

## DOCUMENTATION

### *Extracts from the Joint Communiqué of the Twentieth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Singapore, 15–16 June 1987*

#### *Third ASEAN Summit*

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress of the preparations for the Third ASEAN Summit to be held in Manila from 14–16 December 1987. They took note of the Report of the Chairman of the High Level Steering Committee (HLSC) on the progress of the Summit preparations. They agreed that efforts should be intensified to ensure that the Summit will provide new impetus towards qualitative improvements in intra-ASEAN economic cooperation, the strengthening of the ASEAN machinery, the intensification of ASEAN cooperation at all levels, and the enhancement of ASEAN's international economic relations, particularly with its Dialogue Partners.

The Foreign Ministers noted that new initiatives for the strengthening of ASEAN economic and functional co-operation, external relations and the ASEAN machinery have been proposed and that the relevant Issues Committees of the HLSC are actively examining these proposals. They also agreed that concrete measures should be devised to channel the energies of the youth towards the strengthening of the political commitment to ASEAN of future generations.

The Foreign Ministers were pleased to note that the Summit has generated widespread interest not only among ASEAN Governments but also in the private sector, research institutions and academic circles. In particular, the Group of Fourteen of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the research institutions in member countries have organised a series of seminars and conferences aimed at identifying and recommending new initiatives for consideration at the Summit. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation for the keen interest shown by the private sector in pursuing closer ASEAN cooperation.

#### *Situation in Kampuchea*

The Foreign Ministers examined the situation in Kampuchea and expressed their deep concern over Vietnam's continued illegal occupation of Kampuchea. The Foreign Ministers reiterated ASEAN's conviction that Vietnam's military occupation of Kampuchea constituted a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. Vietnam's military occupation of Kampuchea, now in its ninth year, also violated the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states and the right of the Kampuchean people to self-determination. The invasion and occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnam continue to pose a grave threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia, thus endangering international peace and security.

The Foreign Ministers viewed with concern Vietnam's continued reliance on a military solution in Kampuchea. They deplored the Vietnamese artillery attacks on civilian refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchean border and Vietnamese violation of Thailand's sover-

eignty and territorial integrity through military incursions. They condemned Vietnam for its occupation of the hills at Chong Bok inside Thailand and called on Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Thai territory. The Foreign Ministers also reiterated their full support for Thailand's actions in the exercise of its legitimate right of self-defence and reaffirmed their solidarity with the Government and people of Thailand.

The Foreign Ministers once again called for a comprehensive political settlement in Kampuchea based on a total withdrawal of foreign forces, the restoration of Kampuchea's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, self-determination for the Kampuchean people under U.N. auspices and the achievement of national reconciliation in Kampuchea. They called on Vietnam to accept an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea.

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the validity of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Joint Appeal for Kampuchean Independence of 20 September 1983 and reiterated their support for the CGDK's Eight-Point Proposal of 17 March 1986 as a constructive framework for negotiations. They urged Vietnam to reconsider its rejection of the Eight-Point Proposal. They also called upon the international community to continue to support the Proposal.

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their support for the CGDK under the Presidency of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. They were heartened by the military successes achieved by the nationalist resistance forces against the Vietnamese occupation.

The Foreign Ministers also recorded their warm appreciation to the international community for its continued support of the CGDK. They saw the overwhelming support for the Resolution on the Situation in Kampuchea at the 41st UNGA as clear evidence of the international community's disapproval of Vietnam's continued occupation of Kampuchea. The Foreign Ministers also expressed their gratitude to the President of the ICK, His Excellency Leopold Gratz, for his untiring efforts in helping to find a solution to the Kampuchean problem. Recognizing the important contributions made by the ICK Ad Hoc Committee, they also expressed their sincere thanks to its Chairman, His Excellency Massamba Sarre of Senegal, and to all its members for their commitment to a peaceful settlement.

