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CO-OPERATION
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 1 August 1990 from the Permanent Representative
of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the delegations of Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Joint Communiqué of the Twenty-third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, which was recently held at Jakarta on 24 and 25 July 1990 (see annex).

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 23, 29, 32, 34, 35, 46, 54, 58, 82 and 110 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) RAZALI Ismail
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint communiqué of the Twenty-third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, held at Jakarta, on 24 and 25 July 1990

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-third Ministerial Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held at Jakarta on 24 and 25 July 1990. The meeting was formally opened by His Excellency President Soeharto of the Republic of Indonesia.
2. The meeting was attended by: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussaleam; His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Dato' Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; His Excellency Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines; His Excellency Mr. Wong Kan Seng, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Community Development of Singapore; His Excellency Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and their respective delegations.
3. His Excellency Mr. Rusli Noor, Secretary-General for the ASEAN secretariat and his staff also attended the meeting.
4. His Excellency Mr. Michael Somare, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Papua New Guinea, attended the open session as observer.
5. His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia chaired the Meeting. His Excellency Dato' Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, was elected Vice Chairman.

OPENING ADDRESS

6. In his opening address, His Excellency President Soeharto of the Republic of Indonesia stated, inter alia, that the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was being held in the midst of profound global change and transition. It was also a time of challenge as well as of new opportunity within the ongoing process of détente and conciliation between the major Powers and their respective alliances. The President stressed that the political and economic transformations that continued to unfold in Europe would have far-reaching ramifications for future relations among States not confined to the continent alone. The President emphasized that ASEAN, in facing these global changes, needed to maintain a commensurate capacity for dynamic adaptation and to preserve at all times a clear and unified sense of purpose. It was therefore pertinent that the present meeting was not only a routine event, but a time for ASEAN to seize the opportunity to assess particularly and comprehensively its position, interest and objectives within a regional and global context.

REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

7. The Foreign Ministers noted that the world had changed dramatically in the intervening 12 months between the 22nd and 23rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. Europe had undergone a radical transformation with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and the democratization of the East European countries. German unification portended a whole new European architecture. East-West relations had improved beyond the level of détente, as aid for East European economies, including the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was being actively considered by the West. The relationship between the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was undergoing rapid changes. The USSR had redirected its attention towards domestic problems. Plagued by persistent trade and budget deficits, the United States of America was reassessing its global presence and calling upon its allies to share the financial burden of their defense.

8. The Foreign Ministers felt that it was imperative for ASEAN, in taking cognizance of the above developments, to adopt a more flexible and forward-looking approach to prepare itself for the challenges of the 1990s and, in particular, to strengthen itself and intensify intra-ASEAN co-operation.

9. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers recommend that, pursuant to the decision of the Heads of State or Government at the Manila Summit in 1987 and in view of the rapid changes presently taking place in the world, it would be desirable to prepare for the next summit. They noted that careful preparation would have to be made to ensure a successful summit.

10. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the ASEAN secretariat should develop a capability to conduct annually an exercise to produce an ASEAN Macroeconomic Outlook (AMO) for the consideration of ASEAN ministers at their meetings. They requested the Secretary-General of the ASEAN secretariat to pursue the immediate implementation of the AMO project.

CAMBODIA

11. The Foreign Ministers reviewed and assessed the latest developments on the Cambodian question and the continuing efforts to find a comprehensive, just and durable solution. They reaffirmed that such a solution could only be achieved by thoroughly preparing the resumption of the negotiating process of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and not by military means. However, they noted with regret that the conflicting parties themselves so far have not sufficiently shown the necessary political will for a negotiated settlement.

12. The inability of the conflicting parties to seize the opportunity provided by the Informal Meeting on Cambodia at Jakarta, on 26 February to 1 March 1990, was one of the latest proofs of how inherently intricate the Cambodian question has been, and with the unsuccessful conclusion of the Informal Meeting on Cambodia, the momentum of the efforts to seek a negotiated settlement has suffered a drawback. However, they were of the view that the Informal Meeting on Cambodia, which was meant to revive the interrupted negotiating process of the Paris International

Conference on Cambodia did achieve considerable progress in formulating a set of principles that would have enabled the conflicting parties to move forward in their efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and durable solution.

13. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the efforts of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. In addition, they appreciated the efforts aimed at reviving the negotiating process by Thailand and Japan that led to the Tokyo meeting on 4 and 5 June 1990. They have also followed with appreciation the continuing efforts by Australia.

14. The Foreign Ministers expressed their concern that, if the present deteriorating situation is allowed to continue, the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian question could become more difficult to achieve. They stressed that any future efforts to revive the negotiating process should take into account the results of the ongoing regional approaches and consultations among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and should lead to the early convening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

15. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers urged all Cambodian parties to intensify their efforts to reach an agreement on the creation of the supreme national council, consisting of representative individuals with authority among the Cambodian people representing all shades of political opinion. They were of the view that such a supreme national council should be the embodiment of the independence, sovereignty and unity of Cambodia and should occupy Cambodia's seat at the United Nations after it is formed. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that such a supreme national council would be constituted by the time the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly is convened. 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.

16. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to the international community for its continued support to the National Government of Cambodia in the United Nations and other international forums. The Foreign Ministers also acknowledged the contribution made by all concerned countries in the sustained efforts in seeking a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem. They hoped that the international community would continue to co-operate with ASEAN in the common efforts to seek a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the Cambodian problem.

17. They recorded their gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, for his efforts in finding a comprehensive, just and durable settlement of the Cambodian problem. They also expressed their thanks to His Excellency Mr. Rafaeuddin Ahmed, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in South-East Asia, and welcomed his presence at the Twenty-third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

18. The Foreign Ministers noted with appreciation the continuing efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee of the International Conference on Kampuchea towards a comprehensive political settlement.

INDOCHINESE ASYLUM SEEKERS

19. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the latest situation of the Indochinese asylum seekers in the ASEAN countries concerned. They expressed their concern over the unabated flow of these peoples. This continuing influx has imposed tremendous cost and created severe socio-economic, political and security problems for the countries of temporary refuge. It has also developed into a cause of tension not only between the countries of temporary refuge and countries of origin but also, between the countries of temporary refuge and third countries.

20. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that their commitment to the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted at the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees, held at Geneva in June 1989, is subject to a durable solution of the boat people problem within the agreed time-frame. The humanitarian solution to this problem lies in the balanced and co-ordinated implementation of all the provisions of the Comprehensive Plan of Action.

21. The Foreign Ministers noted that the resettlement of pre-cut-off date arrivals has met the target set for the first year of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action and the expansion of the Orderly Departure Programme. In this connection, they expressed appreciation to all countries concerned for their co-operation. They, however, emphasized that gains in these two areas and in the very limited voluntary repatriation have been more than offset by the unrelenting arrivals.

22. The Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern that one year after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action, the countries of temporary refuge have not experienced any amelioration of the intolerable burden they bear. Instead, they have been pressured to continue to provide temporary refuge, while fundamental elements of the Comprehensive Plan of Action have not been addressed. The Foreign Ministers emphasized that they can no longer accept Viet Nam's plea of its inability to deter clandestine departures. They can also no longer accept the continued opposition by Viet Nam and the United States to involuntary repatriation. Involuntary repatriation is provided for in the Comprehensive Plan of Action and is consistent with international practices reflecting the responsibility of States towards their own citizens.

23. The Foreign Ministers stressed that implementation of repatriation of Vietnamese boat people, whether voluntary or otherwise, must not impose further burden on the countries of temporary refuge. In this connection, they urgently called for the creation of a special international arrangement for the repatriation of all Vietnamese non-refugees, whereby the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will be responsible for all aspects of the procedural and financial undertakings for such repatriation. Towards this end, they appealed to the international community to provide necessary support to UNHCR.

24. The Foreign Ministers emphasized that the survival of the Comprehensive Plan of Action hinges on the resolution of the issue of involuntary repatriation. They urged all parties concerned with the viability of the Comprehensive Plan of Action, particularly Viet Nam and the United States, to accept its implementation in its

totality. In this connection, they noted with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in attempting to promote consensus on this issue. However, in the light of the continued deadlock, the Foreign Ministers reiterated the sovereign right of countries of temporary refuge to take whatever action they deem necessary to safeguard their own national interests.

