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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KAMPUCHEA

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON KAMPUCHEA ON ITS ACTIVITIES DURING 1983-1984

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea was established on 17 July 1981 by resolution 1 (I) 1/ of the International Conference on Kampuchea. By that resolution, the Conference entrusted the Ad Hoc Committee with the following tasks:

(a) To assist the Conference in seeking a comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean question, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/6 of 22 October 1980;

(b) To act as an advisory body to the Secretary-General between sessions of the Conference;

(c) To undertake missions, where appropriate, in consultation with the Secretary-General and taking into account his recommendations, in pursuit of a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Kampuchea;

(d) To advise the President of the Conference, after consultation with the Secretary-General, as to when the Conference should be reconvened.

The same resolution also requested the Committee to submit reports to the Conference.

2. By resolution 36/5 of 21 October 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1 (I) of the International Conference on Kampuchea. By resolutions 37/6 of 28 October 1982 and 38/3 of 27 October 1983, the Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work, pending the reconvening of the Conference, and authorized it to convene when necessary to carry out the tasks entrusted to it in its mandate.

I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

3. The Ad Hoc Committee held its first formal meeting on 28 October 1981. This organizational meeting was opened by Mr. Willibald Pahr (Austria), President of the International Conference on Kampuchea. Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal) was then elected Chairman of the Committee by acclamation.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 January 1982, the representatives of Belgium and Malaysia were unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively. The members of the bureau were re-elected to their posts in 1983 and 1984.

5. The Ad Hoc Committee was originally composed of seven members. In 1982, it was enlarged to 10 members, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Conference resolution 1 (I), which provides for the inclusion of additional members in the Committee. As a result, the Ad Hoc Committee is at present composed of the following Member States:

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Belgium
Japan
Malaysia
Nepal
Nigeria

Peru
Senegal
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand

A representative of the President of the Conference also participates in the meetings of the Committee.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

6. After appropriate consultations with a number of Governments, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its annual programme of work at its 15th meeting, on 21 February 1984. It decided, in pursuit of the mandate entrusted to it by Conference resolution 1 (I), to undertake two missions of consultation during 1984.

A. Mission to Lagos, Dakar and Belgrade

7. A mission of the Ad Hoc Committee visited Lagos, Dakar and Belgrade from 17 to 24 April 1984. The mission consisted of the following members: Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee; Miss Edmonde Dever (Belgium), Vice-Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee; Mr. Zain Azraai (Malaysia), Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee; and Mrs. Yadab K. Silwal (Nepal).

8. At Lagos, the mission was received by Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Minister for External Affairs. It held consultations with Mr. G. Dove-Edwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. M. Saidu, Director of the International Organizations Department, and Mr. D. Ousmane, Director of the Asian Department.

9. At Dakar, the mission paid a call on Mr. Mustapha Niassé, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. It also held consultations with Mr. A. Cissé, Directeur de Cabinet of the Minister of State, Mr. B. Diop, Ambassador in charge of Special Assignments, and Mr. N. Dao, Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

10. The mission also met with Mr. Hing Un, Ambassador of Democratic Kampuchea to Senegal, at his request.

11. At Belgrade, the mission met with Mr. Lazar Mojsov, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and with Mr. Momcilo Vucekovic, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs. It also held consultations with Mr. Alexander Bosovic, Head of the Division of International Organizations Affairs.

12. At the 17th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, on 7 May 1984, the Chairman reported on the talks held in the three capitals mentioned above.

B. Mission to Wellington, Canberra, Bangkok and Jakarta

13. A mission of the Ad Hoc Committee visited Wellington, Canberra, Bangkok and

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Jakarta from 2 to 12 July 1984. The mission was composed of the following members: Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee; Miss Edmonde Dever (Belgium), Vice-Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee; Mr. Zain Azraai (Malaysia), Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee; and Mr. Omer Y. Birido (Sudan).

14. At Wellington, the mission was received by Mr. David Thomson, Minister for Defence. It also held consultations with Mr. Tim Francis, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

15. At Canberra, the mission called on Mr. William G. Hayden, Minister for Foreign Affairs. It also held discussions with Mr. D. G. Nutter, Acting Deputy Secretary and Head of the South-East Asia and Pacific Division.