The Foreign Ministers recorded their gratitude to the U.N. Secretary-General, His Excellence Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his commendable efforts in the search for a comprehensive political settlement to the Kampuchean problem in accordance with the relevant UNGA resolutions and also to the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in Southeast Asia, His Excellency Raffaeudin Ahmed. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their belief that the U.N. has an important and constructive role to play in the search for a political solution to the Kampuchean problem.

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the diplomatic efforts of ASEAN to help achieve a comprehensive and durable political settlement for the Kampuchean problem. They reaffirmed ASEAN's commitment to continue efforts in seeking such a solution in accordance with the relevant UNGA resolutions on the situation in Kampuchea. In this regard, they expressed their appreciation to the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, His Excellency Professor Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja for the useful role he has played as ASEAN's interlocutor with Vietnam and his endeavours to explore and broaden the options available for a settlement to the Kampuchean problem.

The Foreign Ministers were of the view that Vietnam's basic position on Kampuchea has not changed, despite its recent attempts to give the impression of flexibility. This was also evident in Vietnam's outright rejection of the CGDK's Eight-Point Proposal. They deplored the lack of any genuine effort so far on the part of Vietnam for a political settlement as called for by an overwhelming majority of countries in the United Nations. They

hoped the new leadership in Vietnam will show a willingness to find a political settlement to the Kampuchean problem.

The Foreign Ministers called on the international community not to forget the plight of the Kampuchean people in their just struggle against the Vietnamese aggression. They called on all countries, including the Soviet Union, to urge Vietnam to settle the Kampuchean problem peacefully.

### *Indochinese Refugees*

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the refugee situation and expressed deep concern over the serious plight of Kampuchean refugees and displaced persons uprooted because of the continuing Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea. The Ministers deplored the shelling and firing into civilian camps at the Thai-Kampuchean border. They recalled in particular the Vietnamese shelling on 31 May 1987 of the United Nations-assisted Site 2 camp on Thai soil in which seven Kampucheans were killed and several wounded. They condemned the Vietnamese military incursions into Thai territory. These incidents have caused casualties not only to the civilian Kampuchean population but also to the Thai villagers living near the border.

The Foreign Ministers noted that since the invasion of Kampuchea in 1978, hundreds of thousands of Indochinese refugees have fled their countries and have taken temporary refuge in the ASEAN countries. They were gravely concerned that while resettlement in third countries was slowing down, the influx of Vietnamese refugees and illegal immigrants by sea to the ASEAN countries, especially Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia has continued unabated.

The Foreign Ministers were in agreement that the responsibility for the continuing exodus of Indochinese refugees and illegal immigrants and their suffering and hardship lay with Vietnam. They called on Vietnam to put an end to the exodus of refugees and illegal immigrants to the neighbouring countries. To emphasise their grave concern over the seriousness of the refugee problem, the Foreign Ministers issued a Joint Statement on 14 June 1987.

The Foreign Ministers appealed to the international community to continue to render assistance in relieving the plight of the Indochinese refugees and displaced persons, especially those living along the Thai-Kampuchean border who have the greatest and the most urgent need for such international assistance while the conflict in Kampuchea continues. In their view, these refugees and displaced persons should ultimately be resettled in third countries or voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin. While the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the continuing adherence of the ASEAN countries to the generally accepted humanitarian principles, they also reiterated the understanding that there should be no residual refugee problem in the ASEAN countries.

The Foreign Ministers thanked the United Nations Secretary-General for his continuing support and humanitarian role in helping to alleviate the plight of Indochinese refugees and displaced persons. The Foreign Ministers also commended the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for his assistance and continuing efforts in the Indochinese refugee resettlement programme and in the screening of Laotian refugees in Thailand. They also commended the UNHCR for organising the Orderly Departure Programme (ODP) from Vietnam which is one of the means of resettlement of the refugees in third countries. They also recorded their sincere gratitude to the former U.N. Secretary-General's Special Representative for Coordination of Kampuchean Humanitarian Assis-

tance Programmes, Mr Tatsuro Kunugi, for his outstanding contribution. They welcomed his successor, Mr S.A.M.S. Kibria to the post and assured him of their cooperation. The Ministers also reiterated their deep appreciation to the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) for its commendable contribution, in cooperation with the World Food Programme, the Office of the UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other organizations and voluntary agencies concerned, towards relieving the sufferings of the Indochinese refugees and displaced persons.

