



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERALA/36/583
12 October 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Agenda item 22

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report on the situation in Kampuchea is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 35/6 of 22 October 1980.
2. In that resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its resolution 34/22 and called for its implementation. It also decided to convene early in 1981 an international conference on Kampuchea which should involve the participation of all conflicting parties in Kampuchea and others concerned, with the aim of finding a comprehensive political settlement to the Kampuchean problem; decided further that the international conference on Kampuchea should negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on, inter alia: (a) total withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea within a specific time-frame to be verified by the United Nations, (b) measures by the United Nations to ensure law and order and the observance of the fundamental principles of human rights in Kampuchea, (c) measures by the United Nations to ensure non-interference by outside Powers in the internal affairs of Kampuchea, (d) United Nations-supervised free elections in Kampuchea, (e) guarantees against the introduction of any foreign forces in Kampuchea, (f) guarantees to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kampuchea, (g) guarantees that an independent and sovereign Kampuchea would not be a threat to its neighbours; and, in paragraph 4, requested the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps for the convening of such a conference.
3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also called for, pending the settlement of the conflict: (a) 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 Kampuchean obtained international relief aid; and (b) the establishment of safe areas under United Nations supervision in western Kampuchea for the uprooted civilian Kampuchean encamped near the Thai-Kampuchean border and those in Thailand who wished to return to their homeland. It also urged the countries of South-East Asia, once a comprehensive political solution to the

Kampuchean conflict was achieved, to exert renewed efforts to establish a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in South-East Asia.

4. In further paragraphs of the resolution, the General Assembly appealed for the continuation of relief assistance to the Kampuchean people; requested the Secretary-General to strengthen his efforts in co-ordinating and monitoring such assistance; called upon all States to provide resettlement for displaced Kampucheans who did not wish to return to their homeland; urged all parties to the conflict to co-operate in facilitating humanitarian relief efforts; and reiterated its appeal to all parties to the conflict to observe fully the fundamental principles of human rights.

5. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/6, in compliance with its paragraph 4 and in the continuing discharge of my responsibility relating to international peace and security, I undertook extensive consultations with the States most directly concerned with the situation. During my visit to New Delhi in February 1981 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the non-aligned movement, I held extensive discussions on this problem. Between 23 March and 11 April 1981, my special representative, Mr. M'Hamed Essaafi, undertook a mission to South-East Asia in order to consult with the Governments in the region. Later, during my visits to Washington, Moscow and Beijing as well as to a number of other capitals, I had further opportunities to discuss the problem with the leaders of the Governments concerned.

6. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/6 and in the light of consultations with States concerned, the International Conference on Kampuchea was held in New York from 13 to 17 July 1981. Seventy-nine Member States participated in the Conference and 14 States attended as observers. The Conference also invited the representatives of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Co-operative Cambodia to participate without the right to vote. Twenty-seven Member States informed the Secretariat that they would not participate in the Conference. On 17 July, the Conference adopted a Declaration on Kampuchea and resolution 1(I). In the Declaration on Kampuchea, the Conference reaffirmed the basic principles on which a political settlement in Kampuchea must be based and set out the elements of such a settlement. In resolution 1(I), the Conference, inter alia, decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea and recommended that the General Assembly should authorize the reconvening of the Conference at an appropriate time. The report of the Conference has been submitted to the General Assembly. 1/

7. Throughout this period, I also maintained close contact with the representatives of States concerned and other interested parties in the exercise of my good offices with a view to contributing to a peaceful solution of the problem. It will be recalled in this connexion that, following my visit in August 1980 to the region, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Viet Nam met, with my

1/ A/CONF.109/5 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.1.20).

assistance, at United Nations Headquarters during the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly (see A/35/501, para. 8). Further consultations have taken place among the countries of the region, as well as other States, with a view to overcoming the impasse which has existed since the beginning of the crisis, and I have been kept fully informed about these consultations.

8. In this connexion, since the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a number of communications dealing with the situation in Kampuchea have been addressed to me by interested Governments and circulated as documents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

9. During the period since the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the humanitarian programme of assistance to the afflicted people of Kampuchea, including those who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries, has continued. In carrying forward this complex programme, the United Nations system continued to co-operate and co-ordinate closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross, many non-governmental organizations as well as donor countries of bilateral assistance. Aspects of these efforts are reported upon separately to the General Assembly under item 83 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). ^{2/} It is a matter of profound satisfaction that, despite serious difficulties imposed by the underlying political and military situation, these international relief efforts have been successful in helping ameliorate significantly the worst conditions of hunger, malnutrition and disease which were the lot of the unfortunate people of Kampuchea in the recent past, although grave uncertainties still lie ahead. I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate my deep appreciation to the donor countries and to the many non-governmental organizations for their generous contribution to this joint humanitarian effort. I should also like to pay tribute to the many men and women - officials and workers of the relief operation - who have worked tirelessly and selflessly under difficult and often hazardous conditions in the discharge of this humanitarian task.

* * *

10. It is evident that a fundamental solution of the problem could be found only with the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the underlying political and military issues. The great tragedy is that, after three decades of war, the people of Indo-China are still denied a stable peace and prosperity to which they so desperately aspire.

11. In spite of the efforts made at various levels, it has regrettably not been possible so far to bridge the gap which exists between the strongly held views of the parties and States concerned, and real progress is yet to be made towards achieving a peaceful solution of the problem. Such a solution must be based on the fundamental principles which are laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and on which the General Assembly has twice pronounced itself, in particular, respect

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth session, Supplement No. 12 (A/36/12).

for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all States, non-interference and non-intervention in the their internal affairs and non-use of force, respect for self-determination of peoples and for the fundamental principles of human rights. For my part, I reiterate my determination to continue my efforts, in the exercise of my good offices, to contribute to the search for a peaceful solution.
