

## DOCUMENTATION

### *Excerpts from the "Full Text" of the Vietnam-Afghanistan Joint Statement issued in Hanoi on 29 December 1987*

At the invitation of the CPV Central Committee and the SRV Council of State, a high-level delegation of the party and state of Afghanistan led by Comrade Najibollah, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and President of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid a friendly official visit to the SRV from 25th to 29th December, 1987.

... The world situation is going through major and rapid changes. The struggle waged by the forces of peace and progress against the imperialist forces have been unfolding with intense fierceness. The growth of the three revolutionary currents, the rapid advancement of the scientific and technological revolution, the danger of a nuclear holocaust and need to internationalise economic life are vigorously speeding up the trend of struggle for peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems. The two sides highly valued and fully supported the USSR's constructive initiatives for peace, for curbing and putting an end to the arms race, eliminating the danger of a nuclear catastrophe, for disarmament, peace and security in the world. The agreement signed by the USSR and the USA to abolish medium- and short-range missiles constitutes a practical step of great importance towards nuclear disarmament. This is an historic victory of all progressive and peace forces in the world, which starts a new phase in the process of disarmament aimed at building a world free from nuclear weapons and from violence in international relations.

The two sides affirmed that the most important task of mankind at present is to consolidate peace and security, curb the arms race and eliminate the danger of a nuclear catastrophe.

The SRV and the Republic of Afghanistan extended their full support for the comprehensive peace plan for Asia and the Pacific put forth by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in Vladivostok on 28th July 1986, as well as for the New Delhi Declaration on the principles of building a world without nuclear weapons and violence in international relations.

Both sides were of the view that it is an imperative in the present situation to reduce tension and turn South-East Asia into a zone of peace, stability and co-operation between countries with different socio-political systems. The Indochinese countries are ready to enter into dialogue with the ASEAN countries, to improve relations and co-operate with all sides concerned to create a friendly atmosphere in the region for the sake of peace, friendship and good neighbourliness.

The two sides expressed their full support for the PRK's statement of 27th August 1987, on national reconciliation and that of 8th October 1987, on a political solution to the Cambodian problem. They welcomed the fine success of the meeting between Comrade Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk and the four-point joint communiqué signed at Paris on 4th December 1987, considering it an important initial step in the process of negotiations between the Cambodian parties towards a political solution of the Cambodian issue, in

keeping with the interests of the Cambodian people and with the wish of other countries who want to contribute to the settlement of the Cambodian issue, to peace and stability in South-East Asia and the world.

The two sides expressed their desire to normalise and improve relations with the PRC, regarding it as a positive factor for the consolidation of peace and security in Asia and international affairs in general. The Afghan side applauded the goodwill of the SRV aimed at achieving a solution of outstanding problems between Vietnam and China.

The two sides firmly supported India's peace-loving foreign policy, highly praised the role of the Republic of India in solving the regional and global disputes in the interest of peace and security in Asia and the world.

The two sides responded warmly to the initiative put forth by the People's Republic of Mongolia on the signing of an international convention on non-use of force among countries of Asia and the Pacific, and to the initiative of the DPRK on turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. They supported the South Pacific states' policy of denuclearisation, welcomed the proposal of building South-East Asia into a nuclear-free zone and supported the plan to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

SOURCE: SWB, Hanoi Radio (home service), 1100 gmt, 29 December 1987, FE/0037 A3/1, 31 December 1987.

*Excerpts from the Opening Statement by Noboru Takeshita, Prime Minister of Japan, at the Meeting of Heads of Government of Japan and ASEAN, Manila, 15 December 1987.*

... I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm that Japan will be unswerving in its adherence to the fundamental principle of its foreign policy which calls for doing its utmost for world peace and prosperity and rejecting the path to a military power. This principle is firmly rooted in the keen sense of self-criticism of every Japanese on the deplorable history of the last war and thus is particularly crucial in the context of Japan's relations with the ASEAN countries.

It is with this recognition that the promotion of friendly and cooperative relationship with the ASEAN countries has constituted one of the pillars of Japan's foreign policy.

... Thanks to the vigorous efforts on both sides, ASEAN has become the third-largest trading partner for Japan after the United States and EC, and for ASEAN, trade with Japan accounts for the largest share of its overall trade. In the area of investment, Japan ranks first or second in the list of overseas investors in all the ASEAN countries.

On the political side, Japan and ASEAN have cultivated close coordination in tackling various regional issues, including the Cambodian problem. The cooperative relationship thus developed has become an indispensable factor for the dynamic growth and political stability of the Asia-Pacific region, and the whole world.

... I would like to outline the economic, political, and cultural aspects of Japan's basic policy aimed to forge such partnership between Japan and ASEAN as we approach the new century.

My first point concerns the economic aspect of our policy.

It is my belief that Japan's economic cooperation measures should be designed so as to be well attuned to the needs of individual ASEAN countries, which are constantly changing with the development of their respective economies, as well as the evolving international economic conditions.

In recent years, developing economies have been buffeted by the vagaries of the world economic environment, such as the decline and stagnation in demand and the prices of primary commodities, and the drastic fluctuations in exchange rates.

The thrust of the ASEAN countries' efforts to overcome these difficulties has been directed toward enhancing the resilience of their economies through such measures as injecting greater inefficiency, diversifying their economic structure, and expanding their export capabilities. Particularly noteworthy in their efforts is the emphasis given to the strengthening of the private sector reflected in encouragement of foreign investment.