### *ZOPFAN*

The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed ASEAN's determination to pursue efforts towards the realization of the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) in Southeast Asia, while recognizing that the Kampuchean problem remains an obstacle to the attainment of this objective. They recalled the mandate of the Senior Officials and the Working Group on ZOPFAN to continue with the consideration of the concept of a Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) as a component of ZOPFAN, with a view to drafting as soon as possible a treaty on the SEANWFZ, taking into account all its implications. The Foreign Ministers noted with appreciation the work done so far by the Working Group and the Drafting Committee on the drafting of the treaty and requested the Senior Officials to continue their consideration of the subject in all its aspects.

### *Review of ASEAN Cooperation*

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress made in ASEAN cooperation and noted with satisfaction the extensive programmes and activities carried out in the past year to promote ASEAN's objectives. The Foreign Ministers also noted the preparations made for the Third ASEAN Summit.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to other ASEAN Ministers for their continued efforts to promote further cooperative endeavours within their respective areas of responsibility. They noted with satisfaction that a number of ministerial meetings were held, particularly the 18th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the 6th Meeting of ASEAN Labour Ministers, the 6th Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation, and the 8th Meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry. These Meetings resulted in many decisions being carried out and several projects being implemented, thus contributing to further enhance ASEAN cooperation.

The Foreign Ministers noted the progress that was achieved in ASEAN economic cooperation. Among the achievements were: the improvement made to the ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures (AIJV) Scheme; the conclusion of the Agreement On Preferential Short-listing of ASEAN Contractors to promote the development of the construction industry in the ASEAN region; the Agreement by ASEAN's Central Banks/Monetary Authorities to extend the ASEAN Swap Arrangement by another five years and the doubling of the available credit line from US\$100 million to US\$200 million, or US\$40 million per member country; the proposed establishment of an ASEAN Tourism Information Centre in Kuala Lumpur and continued efforts to promote ASEAN as one tourist destination; the establishment of an ASEAN-EC Energy Management Research and Training Centre in Jakarta; the establishment of the ASEAN Poultry Disease Research and Training Centre; and the Upgrading of the ASEAN Reinsurance Pool to a Corporation with an initial paid-up capital of US\$3 million.

The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the continued intensive cooperation in

the socio-cultural and scientific fields. The number of projects implemented by the ASEAN Committees on Culture and Information, Social Development, and Science and Technology accounted for a majority of cooperation activities in ASEAN. The activities involved a wide spectrum of ASEAN participants covering youth and women, researchers, scientists as well as social, cultural, media, educational and health workers. These activities have further promoted ASEAN awareness and a sense of regional identity among the ASEAN peoples.

The Foreign Ministers signed the Supplementary Agreement to Amend the Basic Agreement on ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures (BAAIJV) which raises the minimum margin of tariff preference for AIJV products from 50% to 75%.

The Foreign Ministers were of the view that the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN marks a significant milestone in its history and noted that various activities would be carried out by member countries on this auspicious occasion.

### *Cooperation with Dialogue Partners*

The Foreign Ministers noted that further progress had been made in ASEAN's cooperation with its Dialogue Partners, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States. They further noted that a number of new projects were implemented under UNDP funding. They expressed their appreciation for the cooperation that the Dialogue Partners and the UNDP had rendered to ASEAN's development projects which produced concrete and positive results. The Foreign Ministers stressed that in the conduct of its dialogues with the developed countries, ASEAN would continue to attach great importance to commercial and industrial cooperation, market access, investment and technology transfer. They expressed the hope that further progress would be made in these areas.

