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THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 24 July 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to  
the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the joint statement of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the Cambodian problem, issued in Jakarta on 23 July 1990.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI  
Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires  
Deputy Permanent Representative

\* A/45/150.

ANNEX

Joint statement of ASEAN Foreign Ministers on the Cambodian  
problem, issued in Jakarta on 23 July 1990

1. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern that the global trend towards peace has bypassed Cambodia, despite many attempts to forge a settlement. The Foreign Ministers expressed their regret that the parties to the conflict have failed to bring an end to the suffering of their people and destruction of their country. All parties involved have hardened their positions and retreated from previous areas of agreement. Military conflict has intensified. They believed that the time has come for all parties to the conflict to respond positively to the various peace efforts being pursued and seriously negotiate a comprehensive political settlement.

2. They reiterated their condemnation of all responsible for the policies and practices of the period 1975-1978 which led to the extermination of Cambodians on a large scale. They are firmly of the view that there should not be a return to the situation of 1975-1978. They stressed that no Cambodian group should be allowed to seize or retain power through force of arms.

3. They reiterated their conviction that the conflict can only be settled through peaceful negotiations and rejected the pursuit of military gains at the expense of the interests of the Cambodian people. The Foreign Ministers are of the view that there is a pressing need for a cease-fire as a crucial element of a comprehensive political settlement.

4. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers fully supported an enhanced role for the United Nations in Cambodia. They stressed that there are several possible avenues towards a comprehensive political settlement. There could be a United Nations interim administration for Cambodia, pending elections. There could be a Supreme National Council representing all shades of political opinion that could administer Cambodia in the interim period through existing administrative structures in conjunction with the United Nations. These avenues are acceptable if they allow the Cambodian people to make a choice through credible, free and fair elections under United Nations supervision.

5. The Foreign Ministers are convinced that the Cambodian factions should come to an urgent agreement on the creation of the Supreme National Council as a vehicle towards achieving national reconciliation and a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem. They shared the view that the Supreme National Council should consist of representative individuals with authority among the Cambodian people of all shades of political opinion. They expressed the view that the representation of Cambodia at the United Nations is a delicate political question and that attempts to change the representation of Cambodia at this time, in the absence of an acceptable Supreme National Council, would set back the search for a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem. They are of the collection view that the Supreme National Council should occupy the Cambodian seat at the United Nations after it is formed. The Foreign Ministers expressed the hope

that the Supreme National Council as envisaged in this joint statement would be constituted by the time the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly is convened.

6. The Foreign Ministers are convinced that in working towards the goal of an early comprehensive political settlement to the Cambodian problem His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk will continue to play a key role.

7. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers encouraged the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to continue and intensify their efforts. ASEAN will continue to co-ordinate its efforts with the five permanent members and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. They expressed the hope that the two Co-Chairmen would be able to reconvene the Paris International Conference on Cambodia as soon as feasible. The Cambodian people have waited too long for a just and durable peace settlement. They deserve it now.

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