16. At Bangkok, the mission held consultations with Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The mission was also received by Major-General P. Kullavanijaya, Commanding General of the First Army Division, and by Mr. P. Chakkaphak, Director-General of the Department of Central Intelligence.

17. The mission also met with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Personal Representative of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and Mr. Abdul Gaffar Peang-Meth, member of the Executive Committee for External Affairs of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), at their request.

18. At Jakarta, the mission held a meeting with the foreign ministers of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Prince Mohamed Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, Mr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja of Indonesia, Tan Sri Muhammad Ghazali Shafie of Malaysia, Mr. Arturo Tolentino of the Philippines, Mr. Supiah Dhanabalan of Singapore, and Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila of Thailand. The ministers were accompanied by a number of senior officials.

19. Following its visit to Jakarta, the mission proceeded to Brussels to report to the President of the International Conference on Kampuchea.

20. At the 19th meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, on 17 September 1984, the Chairman reported on the consultations held by the mission during its visits to Wellington, Canberra, Bangkok and Jakarta.

21. The Ad Hoc Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the Governments of Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand and Yugoslavia for their hospitality and for the assistance and co-operation they so generously extended to the missions. The Committee also wishes to express its appreciation to the foreign ministers of the ASEAN countries for receiving the mission.

III. ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

22. Mr. Pahr, the President of the International Conference on Kampuchea, received the mission in Brussels, on 17 July 1984.

23. Subsequently, the President of the Conference undertook a visit to Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore, from 2 to 9 September 1984. During that visit, Mr. Pahr had consultations with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen of Malaysia, President Suharto and Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja of Indonesia, Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun and Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila of Thailand and Foreign Minister Supiah Dhanabalan of Singapore. At Bangkok, the President of the Conference also met with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Personal Representative of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and Mr. Abdul Gaffar Peang-Meth, member of the Executive Committee for External Affairs of KPRLF, at their request.

24. At its 19th meeting, on 17 September 1984, the Ad Hoc Committee heard a statement by the representative of the President of the Conference on the latter's recent visit to South-East Asia, which it welcomed as an important development.

25. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the present report on its activities during 1983/84.

IV. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

26. During their visits, the missions held extensive consultations with the Governments concerned on the situation in Kampuchea and on the prospects for a comprehensive political settlement, in the light of developments since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 38/3. The missions pointed out that the purpose of the consultations was to reiterate the continuing concern of the international community and to obtain the widest possible support for the efforts towards a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in Kampuchea.

27. As in previous years, the missions stated that one of the main objectives of the action undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee was to contribute to the initiation of a process of negotiations leading to the implementation of the Declaration on Kampuchea 2/ adopted by the International Conference and of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. The missions stressed that a just and lasting settlement of the Kampuchean problem must be based on two basic principles: the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea and the right of the Kampuchean people to determine their own destiny. Such a settlement should also take into account the legitimate security concerns of the States in the region, including a commitment by all States to non-interference and non-intervention in the internal affairs of Kampuchea.

28. The representatives of the Governments concerned reiterated their firm support for the principles and objectives laid down in the Declaration on Kampuchea and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. They expressed their appreciation for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and encouraged it to continue its efforts towards the implementation of its mandate. The missions discussed with the Governments concerned the recent diplomatic exchanges regarding the Kampuchean problem. It was noted that those exchanges had not produced decisive progress towards a solution and that further efforts were required to bring about a constructive dialogue between the parties concerned.

29. At Lagos, Dakar and Belgrade, the representatives of the Governments concerned stated that the framework defined by the Conference constituted a good basis for a

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negotiated settlement which would restore peace and stability, while safeguarding the legitimate interests of all parties concerned. They expressed their appreciation for the role played by the ASEAN countries in the search for a political solution and confirmed that they would continue to support ASEAN endeavours in that regard. They indicated to the mission that they would also continue to take up the question of Kampuchea in their bilateral and multilateral exchanges, so as to maintain international awareness of the need for a settlement.