The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the 6th ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting (AEMM VI), Jakarta, October 1986. The substantive and frank exchange of views at that Meeting on political and economic issues of mutual interest had contributed to a better understanding of each other's positions. They stressed the importance of the AEMM VI decision to establish the Joint Investment Committees in the ASEAN capitals and expressed the hope that these Committees would contribute to the promotion of European investments in the ASEAN region.

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue relations and expressed satisfaction that ASEAN and Japan had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to extend the Agreement on the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism (APC) for a further period of five years beginning from May 1987. They are confident that the extension would facilitate the increase of Japanese investment in ASEAN, promote access of ASEAN products to the Japanese market and increase the flow of Japanese tourists to the ASEAN region.

The Foreign Ministers expressed the view that Japan could play a greater role in the economic development of ASEAN and in facilitating closer ASEAN economic cooperation. The Foreign Ministers noted that the large trade surplus and foreign reserves of Japan would enable it to assume such a role. Japan could also help to facilitate the flow of Japanese investments to ASEAN through the provision of attractive financial assistance and incentives for its private sector. The Foreign Ministers welcomed Japan's readiness to help promote industrial development in ASEAN through the provision of favourable financing support. The Foreign Ministers were confident that the enhanced Japanese role in ASEAN economic cooperation, together with the liberalisation of Japan's import policy,

would enable ASEAN to significantly increase its trade and economic ties with Japan.

The Foreign Ministers noted the firm action taken by President Ronald Reagan in vetoing the Jenkins Bill and in resisting other protectionist legislation in the Congress. They, however, felt that in the light of the persisting budget and trade deficits in the United States, protectionist pressures in the Congress would continue to threaten ASEAN's export interest and could force the U.S. Administration to take protectionist measures against ASEAN's exports. They urged that protectionism should continue to be resisted in the interests of all concerned.

The Foreign Ministers recalled the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers in August 1986 to continue to explore the ASEAN-U.S. Initiative (AUI), and the discussion between ASEAN and the United States at their 7th Dialogue in Singapore in May 1986. They noted that an ASEAN memorandum on the AUI had been presented to the U.S. side at the 7th Dialogue and that ASEAN senior trade officials and Assistant USTR had held exploratory technical discussions during the 20th COTT Meeting in November 1985. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the matter should be pursued further.

The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that the UNDP had allocated US\$9.8 million for ASEAN's development projects under the 4th Cycle (1987-91), and that a number of projects had been implemented, with several new project documents signed in the past year.

#### *International Economic Issues*

In reviewing the international economic environment, the Foreign Ministers noted the weak economic growth of the developed economies and the adverse effects it had on the growth and development prospects of the developing countries. They expressed grave concern over the proliferation of protectionist policies, pressures and measures in developed countries, the continued depressed level of commodity prices; the instability of exchange rates; and the lack of a comprehensive solution to the world debt situation. The Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that these obstacles to growth in both the developed and developing countries would be addressed seriously and expeditiously by the international community with the view to arriving at appropriate solutions for sustained global economic growth.

The Foreign Ministers noted that despite the successful launch of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the developed countries had failed to observe the standstill and rollback commitments undertaken at Punta del Este. The Foreign Ministers were concerned with the increased tendency to resort to unilateral and bilateral measures outside the framework of the GATT in settling trade problems and disputes. This had led to a weakening of the GATT and the increased danger of trade wars. The Foreign Ministers emphasised the importance of maintaining and strengthening the open trading system as embodied by the GATT. They called on all countries to actively support the GATT and to strengthen the rules of international trade through cooperative efforts in the Uruguay Round.

The Foreign Ministers further called on developed countries to remove all agricultural subsidies and other measures which distort trade in agriculture and to allow the principles of comparative advantage to apply.

