

## **Documentation**

### **Laos-Thailand Joint Communiqué**

Recalling the time-honoured neighbourly relationship between the peoples of Laos and Thailand, the two prime ministers pledged to develop this relationship by continuing to strictly observe the principles laid down in the joint communiqué of August 3, 1976:

- Respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Respect for each country's right to existence without interference and aggression from outside.
- Non-interference, either direct or indirect, in each other's internal affairs, including a rejection of sabotage against each other.
- Contradictions should be resolved by peaceful means in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, and on the basis of equality.
- The two sides shall not use force or threats of force against each other, and shall let nobody use its territory as a base to interfere in or threaten or invade the other, in any way.
- The two prime ministers pledged that each side shall not let its territory become a base for interference, threat, aggression or disturbance and sabotage from the other side, in any way.
- The two prime ministers affirmed the will of the two sides to carry out their activities to make the Mekong River, which has been the border between the two countries, really become a river of peace and friendship in their common interests.

Concerning this problem, the two prime ministers agreed that:

Each side will take effective measures to avoid armed conflicts, and to solve present problems and others which may arise by peaceful means and through negotiations on the basis of justice, equality and in their common interests, at both government and local administration levels of the two countries.

The authorities concerned, together with border authorities of the two countries, shall hold frequent meetings to exchange views and propose measures to encourage movement on the Mekong River in a safe and advantageous manner for the peoples of the two countries.

To make the Mekong River useful to the people along the two banks in keeping with the spirit of the Lao-Thai joint communiqué of March 25, 1978. In case it is necessary to cross each other's territorial waters in the service of river traffic, with inoffensive instruments, the two sides shall make necessary concessions and consider the preservation of friendship as paramount.

The two prime ministers expressed their joy at the fact that since the founding of the new social system in Laos, Laos and Thailand have frequently exchanged visits by delegations at different levels, thereby contributing to encouraging closer relations between the two countries.

In addition, the governments of the two countries signed various agreements: an air service agreement, an agreement on restoring the provisional Mekong committee, a trade agreement and an agreement on transport of goods in transit. All this helped build and develop good relations and mutually advantageous cooperation between the governments and peoples of the two countries and constitute a factor for peace, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

The two prime ministers stressed the importance of the active application of the signed agreements and the constant development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries in the future.

With the desire to continue the traditional trade along the border without interruption, the two sides agreed that the provisions in the Note of May 18, 1978 remain valid one more year until December 31, 1979, or until a new decision will be taken by high-ranking delegations of the two sides to quickly negotiate this matter, including the study of other concrete provisions concerning the kinds of goods and currency and the quantity of goods to be exchanged each year, on monetary accounting and other stipulations with a view to fully implementing the trade agreement of June 1, 1978.

His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand proposed another programme for cooperation with the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Premier of the LPDR agreed in principle with this proposal, and a concrete exchange of opinions will be held later.

– The two sides decided on the charges for electricity from the Namngeum hydro-electric power station in conformity with the present situation. This will come into effect immediately.

– His Excellency the Premier of the LPDR thanked the government of the Kingdom of Thailand for sending goods to help the Lao people overcome the consequences of recent natural calamities.

– The two premiers agreed to encourage scientific and technical cooperation, and cultural, medical, sports and tourist exchanges between the two countries.

– His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand invited His Excellency the Premier of the LDPR to pay an official visit to Thailand. His Excellency Premier Kaysone Phomvihane accepted the invitation with pleasure. The time for the visit will be fixed later.

**Burma-Thailand Joint Statement**

On the occasion of the State Visit to Thailand of His Excellency U Ne Win, President and Chairman of the Council of State of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, on 4–6 March 1979, talks were held between His Excellency the President and His Excellency General Kriangsak Chomanan, Prime Minister of Thailand, on international, regional as well as bilateral matters of mutual interest and concern.

The two sides held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the general international situation with particular emphasis on developments within the region.

Both sides expressed concern at the continuing armed conflicts in the region and the danger that these conflicts could escalate. They expressed support for attempts by international organizations and interested parties to seek peaceful solution to the conflicts.

In this connection, the Thai side stressed that the Thai Government would maintain a policy of strict neutrality and non-involvement in the conflicts. The Burmese side welcomed this policy.

On bilateral matters, the two sides reviewed cooperative efforts between their two countries since the visit of the Thai Prime Minister to Burma in May 1978.

The two sides agreed that cooperation should be further intensified and expanded. To this end, the two governments would explore the possibilities of greater cooperation in the following areas:

- expansion of trade and commerce between the two countries;
- further cooperation along the common border to prevent and suppress the production of narcotic drugs;
- exploration of measures for cooperation on customs and immigration;
- exploration of ways to suppress smuggling between the two countries;
- follow-up discussions on the subject of fisheries;
- cooperation on science and technology;
- close cooperation in dealing with border issues in the spirit of good-neighbourliness and traditional friendship between the two countries.

The two sides were highly satisfied with the atmosphere of trust and understanding that has been created between their two countries and agreed to continue to consult closely on all matters that would help to consolidate the friendly relations between Burma and Thailand.