

UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL ASSEMBLY  SECURITY COUNCIL

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/36/338  
S/14563  
22 June 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Thirty-sixth session  
Items 22 and 34 of the preliminary list\*  
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 a press statement issued on 19 June 1981 by His Excellency Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, as Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, concerning the Kampuchean problem.

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.

ANNEX

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON 19 JUNE 1981  
BY H.E. DR. CARLOS P. ROMULO, AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE PHILIPPINES, CONCERNING THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM

I speak as Foreign Minister of the Philippines. I do not find anything new in the recent Phnom Penh proposals. The Vietnamese have not shifted from their previous well known position on Kampuchea or on the UNGA resolution on a political solution to the Kampuchean problem. The Vietnamese remain intransigent and have merely reiterated the Ho Chi Minh City proposals. Perhaps they have tried to project an image of reasonableness immediately before the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and the International Conference on Kampuchea. Seemingly they have tried to make some concessions on the format for negotiations. They have expanded on their position on a Regional Conference by adding the Secretary-General and the possibility of a larger number of observers. Our position on the Ho Chi Minh City proposals is very clear. We cannot accept them for they are not in consonance with the UNGA resolution on Kampuchea.

We regard the Phnom Penh statement as essentially a restatement of the Ho Chi Minh City proposals. For example, their proposal is to discuss "regional matters of mutual concern" instead of the conflict in Kampuchea. Secondly, their proposal is that these "regional matters of mutual concern" should be discussed either by a regional conference or by regional consultations. Thirdly, the role of the International Conference is to rubber stamp whatever agreements that are arrived at in the Regional Conference or through regional consultations.

There are three new elements but they are of no substantive importance. What are these three new elements?

They are: First, that the Secretary-General of the U.N. can attend the Regional Conference as an Observer in his private capacity; Second, that the conference may also agree to allow a larger number of Observers including extra-regional powers to attend the Regional Conference as Observers; and Third, that if the UN derecognises the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, the International Conference may be convened by the U.N.

We do not find anything new by way of substance for us to consider and respond. In fact, the proposal of a Regional Conference even seeks to divide us between "more reasonable" and "less reasonable" ASEAN states, which is without foundation. We do not feel that the statement offers us an appropriate framework for the solution of the Kampuchean question for the following reasons:

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First, the conflict in Kampuchea, even by Vietnam's own admission, involves countries within the region as well as extra-regional powers. In view of this, neither the alternative Regional Conference which they propose for July nor regional consultations would offer us an adequate framework for our search for a comprehensive political settlement of the problem.

Second, until Vietnam acknowledges that Kampuchea is the problem to be discussed, we will only cause confusion by agreeing to participate in the proposed Regional Conference by "regional consultations" as defined by Vietnam, or the International Conference which has as its subject "peace and stability, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia".

If there is any element that one can call favourable is that it does not include charges or warnings against Thailand or any other ASEAN country by name as in previous statements.

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