The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance of commodity earnings to developing countries. The current situation of depressed commodity prices had severely affected the terms of trade of ASEAN and other developing countries. The Foreign Ministers called for concerted international action to arrive at practical solutions to ensure stable and more remunerative commodity prices.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their concern over the adverse effects of fluctuating

exchange rates on the growth of world trade and the difficulties created for developing countries, particularly in the planning and execution of their debt servicing, debt management and trading activities. The Foreign Ministers called for international action to ensure stability of currency markets.

The Foreign Ministers viewed with concern the continuing debt problem in many developing countries. They expressed regret that a comprehensive solution to the debt burden of the developing countries had still not been found. This has threatened the international financial system and affected the growth prospects of both developed and developing countries. The Foreign Ministers called for urgent international action to rectify the situation.

The Foreign Ministers noted the growing trend of developed countries to invest in other developed countries to overcome trade barriers. They reiterated the need for a greater flow of investments from developed countries to developing countries. The Foreign Ministers also expressed their concern that the lack of investments would reduce the transfer of technology to the developing countries.

The Foreign Ministers reiterated their support for the forthcoming UNCTAD VII. The Conference would provide an opportunity for developing and developed countries to discuss the problems which hamper growth, to work closely together to arrive at solutions for the revitalisation of the global economy and to create a more responsive environment for sustained growth and development of developing countries.

#### *Afghanistan*

The Foreign Ministers agreed that the occupation of Afghanistan by foreign forces is of grave concern to the international community and continues to be a major source of international instability. They reiterated their call for the total withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and the restoration of the inherent right of the Afghan people to freely determine their own destiny. They were of the firm view that a sovereign, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan is essential for regional and global peace and stability. They also reiterated their support for the U.N. Secretary-General's efforts to bring about a comprehensive political settlement of the problem.

SOURCE: *Twentieth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (Speeches/Joint Communiqué)*, Singapore, 15-16 June 1987.

#### *Joint Soviet-Vietnamese Statement, Moscow, 22 May 1987.*

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Nguyễn Văn Linh, stayed in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit May 17 through 22, 1987 at the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

Talks were conducted between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyễn Văn Lihn. . . .

The indepth exchange of views, held in the atmosphere of traditional friendship and

mutual understanding, confirmed the common approaches of the CPSU and the CPV to pressing questions of socialist construction and international politics.

When informing Nguyễn Văn Linh of the life of the Party and the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev noted the crucial nature of the present stage in the development of Soviet society, the depth and consistency of the process of renewal started on the initiative of the CPSU.

Nguyễn Văn Linh expressed the feelings of profound admiration of the CPV and the Vietnamese people for the services to mankind of the peoples of the Soviet Union and their tremendous contribution during the past 70 years to the struggle for peace and socialism.

The Vietnamese Communists, all Vietnamese people are inspired by the profound revolutionary restructuring drive effected in the USSR in accordance with the course of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. It embodies the creative force of Marxism-Leninism and gives the fraternal Parties valuable experience which can be used by them with due account for the specific conditions of their countries.

Nguyễn Văn Linh spoke about the fulfilment of the decisions adopted by the 6th CPV Congress, the process of renewal that has started in the country in the sphere of economic management and is directed at an all-round stabilization of the socio-economic situation, the creation of prerequisites for a gradual expansion of the scale of socialist industrialization and at advancing the country.

Mikhail Gorbachev spoke highly of the creative, realistic course of renewal worked out by the 6th CPV Congress, confirmed the Soviet Union's support of this course and wished the Vietnamese people a successful fulfilment of the decisions of the Congress.

The talks centered on questions of bilateral relations.

