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the provisional agenda*

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EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND
DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST
TRAFFIC IN DRUGS

Letter dated 4 August 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text containing excerpts from the Joint Communiqué of the twenty-first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4 and 5 July 1988 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 23, 30, 37, 40, 42, 48, 64, 66, 72, 82, 83, 102 and 103 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) JAYA Abdul Latif
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Excerpts from the Joint Communiqué of the twenty-first ASEAN
Ministerial Meeting, held at Bangkok, on 4 and 5 July 1988

Situation in Kampuchea

7. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the situation in Kampuchea and expressed their deep concern over the continued illegal occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnamese military forces. They reaffirmed their conviction that Viet Nam's military occupation of Kampuchea is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, of the right of the Kampuchean people to self-determination, and of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. At the same time, the invasion and continued occupation of Kampuchea by Viet Nam, already in its tenth year, poses a grave threat to the peace and stability of South-East Asia, thus endangering international peace and security.
8. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their call for a durable and comprehensive political settlement in Kampuchea, which will lead to the total withdrawal of all foreign forces, the restoration of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and self-determination of the Kampuchean people under international supervision and the achievement of national reconciliation in Kampuchea. The Foreign Ministers also called upon Viet Nam to accept an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea.
9. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the validity of the Joint Appeal for Kampuchean Independence, issued by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 21 September 1983.
10. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their support for the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) under the Presidency of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. They also recognized that the preponderant role of Prince Sihanouk in the settlement of the Kampuchean problem would promote the various interests of all parties concerned, and thus saw the need for all parties to render all possible support for Prince Sihanouk's efforts to seek a political solution. The Foreign Ministers noted the steady progress made by the Kampuchean nationalist resistance forces and welcomed their determination to continue their just struggle against the Vietnamese occupation of their homeland.
11. The Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern for the plight of the Kampuchean people under Vietnamese occupation, and thus called upon the international community not to forget the Kampuchean people's struggle for independence. They reaffirmed their belief that an independent Kampuchea is not attainable without the withdrawal of foreign troops, and thus reiterated their call for Viet Nam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea. They thus called upon the international community to continue to deny Viet Nam any assistance of such nature as to sustain and enhance the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.
12. The Foreign Ministers recorded their appreciation to the international community for its continued support for the CGDK. They viewed the increase in the

already overwhelming support for resolution 42/3 on the situation in Kampuchea adopted at the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, as a clear expression of the international community's continued opposition to Viet Nam's occupation of Kampuchea and its support for the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination.

13. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to the President of the International Conference on Kampuchea, His Excellency Leopold Gratz, for his dedication and efforts towards finding a solution to the Kampuchean problem. Recognizing the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference, the Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to its Chairman, His Excellency Massamba Sarré of Senegal, and the members of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference. They also welcomed the presence of Ambassador Sarré at the twenty-first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

14. The Foreign Ministers recorded their gratitude to the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, for his efforts to find a comprehensive political settlement to the Kampuchean problem in accordance with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions. They also expressed their thanks to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia, His Excellency Rafeuddin Ahmed, and welcomed his presence at this twenty-first ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

Jakarta Informal Meeting

15. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the diplomatic efforts of ASEAN to bring about a comprehensive and durable political settlement to the Kampuchean problem. They reaffirmed their commitment to continue efforts in seeking such a solution in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the situation in Kampuchea. The Foreign Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to Professor Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the former Foreign Minister of Indonesia, for his untiring efforts as ASEAN's interlocutor with Viet Nam, laying the ground work for the Jakarta Informal Meeting. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their resolve to hold the Jakarta Informal Meeting. In this connection, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia will proceed with his efforts.

16. The Foreign Ministers commended the courageous initiatives of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, which resulted in two meetings between the Prince and Mr. Hun Sen. They noted, however, that no breakthrough was achieved and also concurred with the Prince's view that future meetings with Hun Sen were useless, thus making the Jakarta Informal Meeting a viable avenue to resort to in finding a comprehensive political solution of the Kampuchea problem. In this connection, the Foreign Ministers called upon the Kampuchea factions and Viet Nam to support, participate and endeavour in making the projected Jakarta Informal Meeting a success. In this context, the Foreign Ministers also called upon the international community to lend its support.

