

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1985/37  
30 January 1985

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Forty-first session  
4 February-15 March 1985  
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO  
PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Letter dated 22 January 1985, addressed to the  
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights by  
the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the  
United Nations Office at Geneva

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information the following document:

"Communiqué of the Tenth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam" held on 17 and 18 January 1985 at Ho Chi Minh City.

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as an official document of the forty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9.

(signed) NGUYEN THUONG  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Communique of the Tenth Conference of the Ministers for  
Foreign Affairs of Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam

(17-18 January 1985)

The Tenth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was held at Ho Chi Minh City on 17 and 18 January 1985.

1. The Conference agreed unanimously that 1984 marked a new development for the forces of peace, national independence and social progress in their fierce struggle against imperialism, colonialism and international reactionary forces. In South-East Asia, important changes have come about which favour the struggle being waged by the Lao, Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples for the defence and development of their respective countries.

Strengthened by the firm and effective support of the Soviet Union, the socialist community, the non-aligned countries and other friendly countries, Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam continue to advance resolutely. The remarkable achievements made by the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the economic, military, political and diplomatic spheres confirm the fact that the situation in Kampuchea is irreversible, and all the plots of the imperialist, expansionist and reactionary forces during the past six years to put the criminal clique of Pol Pot back in power in Kampuchea have ended in complete failure. It is an undeniable fact that 7 million Kampucheans, united under the leadership of the Party and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and inspired by the force of their miraculous rebirth, are the true masters of their fate. The so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea is merely the evil shadow of the Pol Pot criminal clique in exile in sanctuaries located on Thai territory, supported and incited by foreigners to oppose their own country. More than ever before, we are witnessing a trend in favour of the elimination of Pol Pot and his clique in order to defend the right of self-determination of the Kampuchean people. In actual fact, the Chinese ruling circles and the reactionaries within the Thai ruling circles are the only ones deliberately maintaining the Pol Pot criminal clique so as to stem the rebirth of the Kampuchean people and serve their own selfish interests.

2. The Conference reviewed the diplomatic activities carried out during the past year by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to crystallize their foreign policy of peace, friendship and co-operation among the three countries. The Conference is pleased to note that the just stand and the good will of the three Indo-Chinese countries in the cause of peace and national independence in South-East Asia and the world are receiving the growing consideration and increasingly solid support of the peoples of the world.

The Conference highly appreciates the various diplomatic activities of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, especially the visits made by its Minister for Foreign Affairs to several African countries and the many contacts he has made in Sweden and France. It considers that the results of the meetings throughout last year between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and their counterparts from several countries in South-East Asia were worth

while. These meetings indicate that despite certain disagreements, most of the countries of this region are becoming increasingly aware that a dialogue based on the principle of equality and mutual respect for the legitimate interests of each party is necessary in order to develop bilateral relations of friendship and co-operation and create conditions favourable to the settlement of disagreements in the region without foreign interference.

The Conference notes that several countries of ASEAN are of the opinion that the Kampuchean question is not a problem between the ASEAN States and those of Indo-China. This sound view helps to promote bilateral relations between the countries of Indo-China and the other nations of South-East Asia and to eliminate artificial obstacles to the establishment of a zone of peace and stability in South-East Asia. The Conference views favourably the intention of a number of countries in the region to develop bilateral relations with Viet Nam and Laos. It considers the visit of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces of Indonesia, General L.B. Murdani, to Viet Nam in early 1984, the seminars organized between Indonesian and Vietnamese researchers, and the possible visit of Indonesian leaders to Viet Nam, as efforts beneficial not only to bilateral relations of friendship and co-operation between Viet Nam and Indonesia but also to the consolidation of peace in Asia and solidarity among the non-aligned countries. The Conference welcomes any effort by a country of South-East Asia or anywhere in the world that is inspired by the sincere desire to help to settle disagreements between the countries of Indo-China and other countries inside or outside the region. The Conference approves the proposal put forward by Malaysia to make South-East Asia a demuclearized zone and to implement the concept of ZOPFAN (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality) pending a solution to the "Kampuchean problem". The three countries of Indo-China declare themselves willing to co-operate with the other countries of South-East Asia towards making this important initiative a reality.

3. The Conference condemns the intrigues carried out during the last six years by the ruling circles of Beijing in collusion with the American imperialists and the reactionaries among the Thai authorities with a view to weakening the Indo-Chinese countries by a multifaceted war of sabotage, provoking conflicts among the countries of South-East Asia, and undermining peace and stability in this region. Today as in the past, while they are firmly resolved to struggle for the defence of their respective countries, the three Indo-Chinese countries still attach great value to their long-standing friendship with the Chinese people and wish to re-establish this friendship without delay. Relations of friendship and co-operation between Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam on the one hand and the People's Republic of China on the other will be an extremely important factor for peace and stability in South-East Asia. What is essential is that the two parties should give proof of good will. In this spirit, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea fully support the efforts by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to restore peace in the border regions between China and Viet Nam and to resume negotiations towards normalizing their relations.

