

*ASEAN Chairman's Statement on Conflict in Indochina*

The following is the statement of the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee:

The ASEAN countries are gravely concerned over the rapid deterioration of the situation in this region since the ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Bangkok on 12 and 13 January 1979. The conflicts and tension in and around this region have gradually escalated into the use of arms and the expansion of trouble-plagued areas. The ASEAN countries reiterate their firm commitment to the principles of peaceful coexistence, the U.N. Charter and international law. The ASEAN countries urgently appeal to the conflicting countries to stop all hostile activities against each other, and call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the areas of conflict in Indochina to avoid the deterioration of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The ASEAN countries also appeal to the countries outside this region to exert utmost restraint and to refrain from any action which might lead to the escalation of violence and the spreading of conflict.

Source: Bangkok Home Service, 1300 gmt, 21 Feb. 1979; SWB FE/6050/A3/1, 23 Feb. 1979.