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preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Letter dated 11 May 1988 from the Permanent Representatives of the
Federal Republic of Germany and Thailand to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English and French texts of the joint declaration of the seventh meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the European Community and of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, which took place at Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany, on 2 and 3 May 1988 (see annex).

* A/43/50.

A/43/373

English

Page 2

We should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the items 23, 29, 30, 36, 37, 40, 63, 64, 82, 83, 102 and 103 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Alexander COUNT YORK
Ambassador

(Signed) Nitya PIBULSONGGRAM
Ambassador

ANNEX

Joint declaration of the seventh meeting of the Foreign Ministers
of the European Community and of the Association of South-East
Asian Nations, held at Düsseldorf, on 2 and 3 May 1988

1. The seventh meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the European Community and of the Association of South-East Asian Nations was held at Düsseldorf on 2 and 3 May 1988. The Ministers had a comprehensive exchange of views on political and economic subjects, revealing a high level of agreement. The meeting confirmed that the European Community (EC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) developed a working relationship that matured into an enhanced and broad mutual understanding in all fields. The Ministers felt that it was in the best interest of EC and ASEAN to strengthen further the elements of their political and economic solidarity. The excellent record of relations among the Ministers gave confidence for the future co-operation between the two groups of States.

2. The Ministers welcomed important developments since their last meeting in Jakarta in October 1986, in particular, progress in integrating EC, manifest in the Single European Act, the impressive confirmation of ASEAN solidarity at the meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government at Manila in December 1987 and encouraging developments in world politics as reflected by the conclusion of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty). At the same time, the Ministers expressed their concern that regional conflicts had not yet been resolved. They reaffirmed their determination jointly to work for the restoration of peace in the regions of tension to the best of their ability.

The Ministers were satisfied to note that the economies of EC and ASEAN have again shown upward trends despite difficult global economic conditions. The Ministers expressed their great interest in even stronger economic co-operation between the two regional groupings and welcomed in this connection the fact that joint EC-ASEAN investment committees have been founded in all ASEAN capitals since their last meeting.

3. Regional co-operation

The EC Ministers informed the ASEAN Ministers about the Single European Act, which entered into force on 1 July 1987, and which is an expression of the will of the EC member States to continue the work to transform relations as a whole among themselves into a European Union.

The ASEAN Ministers informed their European counterparts about the meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government that took place at Manila on 14 and 15 December 1987. The EC Ministers congratulated ASEAN on the twentieth anniversary of its founding and on the progress it had made through close co-operation. The Ministers noted that ASEAN had evolved into an area of peace among its members and of growing stability and economic progress.

Now that EC is well on its way towards the completion of an internal market of 320 million and in the process of establishing an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe, and that the meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government at Manila has adopted an important Programme of Action, it has become particularly evident that the establishment of EC-ASEAN relations was both foresighted and advantageous for all partners.

The Ministers were encouraged by the positive results of consultations between EC and ASEAN since the beginning of the ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting in 1978. The Ministers reaffirmed the desirability in the future of having periodic consultations on issues of mutual interest, which would contribute further to the strengthening of the existing co-operative relations between the two regional groupings.

4. Cultural relations

The Ministers agreed further to strengthen EC-ASEAN cultural ties. In this context, emphasis should be given both to co-operation between universities and other institutions of higher education and co-operation in the field of sciences in general.

International political issues

5. East-West relations

The Ministers discussed East-West relations. They noted with satisfaction signs of improvement in East-West relations. They voiced their expectation that this should have a positive effect on the solution of regional conflicts. The Ministers expressed their readiness to contribute actively to such solutions.

6. Disarmament and arms control

The Ministers welcomed the INF Treaty as a milestone, being the first agreement by which the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have decided to reduce their nuclear arsenals. They hope that this agreement will be followed by others and will thus be beneficial to other fields of arms control and disarmament. The prospect of a START agreement reducing the strategic nuclear weapons of the United States and the Soviet Union was welcomed by Ministers as significant also for Europe and Asia.

The Ministers had a useful exchange of views on the economic and political aspects of the security situation in their respective regions in which they share interest.

The Ministers agreed that the negotiations at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament on a convention to ban chemical weapons world wide must be rapidly brought to a fully satisfactory conclusion. They reaffirmed their resolve to spare no efforts towards reaching such a global and verifiable convention. In view of the alarming proliferation of chemical weapons, it is essential to eliminate them once and for all.

