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UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/322
16 June 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
Item 34 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Note verbale dated 11 June 1981 from the Permanent Mission of
Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's note dated 1 June 1981, has the honour to communicate to him the following position of the Czechoslovak Government.

At the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic voted against resolution 35/6. It deplores that the United Nations, contrary to its Charter, continues to be misused for interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State - the People's Republic of Kampuchea. Not only are the lawful representatives of that State denied the right to represent their country in the United Nations but now even the attempt is made, with reference to Assembly resolution 35/6, to hinder that country in resolving the relations with its neighbours in the region through peaceful negotiations by imposing on the international community the so-called international conference on Kampuchea. The current convening of the so-called international conference is even in contravention of resolution 35/6, which in itself constitutes an interference in the affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, since the resolution is explicitly based on the premise of the participation of "all parties to the conflict". The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam stated from the outset that it would not participate.

The countries of South-East Asia are fully entitled to solving questions of their relations without external interference, in the spirit of mutual understanding and without imposing the will of one party on another. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic welcomed therefore the proposal by the Foreign Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to convene a regional international conference to elaborate respective agreements between the member countries of ASEAN and the countries of Indo-China. It notes with satisfaction that a useful exchange of views has already occurred between the Foreign Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

* A/36/50.

Peace and understanding among the countries of South-East Asia are not hindered by the agreed presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea, which is assisted by these troops in its defence against Chinese hegemonism that is readying itself for expansion in South-East Asia, threatening, in particular, the countries of Indo-China, and hampering the normalization of the situation in Kampuchea by supporting the Pol Pot gangs.

The Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic wishes furthermore to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the fact that, following Pol Pot's genocidal reign of terror, Kampuchea once again is a consolidated country whose people in free elections expressed their support for the People's Revolutionary Council and elected a National Assembly as their legislative representation.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is therefore determined not to participate in the so-called international conference on Kampuchea, which can have no other result than increased tension in the region of South-East Asia and a threat to peace and mutual understanding among States in other parts of the world as well.

The Permanent Mission of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will appreciate it if the Secretary-General would have the text of this note circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 34 of the preliminary list.
