



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1990/64  
13 February 1990

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-sixth session  
Agenda item 9

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

Note by the Secretariat

The Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office at Geneva, by letters dated 19 and 30 January 1990, requested the circulation of three documents to the Commission on Human Rights on agenda item 9. Two of them have already been circulated to the General Assembly as documents A/44/596 and A/44/699, and are available.

The third document is attached to the present note.

MAJOR NEW POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN 1989 TOWARDS THE  
SETTLEMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN ISSUE

As the trend towards settling the Cambodian conflict by political means continues, further positive developments took place in 1989 in the search for a political solution to the issue.

The following is a summary, in chronological order, of the major events which reflect such new and positive developments:

February 1989: The Second Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM2) with the participation of the two opposing Cambodian forces and the two groups of States in South-East Asia furthered the result of the First Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM1 - July 1988) by reaching consensus conclusions on the two interlinked key issues of a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem, namely the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and the prevention of the return of the genocidal Pol Pot régime in Cambodia; the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops to be linked with the cessation of all foreign interference and external arms supplies to all the Cambodian parties and with preventing the Pol Pot clique from pursuing their civil war and re-establishing their genocidal régime.

5 April 1989: Cambodia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, with the concurrence of the Lao Democratic People's Republic, issued a joint declaration announcing that remaining Vietnamese volunteer troops would be completely withdrawn from Cambodia by the end of September 1989.

20 July 1989: The National Assembly of Cambodia declared its permanent neutrality.

31 July to 31 August 1989: The International Conference on Cambodia was convened in Paris with the participation of all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council together with other most directly interested countries, under the co-presidency of France and Indonesia. In spite of some differences related mainly to a power-sharing arrangement including the Khmer Rouge, the Conference identified important areas of agreement, laying foundations for the early attainment of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. The Conference reached agreement on the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, the non-return to power of the genocidal régime in Cambodia, the cessation of foreign military aid to the Cambodian parties, the respect of the independence, sovereignty, neutrality, and non-alignment of Cambodia, the implementation of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination through free, equitable and democratic general elections, the international guarantee of agreements to be signed and the setting up of an international control mechanism for the implementation of the agreements.

At the Conference, the delegation of Viet Nam affirmed its commitment to an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue that could bring about lasting peace and stability to Cambodia and South-East Asia as a whole. However, in view of the complexity of the Cambodian question, it held that while a comprehensive settlement could not yet be achieved in the immediate future, the countries and parties involved should sit together to tackle first what could more readily be tackled, and thus proceed eventually towards a comprehensive solution. It believed this to be the most realistic and constructive approach.

21 to 26 September 1989: Strictly abiding by its commitment made in its declaration of 5 April, Viet Nam completed the withdrawal of its last troops from Cambodia under the witness of over 100 observers from 20 countries, 6 international organizations and over 400 foreign journalists and correspondents, most of whom were Americans, Japanese and Western Europeans.

As of 27 September 1989, there no longer remains a single member of the Vietnamese armed forces (be they a soldier, a military adviser or any other military personnel) in Cambodia in whatever form.

23 September 1989: The Prime Minister of Thailand put forward an initiative that calls for a cease-fire between the Cambodian parties and the convening of another informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta. This initiative enjoyed approval by many countries, including Cambodia and Viet Nam.

On the same day, in their joint statement, the Soviet Foreign Minister and the United States Secretary of State declared their readiness to announce, together with other States, a moratorium on military assistance to all Cambodian parties as part of a comprehensive settlement.

24 November 1989: The Australian Foreign Minister put forward a proposal concerning the United Nations role in settling the Cambodian issue, according to which the administration of Cambodia in the interim period prior to the holding of general elections would be undertaken by the United Nations and the Cambodian seat at the United Nations would be left vacant.

10 December 1989: The Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the State of Cambodia, Mr. Hun Sen, responded positively to the proposal of the Australian Foreign Minister, and said that this proposal, and the Namibia formula sponsored by the United Nations, could be combined to form the basis for discussing the Cambodian issue. This was the first time that Cambodia had indicated acceptance of the full role of the United Nations.

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