4. The current tension in the border regions between Thailand on the one hand, and Laos and Kampuchea on the other, derives from the expansionist Thai policy which the reactionary ruling circles of Thailand have always pursued with regard to the countries of Indo-China. Such a situation is against the interests of these countries as well as those of the other countries of South-East Asia and is advantageous only to the outside forces of hegemony which are seeking to provoke conflicts among the countries of the region. The three Indo-Chinese countries affirm once more their good will and declare themselves willing to do everything in their power to entertain relations of good-neighbourliness with Thailand, to turn the Kampuchean-Thai and Lao-Thai borders into frontiers of peace and friendship, and to settle all problems arising from their relations with Thailand by way of negotiations. In this spirit, the Conference estimates highly the

determination of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to defend its sovereignty over the region of the three Lao villages in Sayabouri Province which are illegally occupied by Thailand. The People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam express their total support for the just stand and the good will of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and resolutely demand that Thailand should immediately withdraw its troops, hand over the Lao population taken by force into Thailand, and pay compensation for the losses caused by their troops to the Lao population, so as to normalize relations between the two countries.

The Conference views favourably all efforts to establish a zone of peace and security on both sides of the Kampuchean-Thai border and to end the use of the "refugee camps" as bases for military operations by the reactionaries in their activities against the Kampuchean people. The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam give their full support to the initiatives of the People's Republic of Kampuchea concerning emergency measures to be taken in order to ensure peace and security in the border areas with Thailand and concerning the repatriation of the Kampuchean refugees in Thailand on the basis of principles agreed upon by the two parties.

5. The Conference reviewed the relations of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea with the United States following the American war of aggression, and states explicitly that the present lack of normal relations with the United States is a result of the hostile policy carried out by successive American administrations against the countries of Indo-China. However, the Indo-Chinese countries are constant in their advocacy of a future oriented outlook. The normalization of these relations is in the interests of all parties concerned and those of peace and stability in South-East Asia. The United States should make its contribution to lasting peace and stability in South-East Asia. The Conference welcomes the extension of contacts between different strata of the population and political circles in the United States and the three Indo-Chinese countries. It stresses the usefulness of the recent visits by delegations of American Congressmen to Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam, which are strengthening mutual understanding and helping to promote the settling of questions of interest both to the United States and to each of the three countries of Indo-China.

6. Inspired by their ardent desire to see peace and stability established in the region as soon as possible, the three Indo-Chinese countries once more state that they are prepared to open negotiations with the interested parties in order to reach as soon as possible a solution encompassing: the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Kampuchea together with the liquidation of the Pol Pot criminal clique; respect for the right of the Kampuchean people to self-determination, above all its right to reconstruct a life free of the threat of genocide; the organization of free general elections by the Kampuchean people in the presence of foreign observers; the establishment of a South-East Asia of peace and stability where countries with different social regimes co-exist and allow no one to use their respective national territories against other countries; respect for the national rights of the States of South-East Asia by foreign countries; and the establishment of some form of international guarantee and supervision of the implementation of the agreements.

The three Indo-Chinese countries recall their proposal to convene an international conference to discuss all questions concerning peace and stability in South-East Asia, to be attended by all the countries of the region and those outside the region which are directly concerned or which have already contributed to peace and stability in this region.

The three countries of Indo-China consider that what would be most desirable would be a negotiated solution. At the same time, they reaffirm their determination to continue their struggle for the defence and reconstruction of their respective countries. With regard to the People's Republic of Kampuchea in particular, side by side with its resurgence and consolidation, partial withdrawals of Vietnamese army volunteers have taken place over the last three years, and this will also happen during the current year and in the years to come. In these circumstances, the Conference is firmly convinced that over a space of five to ten years the so-called Kampuchean Problem will have solved itself even in the absence of a negotiated solution.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam highly appreciate the policy of national union of the People's Republic of Kampuchea as expressed in the Declaration dated 18 September 1982 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Hun Sen and in the resolution adopted in August 1984 by the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. This policy of national union is warmly welcomed by a wide range of public opinion.

The three countries of Indo-China have spared no effort in the cause of peace in South-East Asia and throughout the world. With this in mind, the Conference greatly appreciates and fully supports the valuable peace initiatives of the socialist community, in particular the position of the Soviet Union during the present Soviet-American talks with a view to halting the nuclear arms race, reducing international tension and consolidating peace and security among nations. It attaches great importance to the 40th anniversary of the victory over Fascism which the peoples of the world will be commemorating with great joy. For the three peoples of Indo-China, the year 1985 is also that of several major celebrations, the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Revolution in the three countries and the 10th anniversary of their victory in the war of aggression by American imperialism. These important events bear living witness to the bonds that unite the destiny of the three peoples of Indo-China with those of the other nations of the world. The history of the last 40 years demonstrates that in spite of the many difficulties and obstacles still outstanding, nothing can bar the way of the peoples of the world, including those of Indo-China, in attaining their lofty goals of peace, independence, friendship and co-operation.

18 January 1985