Japan is ready to extend as much cooperation as possible for these efforts on the part of the ASEAN countries, in a manner which will take full advantage of the vitality of the private sector. To this end, I intend to put into effect the following concrete measures, as an expression of Japan's positive response to the Manila Declaration.

First, the Japanese Government will extend financial cooperation of no less than 2 billion US dollars over a period of three years, for the promotion of the private sector development of each ASEAN country and to promote regional cooperation among the ASEAN countries. This will be called the ASEAN-Japan Development Fund (AJDF), and will be in addition to the normal bilateral financial cooperation. For this purpose, we intend to make available generally untied official and private funds through such measures as the ongoing recycling scheme.

The Fund will mainly be intended for private enterprises in the industrial sector. The actual modality of drawing on the Fund will be sufficiently flexible to the needs of individual countries, taking account of close consultations between Japan and the ASEAN countries. To be more specific: first, measures will be taken to promote direct investment in the ASEAN countries by setting up an investment fund in Japan through official and private funding. Second, what are termed two-step loans will be provided. This is to say, loan facilities of generally untied ODA loan funds and Export-Import Bank funds extended mainly utilizing development financial institutions in the ASEAN countries will be made available. In response to the requests of the ASEAN countries, more concessional terms and conditions than are usually offered will be applied to the loans under this scheme. In implementing this scheme, due consideration will be given to promoting such intra-regional cooperation as is exemplified by the ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures (AIJV).

With a view to contributing to the further development of the ASEAN economies, as well as accelerating the process of internationalization of Japan's economic structure, I am determined to exert efforts to further improve the market access of our country. Under the ongoing Action Program, measures with particular attention to ASEAN's interests have already been taken. Moreover, Japan significantly improved its Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme on mining and industrial products this April. In view of the important role the scheme plays in promoting imports of manufactured products from the ASEAN countries, we intend to expand the ceiling quotas on these products, for the second consecutive year, in the coming fiscal year.

Japan regards highly the role played by the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism, and intends to consider the increase of its budgetary contributions

to double the Centre's current project budget of approximately 2 million US dollars for the coming fiscal year.

... It is my firm belief that Japan and ASEAN should strengthen cooperation on international political issues having an important bearing on peace and prosperity of the world, and particularly of Asia. The conflict in Cambodia still continues after nine years since its outbreak, and is yet to be resolved. It is regrettable that this dispute has impeded peace and stability in Southeast Asia and has continued to be a source of untold misery for Cambodians and others affected by it.

Japan has consistently pursued a comprehensive political settlement to this problem and has been taking such steps to urge the parties concerned to work to that end, taking, for instance, the opportunity of the political dialogues with Vietnam. In this context, Japan has held the peace efforts of the ASEAN countries in highest regard and will continue to support these efforts.

In the future process of political settlement, particular consideration should be given to the establishment of a Cambodia that is genuinely neutral and independent through withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces and the self-determination of the Cambodian people, as well as to ensuring the security of the countries concerned, particularly Thailand. Japan is resolved to play an active role with a view to achieving an early and comprehensive political settlement that satisfies these requirements while keeping in close touch with the ASEAN members.

Recent dialogue between Cambodians, which was realized through the serious initiative of Prince Sihanouk, is a first step toward political settlement. I heartily welcome this development. Japan hopes that development for dialogue centering around Prince Sihanouk will make further progress and, through the positive response of Vietnam, lead to a concrete process for peace. We are resolved to lend maximum support to the efforts of Prince Sihanouk, with whom we have long maintained friendship. It is the ardent hope of Japan that not only the parties concerned but also the international community as a whole will sympathize with the Cambodians in their agony and distress, and provide active support to Prince Sihanouk.

On the broader question of international peace in the world as a whole, including Asia, the greatest factor is U.S.-Soviet relations. I sincerely welcome the progress made at the recent U.S.-Soviet Summit meeting, where the INF treaty was signed, to realize the global elimination of INFs, including those in Asia, as our country had strongly supported. While outstanding issues between East and West still remain, Japan will continue to support the diplomatic efforts of the U.S., with a view to building more stable East-West relations. Japan is also determined to increase its active contribution toward peace and disarmament.

... Japan, fully cognizant of the increasing international responsibility it must now shoulder, must now take bold initiatives in its foreign and domestic policies to pursue a society that will share its prosperity with the rest of the world as we enter the 21st century. One of the most important pillars of such bold initiatives is our cooperation with the ASEAN neighbors. As Japan's new Prime Minister, I pledge unequivocally that Japan will continue its active and sincere cooperation with our ASEAN neighbors.

As I pursue the policy of cooperation with ASEAN, the following three tenets shall guide me.

The first is that friendship shall be the basis of our approach toward others at all times. I shall always be mindful of the friendly ties with our ASEAN friends and in addressing whatever international or domestic issue, I will listen carefully to the views of our ASEAN friends and give full consideration to their wishes.

The second is that private and local initiatives, in both Japan and the ASEAN countries shall be respected. There is already a growing trend at the grass-roots level to organize voluntary exchange programs in many fields, including the economic and cultural. This will undoubtedly give a new impetus to further development of Japan-ASEAN relations. I shall always respect and give my full support to such private initiatives.

The third notion to guide me is that Japan and ASEAN maintain and develop a relationship that contributes and is open to the rest of the world. The relationship between Japan and ASEAN can be described as that of "natural allies", closely linked by geography and history. But today when interdependence is deepening, not just within Asia and Pacific but on a global scale, we must not allow our relationship to be exclusive. It is imperative that we cooperate with one another for the peace and prosperity of the entire world.

SOURCE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.

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