7. Kampuchea

The Ministers had a thorough exchange of views on the Kampuchean problem. They reaffirmed their belief that peace and stability in South-East Asia can be restored only through the cessation of hostilities and of the foreign military occupation of Kampuchea. They welcomed the initiatives of Prince Sihanouk in the search for a comprehensive settlement of the problem. As the Kampuchea conflict is primarily a result of foreign aggression and military occupation, the Ministers therefore urged all those concerned to help to accelerate the search for the settlement and to appeal in particular to Viet Nam to join Prince Sihanouk in the peace talks.

The Ministers reiterated their resolve to work in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations that aim at restoring the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea consistent with the interests and the well-being of the people of Kampuchea who have undergone so much suffering. A democratic, neutral and independent Kampuchea is not attainable without the withdrawal of all foreign troops under international supervision. The Ministers thus reiterated their call for Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. The Ministers reaffirmed that no assistance should be given to Viet Nam of such a nature as to sustain and enhance the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

The Ministers firmly believed that the preponderant role of Prince Sihanouk in the settlement of the Kampuchean problem would promote the various interests of all parties concerned; thus, the Ministers saw the need to render all possible support for Prince Sihanouk's efforts to seek a political solution.

In this connection also, the EC Ministers noted with appreciation the continuing efforts of ASEAN to contribute to finding a comprehensive political settlement to the Kampuchean problem, including the convening at Jakarta of an informal meeting of the parties directly involved, above all, Viet Nam.

For a political solution, Viet Nam's participation is indispensable.

8. Indo-Chinese refugees

ASEAN and EC Ministers shared the view that the plight of those who have fled from Indo-China, including those still in refugee transit camps in ASEAN countries and those along the Thai-Kampuchean border, remained the cause of serious concern. These refugees and displaced persons have an inalienable right to return to their home countries. The Community is ready to assist in their return. As long as the flow of refugees continues, humanitarian efforts co-ordinated between the countries of first asylum, the resettlement countries and the international organizations concerned will have to continue to ease the suffering of the refugees and to expedite their settlement.

The Ministers were seriously concerned about the recent dramatic increase in the flow of Vietnamese boat people, a problem which originated with Viet Nam. They were of the view that Viet Nam should, in conformity with humanitarian principles and in the interest of regional, peace, stability and harmony, co-operate with the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the countries of first asylum and the resettlement countries to find a solution. Viet Nam should also accept the return of those who do not meet the agreed criteria for refugee status, subject to satisfactory guarantees as to their treatment on return.

ASEAN and EC Ministers stressed their determination to maintain their co-ordinated response to the situation.

9. Afghanistan

Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of the indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan on 14 April 1988.

They expressed appreciation for the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his special representative, Mr. Diego Córdovez, to achieve a solution to the crisis.

The Ministers hold the view that, to permit the restoration of genuine peace, the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the unimpeded return of refugees must be accompanied by an overall political settlement of the crisis fully involving the Afghan people. In this connection, they consider participation of the resistance in a process of self-determination and in the installation of a truly representative government in Kabul to be indispensable.

10. The Middle East

The Ministers discussed developments in the Middle East and expressed their concern about the situation in the occupied territories. They referred to declarations and démarches made by the Twelve, including the declarations of 23 February, 13 July and 5 December 1987, and of 8 February 1988, and to resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations. They supported the idea of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations as the suitable framework for a political solution.

The Twelve and ASEAN continue to support the sovereignty, integrity and independence of Lebanon. The Iraq-Iran conflict is continuing to cause great human suffering and heavy material loss. It threatens the stability of the whole region. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for a speedy solution of the conflict through the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

11. Southern Africa

With regard to southern Africa, the Ministers rejected unequivocally the system of apartheid, which violates human dignity, and reiterated their call for its total abolition. They called on the Government of South Africa to initiate without further delay the national dialogue with the genuine representatives of the South African people. The prerequisites of this should include the lifting of the state of emergency, the unconditional release of all political prisoners and the lifting of the ban on all political parties. The Ministers vigorously condemned the recent political suppression of South African organizations. They urged the

South African Government most strongly to repeal the imposed measures without delay. The Ministers further condemned all aggressive and destabilizing activities on the part of South Africa against its neighbours in the region and called for the settlement of regional problems by peaceful means. The Ministers called for the independence of Namibia without further delay on the basis of the inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

12. International terrorism

International terrorism continues to affect a wide range of countries, and is a source of great concern. The Ministers reiterated their strong condemnation of all forms of international terrorism and their resolve to co-operate as closely as possible in the fight against this menace. They also underlined the importance of finding political solutions to the problems that form the roots of terrorism.