Indochinese refugees

17. The Foreign Ministers referred to their Joint Statement on Indochinese Refugees, issued on 4 July 1988, and reiterated their serious concern over the continued exodus of Indochinese refugees, displaced persons and illegal immigrants into the ASEAN region. They noted with particular concern the enormous increase in the outflow of Vietnamese boat people over the past year. They stressed that the continuation of the refugee problem would create severe difficulties for the ASEAN countries and affect stability in the region.

18. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the urgency of solving the problem at its source. They called upon Viet Nam to discourage the illegal outflow of its people and urged Viet Nam to co-operate with the international community to ensure the successful operation of the Orderly Departure Programme. They also urged the Government of Viet Nam to accept the repatriation of its people.

19. The Foreign Ministers also urged the Government of Laos to expedite the return of those who have not passed the UNHCR-monitored screening process and to accept the voluntary return of its people in safety and with dignity.

20. The Foreign Ministers expressed continuing concern over the plight of Kampuchean displaced persons uprooted by the Vietnamese military occupation of Kampuchea. They reiterated that a just and comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean problem would enable the Kampuchean displaced persons along the Thai-Kampuchean border to return to their homeland in safety in accordance with their inalienable rights.

21. The Foreign Ministers renewed their appeal to the international community to continue to render assistance towards relieving the plight of Indochinese refugees and displaced persons. They expressed their concern over new restrictive resettlement criteria that have resulted in the build-up of long-staying refugee populations in the region, and called upon the international community to fulfil its resettlement commitments.

22. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to the United Nations Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria, for their role in helping to alleviate the plight of Indochinese refugees and displaced persons. They also commended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his ongoing efforts to resolve the problem.

23. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that the ASEAN countries will continue to deal with the refugee situation in accordance with the humanitarian, social and cultural traditions of the ASEAN countries. They stressed that the application of these principles will have also to take into account the national security and other interests of the ASEAN countries. They called for greater mobilization of efforts and resources on the part of the international community to deal with the problem on the basis of international burden-sharing. The Foreign Ministers were of the view that 13 years after the end of the Viet Nam war, the root causes of the refugee problem in South-East Asia still have not been effectively dealt with and, thus, more innovative and effective strategies will have to be developed to deal

with the continuing refugee problem. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers reiterated their call for the convening of an international conference on Indochinese refugees under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

Drugs

34. The Foreign Ministers commended the ASEAN senior officials on drugs for their continued progress in regional collaboration to eradicate drug abuse. They called for continued efforts at both bilateral and multilateral levels to deal with the drug menace, including through expanded co-operation in the areas of prevention, suppression, interdiction and rehabilitation.

35. The Foreign Ministers affirmed that the ASEAN countries will co-operate actively with all interested parties in the international war against drugs. They noted the successful outcome of the first United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, at which His Excellency the Prime Minister of Malaysia was elected Chairman. The Foreign Ministers called for the expeditious and sustained implementation by the international community of the recommendations of the Conference.

36. The Foreign Ministers noted with concern that illicit production of narcotics continued to be a problem in the South-East Asian region, leading to increased trafficking of illicit drugs through some ASEAN countries and thus posing a threat to all ASEAN societies. In this connection, the Foreign Ministers called upon countries in the region to comment on their co-operative efforts to eliminate the illicit production of narcotics.

International economic issues

47. In reviewing the international economic environment, the Foreign Ministers noted that the global economic situation is still characterized by imbalances, rising protectionism, foreign debt problems, volatility in the exchange rates, unfair trade practices, subsidized programmes, instability in the prices of commodities, and agricultural products. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers stressed the need for closer and concrete co-operation between the developed and developing countries in achieving a sound international economy.

48. The Foreign Ministers noted the progress in the Uruguay Round and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards attainment of the objectives laid down at Punta del Este. They also expressed the conviction that an open international trading system is fundamental for the sustained economic growth of all countries. The Foreign Ministers called upon all participants in the negotiations to make concerted efforts to overcome international trade problems through trade liberalization and the strengthening of the multilateral trade system. They also stressed that the commitment to the principles of standstill and rollback must be strictly adhered to.

49. The Foreign Ministers noted that world trade in agriculture has been adversely distorted by massive and excessive farm supports and subsidies, especially among major industrialized countries. They emphasized that the problem needed to be

tackled at its root, particularly by phasing out all distorting measures on agricultural trade at the earliest. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their belief that progress in this sector is an important element to the overall success of the Uruguay Round, as well as to the promotion of world recommendations that could be a basis for solutions to the global agricultural trade problem.

50. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance that ASEAN attaches to the negotiations on tropical products and to its desire to achieve early results in the negotiations. They called upon all parties concerned to adopt a more positive attitude in the negotiations on tropical products and to take into account the interests of developing countries.

51. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the convening of the Mid-Term Review Conference of the Uruguay Round at ministerial level, to be held at Montreal in December 1988. They expressed the hope that this Review Conference would generate the necessary political impetus to make the negotiations successful, as well as stimulate progress towards the achievement of the negotiation objectives. They called for early agreements on agriculture, dispute settlement, tariff and non-tariff measures, safeguards, and functioning of the GATT system. The Ministers reiterated that tropical products should be accorded fast track status as contained in the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration.

52. The Foreign Ministers reiterated that the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries should be applied to all aspects of the Uruguay Round.

53. The Foreign Ministers expressed concern over the instability of commodity prices and export earnings of the developing countries. They also expressed concern over the activities undertaken by certain groups in the major industrialized countries against the various commodities, particularly on tropical vegetable oils and tropical timber. The Ministers called upon the Governments of the countries concerned to take steps to end such activities that have the effect of restricting the exports of ASEAN's commodities. They agreed that concerted international efforts should be exerted towards finding ways and means to bring about growth, diversification and expansion of international commodity trade. The Ministers also called upon all parties concerned to ratify the International Natural Rubber Agreement of 1987 before 1 January 1989, so that it could enter into force as scheduled.

54. The Foreign Ministers noted that satisfactory progress had been made in the ratification process of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities and were confident that the Agreement will enter into force soon.

55. The Foreign Ministers expressed concern over the problems of the international exchange rate realignment and the foreign debt burden of developing countries. They called for co-ordinated efforts by major industrialized countries among their respective currencies. The Foreign Ministers also stressed that a lasting solution to the debt problem could not be realized unless the industrialized countries provide crucial support by eliminating protectionism, increasing financial assistance on concessional terms and adopting sound fiscal and monetary policies.

56. The Foreign Ministers noted that ASEAN had presented an ASEAN memorandum to the Toronto Summit, outlining its positions on major international economic issues. They welcomed the desire by the Summit to achieve successful negotiations on the Mid-Term Review. They were also satisfied that the Toronto Summit supported the efforts to adopt a framework approach, including short- and long-term goals to reduce all direct and indirect subsidies and other measures affecting agricultural trade.

57. The Foreign Ministers reiterated ASEAN's commitment to intensify joint efforts to deal with international economic issues. They also reaffirmed ASEAN's determination to promote close economic co-operation among developing countries in order to accelerate and strengthen South-South co-operation.

Disarmament

58. The Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern over the continuing world-wide escalation of the arms race, which affects the peace and security of all nations. They were of the view that the effectiveness of all efforts to achieve genuine disarmament requires sincere co-operation among all States, especially the two super-Powers, and believed that the progress in this field could enhance the goal of disarmament in favour of development. They noted with satisfaction the ratification of the INF Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union as a significant step in arms control and confidence building. They also welcomed the renewed flexibility demonstrated by both super-Powers towards achieving a new arms agreement on the reduction of strategic missile arsenals by 50 per cent.

59. The Foreign Ministers expressed their deep regret that the recently concluded fifteenth special session of the General Assembly, the third special session devoted to disarmament, failed to adopt a final document.

West Asia

60. The Foreign Ministers viewed with concern the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict. They reiterated their full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over their occupied territories. The Foreign Ministers called for renewed efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement by negotiations. Towards this end, they expressed support for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations. The uprising in the occupied territory underlined the need for the achievement of the settlement.

61. The Foreign Ministers renewed their appeal for an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict, and called for its just and honourable solution.

Afghanistan

62. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the signing of the Geneva Accords, which was a major step towards a peaceful political settlement of Afghanistan, taking into account the right to self-determination of the Afghan people and the establishment of a sovereign, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. The Foreign Ministers strongly urged all parties concerned to observe strictly and to implement the Accords in good faith, so as to achieve the common objectives and to create favourable conditions that would be conducive to the safe return of all Afghan refugees to their homeland.

63. The Foreign Ministers also expressed appreciation for the constructive role played by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his special representative, Mr. Diego Cordovez, in bringing about the Accords.

64. In this connection, the Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that the Accords would signify a positive precedent for resolving other regional conflicts.
