his decision to convene the International Conference on Kampuchea in New York in July 1981. They expressed their confidence that the International Conference would make a positive contribution to the establishment of a framework for a lasting solution to the Kampuchean conflict, thereby contributing to durable peace and stability in the region. They therefore urged Vietnam, as a party to the conflict, which had expressed its wish to see peace and stability in Southeast Asia, to join in the search for a solution, by participating in the International Conference.

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their belief that the success of the International Conference on Kampuchea was of vital importance to the members of the world community, particularly to the small nations, which may be increasingly confronted with the problem of protecting their territory against invasion, occupation and the imposition by militarily stronger powers of proxy regimes.

In order to reach a comprehensive political settlement in Kampuchea, the Foreign Ministers urged that the following initial steps, among others, should be taken:

1. The despatch of the UN peace-keeping forces to Kampuchea;
2. The withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from Kampuchea in the shortest time possible under the supervision of the UN peace-keeping forces;
3. The disarming of all Khmer factions immediately after the completion of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea.

The Foreign Ministers took note of the idea of a regional conference as proposed in Ho Chi Minh City on 28 January 1981 as a means of solving problems concerning peace and stability in Southeast Asia. They stressed that the Kampuchean conflict was the root cause of the threat to the peace and stability of Southeast Asia, and as the Kampuchean conflict involved not only countries in the region but also outside powers, it therefore had international dimensions. Hence, the proposed regional conference could not provide an appropriate forum for any useful discussion that could lead to a durable solution.

The Foreign Ministers stressed that they are not opposed to the idea of having consultations and dialogues among countries of the region taking place, but such consultations and dialogues are distinct and separate from the International Conference and should not be seen as a substitute for it.

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The Foreign Ministers also reaffirmed that they continue to recognize the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and to extend their support for its continued representation at the United Nations. They stressed that the grounds for their support for the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea were based on the fundamental principles that foreign intervention must be opposed and that any change in the recognition of Democratic Kampuchea's credentials would be tantamount to condoning Vietnamese military invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. They saw absolutely no justification for other states to overthrow the legitimate government of another state as such action violated the internationally-recognized principles governing inter-state relations as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The Foreign Ministers, therefore, called upon Member States of the United Nations to uphold the principle of non-intervention and to support the continued recognition and representation of Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations.

The Foreign Ministers rejected the various arguments that were being repeatedly advanced to justify the continued occupation of Kampuchea and to seek recognition for the regime established in Phnom Penh by Vietnamese forces. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their stand that no regime set up by occupying forces, howsoever it be given the appearance of legitimacy, could lawfully be recognized under the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter.

The Foreign Ministers welcomed the current consultations among Kampuchean nationalists to form a united front with a view to the early setting up of a coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea in pursuit of their inalienable right to liberate their country from foreign occupation and domination. They recognized that the establishment of a truly representative Government in Kampuchea must remain a matter for the Kampuchean people themselves to decide and pursue.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their conviction that a comprehensive political solution of the Kampuchean conflict was vital to the establishment of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia which would ensure the independence and sovereignty of all states in the region.

The Foreign Ministers stressed that the situation in Kampuchea and Afghanistan had as a common denominator the invasion and occupation of a small independent state by a foreign power through the use of force in open violation of international law. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers reiterated their strong support for the United Nations General Assembly resolution 35/37 as well as the resolution of the Taif Islamic Summit in Saudi Arabia on 25-28 January 1981 on the situation in Afghanistan and the final political declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi on 13 February 1981, which urgently called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

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