13. Narcotics

Drug trafficking and abuse constitute an increasing threat to the economic and social development of the international community. The Ministers expressed their resolve to unite their countries' forces to fight this serious international threat. They welcomed the fact that the first International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in June 1987 provided an opportunity to work out common strategies to combat the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of drugs and related criminal activities. It is now essential to implement the Conference's recommendations consistently and rapidly, in particular by implementing the recommendations in the resolution adopted by consensus at the 1988 meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by an early negotiation, signature and ratification of the new United Nations convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to EC for its assistance for the ASEAN-EC drug-related projects in the areas of drug prevention and rehabilitation.

14. International economic situation

The Ministers had an exchange of views on the recent evolution and prospects of the international economic situation. The need for developing and applying policies geared towards the intensification of growth was recognized. The correction of existing disequilibria, particularly in trade and current account imbalances, and the reduction of monetary instability were considered to be a major task in restoring a sound international economy. The necessity was also stressed of countering growing protectionist pressures, increasing financial flows to developing countries, alleviating their debt burden and thus allowing them resources for growth.

The Ministers recognized the important role that the developing countries could play in fostering world economic growth. In this context, the Ministers also recognized that the close relations developed between ASEAN and EC would benefit the world economy. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction that their

co-operation both in international forums and on a bilateral basis contributed to the encouraging improvements in the efforts towards restoring a sound international economy. The Ministers expressed the hope that the Toronto Summit of the industrialized countries will be fruitful. ASEAN Ministers urged that the interests of the developing countries, including ASEAN, be fully taken into account.

15. Uruguay Round

The Ministers welcomed the progress that had been made in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the achievement of the objectives laid down at Punta del Este. The Community and ASEAN noted with satisfaction that close contacts were established on these important negotiations and agreed that every effort should be made to maintain them in the continuing negotiations.

The Ministers noted that the Community had been the first participant in the multilateral trade negotiations that had tabled a significant offer on tropical products, a sector of particular interest to ASEAN. They reaffirmed that the negotiations shall aim at the fullest liberalization of trade in this sector.

The Ministers also noted the importance for natural resource-based products as well as textiles and clothing for ASEAN and expressed their determination to work towards the achievement of the objectives stated in the Punta del Este Declaration.

Ministers expressed satisfaction that a large number of proposals had been tabled at Geneva on agriculture, which could serve as a basis for meaningful negotiations. In order to fulfil the commitments set out in Punta del Este, the Ministers agreed that these negotiations should focus on securing a comprehensive long-term framework for agricultural reform as well as consistent short-term measures. Both sides considered that progress in this key sector is an important element in the overall success of the Uruguay Round as well as in the promotion of liberalized world agricultural trade in general.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of standstill and rollback and expressed their concern that, in spite of the ongoing negotiations, barriers continued to be introduced by certain countries. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the Community's initiative in presenting an autonomous rollback offer at Geneva. They noted that special and differential treatment for developing countries applies to these negotiations in accordance with the Punta del Este Declaration. They also noted that as the economic and trade situation of developing countries improves, the countries concerned accordingly expect to participate more fully in the framework of rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. On the new subjects, notably services, intellectual property and trade-related investment measures, they took note of the preparatory work carried out so far and expressed their hope that further work in these increasingly important areas could lead to successful results.

The Ministers welcomed the decision to hold a Trade Negotiating Committee Ministerial Meeting at Montreal in December 1988 and agreed that the meeting should be seen as an opportunity to give political impetus to the negotiations, which

shall be treated as a single undertaking without prejudice to the implementation of agreements reached at an early stage; in that connection, the ASEAN Ministers expressed the hope that an early result on tropical products could be achieved by the time of the mid-term review.

16. Commodities

The Ministers expressed concern over the instability in commodity prices and export earnings of the developing countries. They stressed the need for international co-operation to deal effectively with commodity problems.

To strengthen mutual co-operation, the Ministers agreed to exert concerted efforts in bilateral as well as multilateral forums, towards finding ways and means in which those ASEAN countries which are heavily dependent on the commodity sector could bring about growth, diversification and expansion of commodity trade. The Ministers welcomed the successful outcome of the negotiations for the renewal of the International Natural Rubber Agreement. ASEAN Ministers expressed the necessity of ratifying the Agreement so that it could enter into force by January 1989, as scheduled.