30. At Wellington, the representatives of the New Zealand Government reiterated their concern about the continuing conflict in Kampuchea and its implications for peace and security in the region. They pointed out that New Zealand had consistently supported the Declaration on Kampuchea, as well as the initiatives of the ASEAN countries and stated that they felt confident that it would continue to do so in the future. They welcomed the United Nations involvement in the search for a political solution and considered that it should also be associated with the implementation of the comprehensive settlement that would ultimately have to be worked out.

31. At Canberra, the mission was briefed on the contacts established by the Australian Government with the countries of the region, with a view to encouraging a dialogue and facilitating movement towards a peaceful settlement of the Kampuchean issue. In that context, the outcome of the visit to Canberra in March 1984 of Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, was discussed. An exchange of views on the Vientiane communiqué of 2 July 1984 (A/39/337-S/16655), was also held. The Australian authorities assured the mission that the position of Australia would continue to be consistent with the fundamental principles of the Declaration on Kampuchea and the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

32. At Bangkok, the mission held consultations with the Thai authorities on the recent political and military developments in Kampuchea and along the Thai-Kampuchean border. In that connection, the mission was briefed on the military attacks by foreign troops on Kampuchean civilian encampments along the Thai-Kampuchean border during the last dry season. It was pointed out that those attacks had led a large number of displaced Kampuchean civilians to seek temporary refuge inside Thailand. The Thai authorities stressed that those developments served only to increase tension in the region and to undermine the efforts towards a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

33. At Jakarta, the mission exchanged views with the ASEAN foreign ministers on the results of their seventeenth Ministerial Meeting. They also discussed the Joint Statement on the Kampuchean Problem (A/39/352-S/16672) and the Joint Communiqué of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, issued on 9 and 10 July 1984 respectively. The mission was also briefed on the talks held during the visit of the Vietnamese Foreign Minister to Jakarta earlier in 1984. The ASEAN foreign ministers expressed the view that the participation of all Kampuchean factions in the process of national reconciliation advocated by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, was an essential element for the establishment of lasting peace and stability in Kampuchea and the region. They called on all concerned to support the concept of national reconciliation and reaffirmed their readiness to discuss a comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

34. At Brussels, the mission reported to Mr. Pahr, the President of the Conference, on the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee and on the talks held during the visits to Lagos, Dakar, Belgrade, Wellington, Canberra, Bangkok and Jakarta. The President made suggestions with a view to increasing international awareness of the need for an urgent settlement of the Kampuchean problem and for the preservation of the cultural identity and heritage of the Khmer people. He also indicated that he would continue to seek contacts with all parties concerned and to urge them to join in the search for a comprehensive political settlement, taking into account the interests of all States in the region. In that context, Mr. Pahr informed the mission of the invitations extended to him by a number of interested countries and it was agreed that, taking into account time constraints, he would visit some of those countries at the beginning of September 1984.

35. During his visit to Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore, Mr. Pahr discussed with the Governments concerned the consideration of the question of Kampuchea by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session. He also discussed, inter alia, possible actions to be undertaken within the framework of the International Conference on Kampuchea and the desirability of initiating efforts to save the temple complex of Angkor from further decay and destruction.

36. The Ad Hoc Committee wishes to reiterate its appeal to those Member States that did not participate in the International Conference to co-operate in any suitable way with the efforts to achieve the goals of the Declaration on Kampuchea and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. It also appeals to all parties concerned to consider steps to overcome the obstacles which have, so far, stood in the way of a truly constructive dialogue. It is the Committee's hope that, to facilitate this process, all parties concerned will refrain from taking any action that would complicate further the situation in Kampuchea and jeopardize the chances of a fair and peaceful solution of the problem.

37. The Ad Hoc Committee is determined to continue its consultations and to consider other appropriate actions, with a view to gaining further understanding and support for the principles and objectives set out by the Conference and the General Assembly. It will also seek, through these endeavours, to encourage the initiation of a process of negotiations on the substantive aspects of the problem. The Committee is, indeed, convinced that the long-term interests of all parties to the conflict lie in a negotiated settlement leading to the establishment of an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea, thereby creating the conditions for the lasting peace and stability to which the peoples of the region have aspired for so long.

Notes

1/ Report of the International Conference on Kampuchea, New York, 13-17 July 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.20), annex II.

2/ Ibid., annex I.
