



General Assembly Security Council

UN LIBRARY

SEP 20 1982

UN/SA COLLECTION

Distr.
GENERAL

A/37/466
S/15414
21 September 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thirty-seventh session

Items 20 and 35 of the provisional agenda*

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION

IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SECURITY COUNCIL

Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 20 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the five member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit herewith an information paper on the recent visits made to some ASEAN countries by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

I would be grateful if this note and its enclosure could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 20 and 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. L. Birabhongse KASEMSRI
Permanent Representative

* A/37/150.

ANNEX

Information paper on the recent visits made to some ASEAN countries
by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam

In July, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach made a series of visits to some ASEAN countries. He was cordially received and it was hoped that progress could be made on the Kampuchean problem.

2. Foreign Minister Thach put forward a number of proposals. After careful study, the ASEAN countries have had to conclude that the proposals and the views expressed by Foreign Minister Thach do not reflect any significant substantive change in the Vietnamese position on Kampuchea.

Partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops

3. During a visit to one of the ASEAN countries, Foreign Minister Thach claimed that an initial withdrawal of some Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea had already been completed. There are, however, reports of newsmen and independent observers suggesting that what took place was a routine rotation of disengaged units. Evidence of large conscription drives in Viet Nam and reports that fresh Vietnamese troops have entered Kampuchea since the end of April, 1982 seem to cast doubt on Foreign Minister Thach's claim.

4. Even though UN resolutions have called for the immediate and total withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea, a partial troop withdrawal by Viet Nam would have been welcomed as a move in the right direction if it had been linked to an assurance that all Vietnamese troops would eventually be withdrawn from Kampuchea in accordance with the Declaration of the International Conference on Kampuchea.

Proposed international conference on South-east Asia

5. Mr. Thach proposed that an international conference be convened to deal with matters relating to South-east Asia. He did not specify what issues would be discussed at this conference. The ASEAN countries consider that the most pressing and urgent question in South-east Asia is the situation in Kampuchea, and any international conference on South-east Asia should focus on this question. However, Viet Nam has repeatedly stated that the Kampuchean question is an internal affair of the Heng Samrin regime.

6. It is important to note that Viet Nam refused to join the UN International Conference on Kampuchea which met for the first time in July, 1981 in New York and was attended by over 90 countries. That Conference expressed the hope that Viet Nam and all countries concerned would eventually

participate in future sessions of the Conference so that a peaceful and durable solution to the Kampuchean problem can be achieved.

Proposed demilitarized zone on the Thai-Kampuchean border

7. Foreign Minister Thach revived a long-standing Vietnamese proposal that a demilitarized or safety zone be established on the Thai-Kampuchean border. According to Mr. Thach "reactionary" Kampuchean forces and refugee camps are to be removed from such a zone, which would be patrolled by Thai armed forces on one side and armed forces of the Heng Samrin regime on the other.

8. The ASEAN countries are of the view that this proposal if implemented would be an imposition on Thailand which is not a party to the conflict in Kampuchea. The fighting in Kampuchea is being waged between Vietnamese armed forces and Kampuchean resistance forces. The cause of the continued armed conflict in Kampuchea is the presence of Vietnamese occupation troops and not the presence of refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border. On the contrary, the Kampuchean refugees are the tragic consequence of the on-going conflict in Kampuchea and constitute a burden on Thailand and the international community.

The ASEAN position

9. The central concern of the ASEAN countries is that the principles of the UN Charter must be upheld. Viet Nam has violated the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in that it has violated the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kampuchea. The Vietnamese proposals have:

- evaded the central issue of total withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea;
- ignored the basic question of the right to self-determination of the Kampuchean people;
- rejected the UN framework for negotiated solution of the Kampuchean problem.

Therefore, the Vietnamese proposals appear to be designed primarily to detract from the central issue, namely, the continued military occupation of Kampuchea by Viet Nam, and to obfuscate efforts to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution to the Kampuchean problem.

10. In contrast, the UN International Conference on Kampuchea offered a balanced and practical framework for such a solution. It may be recalled that the Conference urged that

negotiations be held on these essential elements:

- An agreement on cease-fire by all parties to the conflict in Kampuchea and withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea in the shortest time possible under the supervision and verification of a United Nations peace-keeping force/observer group;
- Appropriate arrangements to ensure that armed Kampuchean factions will not be able to prevent or disrupt the holding of free elections, or intimidate or coerce the population in the electoral process; such arrangements should also ensure that they will respect the result of the free elections;
- Appropriate measures for the maintenance of law and order in Kampuchea and the holding of free elections, following the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country and before the establishment of a new government resulting from those elections;
- The holding of free elections under United Nations supervision, which will allow the Kampuchean people to exercise their right to self-determination and elect a government of their own choice; all Kampucheans will have the right to participate in the elections;
- A non-aligned and neutral Kampuchea that would not pose a threat to or be used against the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States, especially those sharing a common border with it.

The ASEAN countries reiterate their appeal to Viet Nam and other countries concerned to join in this negotiating process to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Kampuchea.