The Ministers noted the increased prospects of the Common Fund entering into force and expressed their hope that it would make a useful contribution in the commodity field. In this connection, Ministers noted that there a number of matters pertaining to the implementation of the Fund that need examination.

The ASEAN Ministers re-emphasized the importance of vegetable oils and fats products for the development of their economies and stressed the need for further expansion of their exports to the world market, including the European Economic Community (EEC).

17. EC-ASEAN economic co-operation

The Ministers noted with satisfaction the increasing scope of activities being carried out within the framework of their bilateral relations resulting from the new priorities and directions agreed at the Bangkok Ministerial Meeting on Economic Matters in October 1985 and the sixth EC-ASEAN ministerial meeting at Jakarta in October 1986.

While recognizing that the co-operation between ASEAN and EC has made progress, the Ministers believed that the present activities can be further enhanced in the years ahead, particularly with regard to co-operation in the commercial and economic fields. In improving ASEAN-EC economic and trade relations, the Ministers recognized the important role played by the private sector and agreed to encourage private-sector participation in ASEAN-EC economic co-operation.

Trade

The Ministers recognized that there was still a need for more intensified efforts to improve market access and eliminate trade barriers.

The ASEAN Ministers acknowledged the role of the Community's generalized system of preferences (GSP) in contributing to the expansion of their exports, in particular in manufactured goods which constitute 50 per cent of ASEAN total exports to EC. The EC Ministers agreed to examine the possibility of improving the EC's GSP scheme further.

ASEAN Ministers reiterated that ASEAN attaches great importance to the maintenance and expansion of market opportunities in EEC for tropical timber.

Investment and industrial co-operation

The Ministers noted that ASEAN represents an important, rapidly expanding region of special interest to the European investors. The Ministers noted that financial organizations in some member States of the Community participate in the financing of investment projects in the region. They expressed the hope that this co-operation can be pursued in the future and will contribute to increased European investments in the ASEAN countries.

The Ministers noted the constructive work being undertaken to improve further the investment climate and welcomed the valuable work being carried out in the Joint Investment Committee set up in each of the ASEAN capitals and the appointment of a "European Investment Consultant".

In this connection, as problems still existed including those concerning the protection of intellectual property rights, the Ministers expressed their wish to continue efforts to find the most appropriate ways to overcome those problems.

They also noted the steps taken to establish a "Partner Research Network" to facilitate business co-operation and joint ventures, the improvement of information on investment opportunities in the ASEAN region and initiatives aimed at promoting increased European investment. On the occasion of the successful third Meeting of the EC-ASEAN Business Council at Brussels in October 1987, representatives of the private sector in the two regions welcomed the positive contribution of these activities.

The Ministers stressed the importance they attach to the promotion of EC-ASEAN industrial co-operation and agreed that it should continue to be accorded high priority in EC-ASEAN co-operation. They welcomed the recently initiated survey to identify industrial sectors, product groups and potential partner companies suitable for establishing ASEAN industrial joint ventures.

They expressed the hope that co-operation in this field would be further intensified and will contribute to increased European investment in the ASEAN region.

18. Development co-operation

The ASEAN Ministers expressed their continuing appreciation for the important contributions, both bilaterally and regionally, of the Community and its member States in the field of development co-operation. It was noted that EC and its

member States are the second most important source of bilateral development assistance to ASEAN countries.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the wide range of activities carried out in the field of human resources development, particularly those which bring about exchanges and contacts between ASEAN and EC officials and businessmen. They underlined the particular importance of training for future co-operation. In this context, they welcomed the creation of a data bank on training opportunities in the Community. They highlighted the value of sharing knowledge and experiences between the two regional groupings in the course of implementation of human resources development science and technology as well as energy co-operation projects. In this connection, the ASEAN Ministers expressed appreciation for the Community's assistance towards the establishment of the ASEAN-EC Energy Management Training and Research Centre.

The Ministers agreed in principle that an ASEAN-EC Management Centre be established in ASEAN. They were of the view that the Centre would effectively enhance the Community's long-term presence in the region. The Ministers requested the ASEAN-EC Joint Co-operation Committee to consider the operational details on the establishment of such a Centre and took note of ASEAN's intention to locate it in Brunei Darussalam.

The ASEAN Ministers expressed appreciation for the contribution provided by the Community towards the ASEAN Tourism Development Programme.