25. The Foreign Ministers expressed their grave concern over the recent upsurge of Cambodian boat people. They requested UNHCR and other parties concerned to take the necessary measures to stop the outflow of this category of boat people and to prevent the exacerbation of the already complicated situation and heavy burdens of the first asylum countries in South-East Asia. They are of the view that measures must be taken to include the Cambodian boat people within the purview of the international efforts to solve the problem.

ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY AND THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE

26. The Foreign Ministers were of the view that concrete steps should further be taken to implement effectively the ASEAN Programme of Action adopted at the Third ASEAN Summit of 1987 concerning the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality and the South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone. The Foreign Ministers felt that ASEAN should continue and intensify the work on the draft Treaty on South-East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and promote this concept with other States for the purpose of obtaining their support.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE DECISIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

27. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the implementation of the decisions of the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government, held at Manila, December 1987. They were pleased to note that considerable progress had been made during the past year, particularly in the establishment of sectoral dialogue relations with the Republic of Korea. An important development in the strengthening of the ASEAN co-ordinating mechanism was the convening of the ASEAN Joint-Ministerial Meeting (JMM) of the Foreign and Economic Ministers. They welcomed the participation of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in the Post-Ministerial Conference, especially as more economic issues were being discussed at these meetings.

28. The Foreign Ministers approved the ASEAN Standing Committee's recommendations on the improvement of the format of the post-ministerial conferences.

ASEAN SECRETARIAT

29. The Foreign Ministers expressed great satisfaction over the initiatives taken by the ASEAN Standing Committee to strengthen the role and effectiveness of the ASEAN mechanism and structures, especially the ASEAN secretariat, and called for sustained efforts in this direction. They welcomed the assistance being rendered

by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Canada and the European Community in support of these initiatives.

30. The Foreign Ministers agreed to the establishment of the UNDP-sponsored panel of five eminent persons to study and make the necessary recommendations on strengthening and revamping the structure and mechanism of ASEAN, in particular the ASEAN secretariat.

31. The Foreign Ministers appointed Ch'ng Meng K'ng of Singapore to the new post of Deputy Secretary-General of the ASEAN secretariat for a period of three years. The Foreign Ministers felt that the new post would assist in enhancing the role of the ASEAN secretariat in line with the decision of the Third ASEAN Summit.

REVIEW OF ASEAN CO-OPERATION

32. In reviewing the progress made in ASEAN co-operation over the past year, the Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the various programmes and activities undertaken to further promote intra-ASEAN co-operation, particularly in the fields of trade, energy, commodities, social welfare, culture, labour affairs, education, youth development, science and technology and civil service matters.

33. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction that progress had been made in the finalization of Thailand's ASEAN Potash Mining Project and noted that all the six ASEAN member countries would be participating as shareholders in the project.

34. The Foreign Ministers noted that the Revised Basic Agreement on ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures (AIJV) would be amended in order to extend the deadlines of 1990 for the 60 per cent non-ASEAN equity participation in the AIJV up to the end of 1993.

35. The Foreign Ministers agreed on the establishment of the ASEAN Social Development Fund and, along with the ASEAN Science and Technology Fund, which was created earlier, were convinced that these funds would help promote greater regional co-operation in these fields.

36. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Accord on Environment and Development at the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, held at Subang, Malaysia, on 18 and 19 June 1990, which decided that a common ASEAN position on environmental matters should be formulated for presentation to the Ministerial-level Conference on the Environment for Asia and the Pacific and later to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

37. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress being made on the preparations for the Visit ASEAN Year 1992 and requested the dialogue countries to contribute to the success of the programme.

PROPOSED ASEAN TREATY OF ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

38. Cognizant of the urgent need for ASEAN to cope with the rapid and dramatic developments taking place not only in Europe but also in the region, and conscious of the challenges that these events will pose for the viability of ASEAN, the Foreign Ministers felt that it was timely to take more concrete steps towards more effective intra-ASEAN economic co-operation. In this connection, the Foreign Ministers took particular note of the proposal of the Philippines for the conclusion of an ASEAN Treaty of Economic Co-operation and directed their senior officials, in co-ordination with senior economic officials and the directors-general of the ASEAN national secretaries, to consider the setting up of a committee to study the need for a treaty or other framework for ASEAN economic co-operation for submission to the ASEAN economic ministers for its consideration.

PARTICIPATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

39. The Foreign Ministers acknowledge the growing importance of private sector participation in the dialogue process, as well as intra-ASEAN co-operation, and expressed the hope that such participation would be intensified.

40. The Foreign Ministers commended the continuing collaboration among the drug agencies and the non-governmental organizations in ASEAN in the combat against the drug problem. The Ministers also expressed their conviction that the drug problem could be dealt with more effectively through a co-ordinated multidisciplinary approach addressing simultaneously all aspects related to the drug menace in collaboration with the international community.

ASEAN-PACIFIC CO-OPERATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

41. The Foreign Ministers noted the report of the Fifth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on ASEAN-Pacific Co-operation on human resources development programme, held at Jakarta on 22 February 1990. They expressed concern over the lack of progress made to date on the implementation of the programme and called upon the dialogue partners for a more positive response to the project proposals submitted by ASEAN.

CO-OPERATION WITH DIALOGUE COUNTRIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

42. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the activities being implemented within the framework of ASEAN co-operation with dialogue countries and international organizations and noted with satisfaction the progress made in the various fields, particularly in the areas of development co-operation. The Foreign Ministers, however, expressed their disappointment on the slow progress on issues relating to improved market access for products of export interest to ASEAN.

43. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress on the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Economic Co-operation Programme (AAECP),

Phase II, and the focus given to the areas of trade and investment promotion, science and technology and agro-based projects, with special reference to human resource development. The Foreign Ministers noted the broadening of the ASEAN-Australia Forum's agenda to include co-operation in telecommunications, environment and education.

44. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress in the ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations. The Foreign Ministers also noted that the establishment of the Canada-ASEAN Centre at Singapore had resulted in improved management and co-ordination of the development co-operation programmes. The Foreign Ministers further expressed the hope that there would be greater increase in trade and investment co-operation between ASEAN and Canada. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the offer of the Canadian Government to host a special ASEAN-Canada ministerial meeting at Jasper, Canada, on 5 to 7 October 1990, and hoped that the outcome of the meeting would further enhance the ASEAN-Canada relations.

45. The Foreign Ministers noted the successful outcome of the 8th ASEAN-Economic Community Ministerial Meeting, at Kuching, Malaysia, on 16 and 17 February 1990. In taking note of the developments in the Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe, the Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that the commitment of the Economic Community (EC) to assist these countries towards free-market economies would not be at the expense of ASEAN-EC ties. On the creation of the Single European Market, the Foreign Ministers urged the EC to ensure that its implementation would not adversely affect ASEAN's interests. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that industrial co-operation should be accorded high priority in ASEAN-EC relations. The Foreign Ministers further urged the EC to provide improved market access for ASEAN exports.

46. The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction over Japan's continuing support for the cultural and development co-operation activities of ASEAN. The Ministers expressed the hope that Japan would give priority consideration to the resolution of existing trade issues between ASEAN and Japan, particularly in the area of market access for products of interest to ASEAN. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the first meeting between ASEAN and Japan trade exports at Tokyo, in September 1990, as well as the participation for the first time by the private sector in the forthcoming 12th ASEAN-Japan Forum at Tokyo.

47. The Foreign Ministers welcomed measures to be taken by the New Zealand Government in across-the-board reduction in its tariff and other liberalization programmes in the industrial sector. The Foreign Ministers requested New Zealand to continue to find practical ways to resolve problems and obstacles to facilitate the entry of ASEAN export products to the New Zealand market. The Foreign Ministers also welcomed the implementation of the projects under Inter-institutional Linkages Programme and the finalization of Trade and Investment Promotion Package projects.

48. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that the ASEAN-United States dialogue continued to serve as an important forum for co-operation in the areas of trade, investment and development. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the signing of the Project Grant Agreement on Private Investment and Trade Opportunities. The

project set new directions for ASEAN-United States co-operation, which would enhance the participation of ASEAN and United States private sectors in ASEAN-United States trade and investment. On the ASEAN-United States Initiative, the Foreign Ministers welcomed the decision of the ASEAN economic ministers and the United States trade representatives to establish a Joint Working Group on ASEAN-United States Economic Relations as a concrete effort not only to strengthen and improve the ASEAN-United States economic and trade relations but also to complement the multilateral trading system under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

49. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation for the UNDP contribution to ASEAN development co-operation. In particular, the Foreign Ministers were pleased to note the preparations being made for the 5th UNDP Cycle (1992-1996) in the development of a programmatic approach to the formulation and implementation of the ASEAN-UNDP technical co-operation.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

50. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Joint Ministerial Meeting, held at Kuching, Malaysia, on 15 February 1990, in which ASEAN reaffirmed its position on Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation, as stated at the Canberra meeting on 6 and 7 November 1989. ASEAN would continue to be guided by the basic principles stated at the Canberra meeting, which stated, *inter alia*, that Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation should continue to be a loose, exploratory and informal consultative process, that the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation process should not dilute the identity of ASEAN and that it should not be directed towards the establishment of an economic trading bloc, as this would be contrary to the support of ASEAN for the establishment of a more fair and free-multilateral trading system. In pursuing this goal, ASEAN should take a pragmatic and gradual approach.

51. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the positive results of the two meetings of APEC senior officials, held at Singapore in March and May 1990, and looked forward to the opportunity for consultations with other participants on major economic developments and issues at the forthcoming ministerial meeting at Singapore, from 29 to 31 July 1990.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

52. The Foreign Ministers noted that the global economic scene was still characterized by the escalation of trade protectionism, including new forms of protectionism, the unstable and low commodity prices, heavy debt burden and the drastic aggravation of reversed transfer of financial flows and the persistent monetary instability. The Foreign Ministers felt that it was therefore essential for the developed and developing countries to enhance their co-operation in addressing the global problems of an increasingly interdependent and integrated world economy.

53. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their strong commitment to the successful completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations by December 1990 and urged the developed countries to adopt a more forthcoming and positive attitude in the remaining period of the Uruguay Round, taking fully into consideration the areas of interest to the developing countries, particularly tropical products, agriculture, textiles and clothing, and international trading rules, including anti-dumping and countervailing measures. The Foreign Ministers reiterated that special and differential treatment for developing countries was an integral element of the negotiations and that it should be applied to all aspects of the Uruguay Round.

54. The Foreign Ministers expressed concern at the adverse effects that the anti-tropical timber and anti-vegetable oil campaigns in certain developed countries were having on ASEAN exports earnings. The Foreign Ministers noted that an ASEAN ministerial delegation would be visiting the Economic Community and other major consuming countries to counter the anti-tropical timber campaigns. The Foreign Ministers urged the developed countries to provide technical and research expertise to upgrade tropical forest management and development, so as to intensify research and development activities on tropical forests.

55. The Foreign Ministers were of the view that the efforts should be made for the Common Fund for Commodities to become operational as soon as possible, as it would give fresh impetus to international action in the area of commodities.

56. On the global debt problem, the Foreign Ministers expressed their concern over the growing financial outflows from developing countries in the form of external debt payment, which constituted one of the most debilitating deterrents to sustained growth and development. The Foreign Ministers felt that a comprehensive, durable and development-oriented solution to the debt problem, based on the principle of shared responsibility of both debtors and creditors, was imperative.

SUMMIT-LEVEL GROUP FOR SOUTH-SOUTH CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION
(GROUP OF 15)

57. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the First Meeting of the Summit-level Group for South-South Consultation and Co-operation at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 1 to 3 June 1990. The Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that this forum would further enhance co-operation through the revitalization of the North-South dialogue and the strengthening of South-South co-operation.

SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

58. With regard to the South-East Asian region, the Foreign Ministers were of the view that the security situation in the area required careful observation at all times. In that light, they agreed on the need to conduct dialogue on the subject within the context of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord, at Bali, in 1976 and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality of 1971.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT

59. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the fundamental changes in East-West relations that have significantly improved the international climate for the promotion of peace, security and co-operation among States. In this connection, they further welcomed the positive results achieved recently by the Bush-Gorbachev meeting, as well as the NATO summit meetings that, *inter alia*, agreed to ease tensions at global and regional levels with particular reference to the European region.

60. The Foreign Ministers noted that the progress made in negotiations on nuclear, chemical and conventional disarmaments has resulted from the improved relations. Further progress in this field will contribute positively to international peace and security.