The Soviet and Vietnamese people treasure friendship and fruitful interaction between the CPSU and the CPV, the USSR and the SRV which have a long glorious history. The Soviet Vietnamese brotherhood has formed under the influence of the ideas of the Great October Socialist Revolution the light of which was brought to Vietnam by the outstanding Communist of the Leninist school Ho Chi Minh and his dedicated associates. Having passed the trial of lengthy revolutionary struggle the fraternal relations of the two nations are becoming increasingly closer. Nguyễn Văn Linh expressed the sincere gratitude of the CPV and the Vietnamese people to the CPSU and the Soviet people for the invariable support of and the big and generous assistance to the SRV in the struggle for national liberation, in the cause of building socialism and defending the homeland. He confirmed that the further strengthening of cohesion and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union is the cornerstone of the foreign policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The leaders of the CPSU and the CPV expressed the resolve of their Parties to expand cooperation at various levels, make an indepth study of each other's experience, perfect Soviet-Vietnamese relations on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the SRV, the 10th anniversary of which will be celebrated in 1988, the Declaration of 1985, the long-term programme of developing economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam. The Sides specially emphasized the importance at the new stage of the Soviet-Vietnamese Treaty which accords with the interests of building socialism and communism in the two countries, the cause of peace in South-East Asia, the Asia-Pacific region and in the whole world.

It was stressed that the growing scale of Soviet-Vietnamese interaction, the new approaches to questions of the socio-economic development of their respective countries



worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress persistently demand an increase in the effectiveness of cooperation in the direction of socialist integration, the international division of labour, coproduction and specialization of production, and a more active use of the principles of socialist economic management.

In the coming years, Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation will be concentrated on the production and processing of agricultural produce, the output of consumer goods, the development in the SRV of the power industry, transport as well as the machine-building, electronic, chemical and mining industries, on the full utilization of the existing production capacities and labour resources. Agreement was reached on the vigorous development of cooperation not only on the interstate level but also on the level of ministries and enterprises.

The Sides will search for new highly effective forms and fields of cooperation, in particular they will set up joint amalgamations and enterprises, will take the necessary measures to modernize enterprises built with the USSR's technical assistance and ensure their operation to full capacity.

Cooperation in the scientific-technical field will be expanded, first of all, to ensure the three major economic programmes determined by the 6th CPV Congress, and also in the training of scientific managerial personnel and skilled workers.

A number of agreements on questions of Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation were signed during the visit.

The Sides agreed that the Soviet Union will help Vietnam in working out a long-term economic development programme.

The Soviet and the Vietnamese leaders declared for the adoption of a number of additional measures to develop economic ties between Vietnam and the Soviet Far East.

Agreement was reached on the setting up of an Intergovernmental Soviet-Vietnamese Commission of Cultural Cooperation, and on increasing exchanges between the creative unions of the two countries. The Days of Soviet Culture in the SRV (1987), devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, and the Days of Vietnamese Culture in the USSR (1990), timed to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the proclamation of Vietnam's independence and the centenary of the birth of President Ho Chi Minh, are to become major events.

The Sides will continue interaction in the training and retraining of specialists in the field of culture, the study of the Russian language in Vietnam and the study of the Vietnamese language in the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyễn Văn Linh confirmed the principled line of the CPSU and the CPV of further strengthening the unity and cohesion of the socialist community, of developing to the maximum the initiative, vigour and creativity of each party and country. They noted the definitive importance of working meetings held by the top leaders of fraternal Parties for working out agreed-upon directions of mutual cooperation and the common course of the socialist community countries in international affairs. The participants in the talks spoke for further perfecting the mechanism of conferences of Central Committee secretaries of the fraternal Parties, for making other forms of the multilateral cooperation of socialist countries more effective.

The USSR and the SRV will further closely interact in the interests of deepening socialist economic integration, fulfilling the Comprehensive Programme of Scientific and Technological Progress of CMEA Member-Countries Through the Year 2000 and perfecting CMEA activities.

The Soviet Union will take an active part in drawing up within the framework of the

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance of a specialized programme for helping the national economic development of Vietnam, Mongolia and Cuba and in its efficient implementation.

The exchange of opinions reaffirmed the identity of views held by the CPSU and the CPV on pressing international problems, the determination of the Soviet Union and Vietnam actively to interact to strengthen international peace and general security, and their solidarity with people's struggle for national independence and social progress.

