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QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 25 January 1985 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of an interview by the Vietnam News Agency with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on the result of the Tenth Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam held in Ho Chi Minh City on 17 and 18 January 1985 (see A/40/91).

I should be grateful if Your Excellency could have this note and its enclosure circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia", "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States" and "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States".

(Signed) HOANG BICH SON
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Interview of 19 January 1985 by the Vietnam News Agency with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on the result of the Tenth Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Laos, Kampuchea and Viet Nam held in Ho Chi Minh City on 17 and 18 January 1985

Question 1 : Could you please, comrade Minister, evaluate the past 10 conferences of the Foreign Ministers of the three-Indochinese countries?

Answer : The past ten conferences have been landmarks in the six-year hard struggle of the three Indochinese peoples against the Chinese hegemonists and the Thai reactionaries, for their national rights and peace, especially the Kampuchean people's right to live in peace without the threat from the genocidal polpotists.

The ten conferences have demonstrated the three Indochinese countries' consistent stand, namely withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer army from Kampuchea paired with the exclusion of the Polpotists, respect for the national rights of the countries in Southeast Asia, and peaceful coexistence among the Southeast Asian countries. At the same time, they have shown that the three Indochinese countries stand for a peaceful settlement of all disputes among nations. However, China and Thailand hope that the Vietnamese troops would pull out of Kampuchea so that they could bring the Polpotists back to Kampuchea to sabotage the Kampuchean people's revival. They are opposed to negotiations and have invariably resorted to confrontation in the hope of carrying out their scheme.

The tenth conference is a concentrated expression of the triumph of the just struggle of the Kampuchean, Lao and Vietnamese peoples over the schemes of the hegemonists and expansionists and also of the triumph of the stand for negotiation over the policy of confrontation.

Question 2 : What is your comment on the fact that many Asean countries view the Kampuchean question as not one between Asean and Indochina ?

Answer : China has pitted the Asean countries against the Indochinese countries on the Kampuchean question. It has undermined the relations between these countries and the efforts to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace in execution of its divide-and-rule policy. That the Asean countries have declared that the Kampuchean question is not one between Asean and Indochina

is a failure of China. It opens the door to the development of relations among Southeast Asian countries and the making of Southeast Asia a region of peace, and will create favourable conditions for a quicker withdrawal of Vietnamese army volunteers from Kampuchea.

Question 3 : What is new in the three Indochinese countries' proposal for a political solution as mentioned in point six of the Communique ?

Answer : This proposal is a new reflection of the stand of the three Indochinese countries and of the legitimate interests of all parties concerned.

Question 4 : What is new in the new proposal of the three Indochinese countries for an international conference compared with the previous proposals ?

Answer : In their previous proposals, the three Indochinese countries suggested that in addition to the southeast asian countries, such an international conference should include the six big powers which had participated in the restoration of peace in Indochina in 1954, in Laos in 1961-1962 and in Viet Nam in 1973. This time, they proposed that the participation of countries outside the region should include not only those six countries but also other countries which have contributed to peace in Southeast Asia, such as Sweden, Australia, etc. We hope that as many countries as possible would contribute to peace in Southeast Asia.

Question 5 : Is it true that Indonesia has lately adopted a stance different from Thailand's vis-a-vis the solution of problems in Southeast Asia.

Answer : Indonesia is a big country which adopts a long-term view. Over the past 40 years, it has advocated independence, peace and solidarity of Asian and African countries, against imperialism and colonialism. This year will see the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the historic event, the Bandung Conference, held in Indonesia in 1955. During the Vietnamese people's fight against the U.S. imperialists' aggression, Indonesia was the only Asean country which supported Vietnam. It did not take part in U.S. war as Thailand did. In his statement, General Murdani, Commander-in-chief of the Indonesian armed forces, considered China a long-term threat toward Southeast Asian countries. That statement demonstrated the unswerving stance Indonesia has adopted since the Chinese-backed abortive coup attempt in Indonesia in 1965. The interests of Indonesia and the other Southeast Asian countries require that they unite and cooperate with one another to cope with the danger of Chinese hegemonism and expansionism. That came in a recent statement by General Murdani.

Question 6 : How did the conference assess the prospects of the situation in the coming years ?

Answer : Faced with the hostile policy of the Chinese hegemonists and expansionists and their henchmen, the struggle of the three Indochinese

countries to build and defend their countries still has to go through many difficulties and complications. However, never in the past six years have we had as good prospects as now. The growth of the three Indochinese countries, especially the stable development of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, has brought about two possibilities : either we shall continue to strive for a political solution as proposed by the three countries, or there will be no political solution. Meanwhile, together with the growth of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, in the coming years the major part of the Vietnamese army volunteers will pull out of Kampuchea, and the so-called "Kampuchean problem" will be resolved by itself.