61. In reiterating their belief that nuclear disarmament negotiations should involve all nations under the aegis of the United Nations, the Foreign Ministers expressed their concern that such negotiations still remain the domain of the super-Powers.

62. The Foreign Ministers noted that the Fourth Review Conference for the Nuclear Weapons Non-proliferation Treaty is scheduled to take place in August 1990. Despite its shortcomings, they expressed their confidence in the Non-proliferation Treaty as an instrument to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and as a foundation for nuclear disarmament.

63. The Foreign Ministers expressed their support for the initiative by Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Yugoslavia to convene a conference with a view to transforming the Partial Test-Ban Treaty into a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty. To achieve this objective, they called upon the nuclear-weapon States to co-operate with the non-nuclear-weapon States.

64. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the regional initiative to disseminate information on chemical weapons through seminars or workshops, as was done at Canberra, and the forthcoming one to be organized in Venezuela. These initiatives would create a better appreciation of the urgent need to conclude at the earliest possible date a universal and comprehensive chemical weapons convention.

EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

65. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the rapid and momentous development currently taking place in Eastern and Central Europe, in particular the establishment of greater political pluralism and movement towards a market economy, thus paving the way for larger trade and investment opportunities there. They looked forward to supporting the strengthening of the relations and the expansion of co-operation between the ASEAN countries and the countries of Eastern Europe in all fields of mutual benefit.

MIDDLE EAST

66. The Foreign Ministers reviewed the situation in the Middle East and expressed concern that, despite positive developments taking place on the international scene, the situation in the occupied territories continues to deteriorate. They stressed the urgency for a settlement and reaffirmed their strong support for the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution. They reiterated their full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and independence, and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over the occupied territories.

67. The Foreign Ministers deplored the creation of new settlements of Jewish immigrants in the Arab occupied territories by Israel. This unjustified act has serious consequences, including changes in the balance of the demographic composition, which would further complicate the search for a political solution to the conflict. This is also in violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, basic principles of international law, especially the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as the basic rights of the Palestinian people.

68. The Foreign Ministers expressed their regret over the suspension by the United States of its dialogue with the PLO and called for its early resumption. They expressed their conviction that such a dialogue is an essential ingredient for resolving the Middle East conflict.

LEBANON

69. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their deep concern over the continuing conflict in Lebanon. They reaffirmed their support for the full sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon. They expressed their belief that the Taif Agreement provides a suitable framework for dialogue and negotiations to preserve the integrity, independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and therefore urged all parties concerned to respect and accept the Taif Agreement.

IRAN-IRAQ

70. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq, held at Geneva on 4 July 1990, under the auspices of the United Nations.

71. The Foreign Ministers also welcomed the possibility of summit-level talks between the two States, which would contribute to the attainment of peace on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 598. They also expressed their full support for the continuing efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in bringing the differences between the two parties on the implementation of Security Council resolution 598.

72. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation for the contribution made by the United Nations Security Council, as well as the important role of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in maintaining the cease-fire and easing the tension.

AFGHANISTAN

73. The Foreign Ministers remained concerned over the prolonged conflict in Afghanistan. They urged all parties concerned to observe the Geneva Agreement on the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan and to convene an intra-Afghan dialogue with a view to setting up a broad-based government in which all segments of the Afghan people are represented. They also called for renewed efforts by all parties involved, including the United Nations Secretary-General, to help overcome the present impasse.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

74. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their condemnation of the apartheid system, which constitutes a crime against humanity, and reiterated their commitment to work for its total elimination. While welcoming the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and other anti-apartheid organizations, as well as the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela, they believed that barriers to the total dismantling of the apartheid system remain in place. They agreed that sanctions by the international community had been responsible for bringing the Pretoria régime to the negotiating table. In this regard, they also agreed that sanctions must be maintained until complete dismantling of apartheid is irreversible.

75. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the newly proclaimed independence of Namibia and its membership in the United Nations and the Commonwealth. They pledged their commitment to work towards closer co-operation with Namibia in meeting the challenges of its post-independence era.

TWENTY-FOURTH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

76. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the Twenty-fourth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting would be held at Malaysia in June 1991.

77. The delegations of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand expressed their sincere and deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm and generous hospitality and the excellent facilities and efficient arrangements made for the meeting.

78. The meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN friendship and solidarity.