Mikhail Gorbachev spoke about the activities of the CPSU and the Soviet state to promote Soviet initiatives for lessening international tensions and about the Soviet Union's practical steps to affirm a new mode of political thinking in world affairs and develop relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world. An assessment was given of the present stage of Soviet-US relations and the course of the talks on nuclear and space arms in Geneva. Stress was laid on the fundamental significance of a Soviet proposal for eliminating the Soviet and US medium-range missiles from Europe and embarking on talks without delay for reducing and subsequently eliminating operational-tactical missiles stationed on the European continent.

Nguyễn Văn Linh reiterated complete support by the CPV and the Vietnamese people for the new and important peace initiatives of the USSR. He said that the Soviet Union, pursuing a Leninist foreign policy, is the principal motive force in efforts for easing tensions, eliminating the threat of nuclear war, and enhancing peace and security throughout the world.

The leaders of the CPSU and the CPV expressed resolve to do everything to break the dangerous trend in world development, stop the arms race on Earth, prevent its extension to outer space, and make sure that the enormous funds now spent on military purposes are directed instead at solving urgent problems, above all, in developing countries.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are firmly committed to the idea of turning the Asian-Pacific region into a region of peace, stability, good-neighbourliness and cooperation through joint efforts by all states of the region and an all-round approach to the problems of ensuring its security. The realization of this goal would be facilitated by a just political settlement of existing conflicts, the non-buildup and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, a scaling down on naval activities in the Pacific, the implementation of practical measures to establish nuclear-free zones, cuts in armed forces and conventional armaments, and the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Both Sides stressed the importance of reducing tensions in South-East Asia as soon as possible. The Soviet Union supports the resourceful policy of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea directed at improving the political climate in South-East Asia and developing friendly relations with the ASEAN countries and other nations in the Asian-Pacific region.

The USSR and Vietnam are at one with the national reconciliation policy of the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, whose realization would meet the vital interests of the Kampuchean people and their right to decide their destiny themselves and would help restore peace in the country. The internal problems of Kampuchea should be solved by the Kampuchean people themselves.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam believe that the search for ways of settling the international aspects of the Kampuchean problem by political means should be conducted with regard for realities in the region and with the involvement in this or that form of all sides concerned. The Soviet Union and Vietnam are resolutely for giving Kampuchea its lawful place in the United Nations and other international organizations.

The Soviet Union invariably supports efforts by the working people of the Socialist

Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to lay the foundations of socialism, protect the independence and national sovereignty of their countries, and strengthen their fraternal alliance and all-round cooperation, which is an important factor for peace and stability in South-East Asia.

The leaders of the CPSU and the CPV stressed the constructive nature of the Afghan government's policy aimed at achieving national reconciliation and a political settlement of the situation around the country, and of the Afghan people's efforts to build a sovereign, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan.

The participants in the talks pointed to a desire by their countries to normalize and improve relations with the People's Republic of China, which would be a major positive factor for stronger stability in Asia and in international life in general. They would also welcome China's active involvement in the search for ways of solving the complex problems of the Asian continent. The Soviet Side supported Vietnam's initiative for holding Vietnamese-Chinese talks with a view to settling contentious issues as soon as possible.

The conviction was expressed during the talks that improvement in the situation on the Korean Peninsula would be facilitated by the realization of the proposals by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for resuming a dialogue between the North and South of Korea and creating a nuclear-free zone there.

Solidarity was reaffirmed with a proposal by the Mongolian People's Republic for creating a mechanism to exclude the use of force in relations between states in Asia and the Pacific.

The USSR and Vietnam attach much importance to the Delhi Declaration and the principles recorded there for building a world free from nuclear weapons and violence and think highly of India's contribution to resolving regional and general international problems in the interests of stronger peace and stability on the Asian continent and throughout the planet. . . .

SOURCE: *Pravda*, 22 May 1987. English version in *Moscow News* (supplement), No. 23 (7 June 1987).