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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

Letter dated 24 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, at the opening session of the Working Group of the Jakarta Informal Meeting in Jakarta on 17 October 1988 and the press statement issued on 20 October 1988 by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have these texts circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement by Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, at the opening session of the Working Group of the Jakarta Informal Meeting, and and press statement

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates:

Let me first bid all of you a cordial welcome to Jakarta and to the inauguration of this first session of the Working Group of the Jakarta Informal Meeting. The convening of the Working Group and your presence here today give me particular satisfaction as they manifest our common resolve to pursue in all earnestness the process of dialogue we have initiated in Bogor three months ago in the search of a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the Kampuchean problem.

The terms of reference as well as the agenda of the Working Group meeting you are about to start have already been clearly stipulated in the agreed decision on follow-up of the Jakarta Informal Meeting, i.e., to examine specific aspects of a political solution to the Kampuchean problem and to make recommendations on the convening of another meeting. The way in which to proceed in fulfilling this mandate also becomes evident upon reference to the statement of the Chairman of the Jakarta Informal Meeting of 28 July 1988, as agreed by consensus.

As you may recall, that statement, apart from describing the purposes and proceedings of the Jakarta Informal Meeting, did contain three substantive paragraphs reflecting the consensus view of all participants on certain aspects of a political solution.

Paragraph 4 of the statement indicates the manner in which to solve the Kampuchean problem, namely, through political means and thus not by force of arms or through military means.

Paragraph 5 reflects the ultimate objective in order to ensure that such a solution be comprehensive and durable i.e., the establishment of an independent, sovereign, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea on the basis of self-determination and national reconciliation.

And paragraph 6 of the statement provides for a framework within which to approach the solution of the problem as well as some of its broad elements, which will now have to be further discussed and elaborated upon by this Working Group in order eventually to arrive at an overall package or plan for a settlement that will indeed be comprehensive, durable and just, while taking into account the legitimate interests of all concerned.

Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, it is my sincere hope that with its agenda and method of work so clearly delineated, this Working Group may be able to go about its task with despatch and in a business-like manner. This being a working group meeting, there should really be no need for lengthy reiterations or

general statements on basic positions. Rather, the Working Group should hopefully settle down quickly and, in the same constructive spirit as has marked the Bogor meeting, address its main task of identifying areas of common ground on the detailed and specific aspects of a solution, or conversely, define in more concrete fashion those issues on which there are still divergences of view requiring further consideration. By the end of this meeting, the group is also expected to make concrete recommendations on the convening of another meeting, at the ministerial level, preferably in December 1980 or January 1989 at the latest, so as to sustain the momentum of our joint efforts. The results and findings of the Working Group could then be set down in an agreed report to all participants of the Jakarta Informal Meeting for dissemination to the press and information media.

Being a subsidiary body of the Jakarta Informal Meeting, the proceedings within this Working Group are, of course, based on the same understanding and modalities as were applicable to the Jakarta Informal Meeting, being derived from the organizational structure and approach of the Ho Chi Minh City Understanding. Thus, arrangements have been made for meetings of this plenary as well as for separate meetings among the Kampuchean factions as and when required.

Distinguished Delegates, we are, of course, also aware that in addition to the efforts that we have jointly exerted through the Jakarta Informal Meeting, there are other efforts and processes under way towards the settlement of the Kampuchean problem. We welcome those efforts, as we have never claimed or maintained that the Jakarta Informal Meeting is the only valid approach towards negotiations and settlement of the problem. But we do, I think, agree among ourselves that for any initiatives, for any of these parallel efforts to be successful, substantive preparations are needed, and this is precisely what the Jakarta Informal Meeting has tried to do. We believe sincerely that to the extent that the Jakarta Informal Meeting process succeeded in defining areas of common ground towards a solution, to that extent all efforts and initiatives towards the solution of the problem in a comprehensive, just and durable way will be successful. We also, I think, are agreed that through the Jakarta Informal Meeting, we the South-East Asian nations have tried to show the outside world that we are indeed able to begin solving our problems amongst ourselves in our own way, in accordance with our own traditions and cultural values. A weighty but, I think, also lofty responsibility, therefore, it rests on all of us to give evidence of the viability and efficacy of the efforts that we have initiated through the Jakarta Informal Meeting. Hence, the work that you are about to start in this Working Group will, to a large extent, define the concrete contributions towards the success of our common efforts.

I therefore take great pleasure in inaugurating this meeting of the Working Group and I extend to all of you my very best wishes for success in your deliberations.

I thank you very much for your attention.

Press statement issued at Jakarta on 22 October 1988

1. Pursuant to the decision of the Jakarta Informal Meeting on Kampuchea at Bogor, a Working Group of senior officials of participants to the Jakarta Informal Meeting met in Jakarta on 17-20 October 1988.
2. The Working Group discussed the points contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the Chairman's Statement of the Jakarta Informal Meeting, with particular emphasis on the two key issues which are interlinked, being the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, to be carried out within the context of an overall political solution and the prevention of the return of the genocidal policies and practices of the Pol Pot régime, and to ensure the cessation of all foreign interference and external arms supplies to the opposing Kampuchean forces. They also saw the need to set definite timetables and to provide an effective international presence to supervise these processes.
3. The Working Group will continue its work at its next meeting to examine elements of a political solution of the Kampuchean problem.
4. The Working Group recommends the holding of a Second Jakarta Informal Meeting during the third week of January 1989 in Jakarta. The second meeting of the Working Group could convene on 12-14 December 1988.
