
DOCUMENTATION

Extracts from the Joint Communique of the Twenty-First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting Bangkok, 4–5 July 1988

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The Twenty-First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in Bangkok on 4–5 July 1988. The Meeting was formally opened by His Excellency General Prem Tinsulanonda, Prime Minister of Thailand.
- 2 The Meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency Dato' Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; His Excellency Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines; His Excellency Mr. S. Dhanabalan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Mr. Wong Kan Seng, Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and their respective delegations.
- 3 His Excellency Mr. Roderick Yong, Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat, and his staff also attended the Meeting.
- 4 His Excellency Sebulon Kulu, Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the Republic of Indonesia, attended the Open Sessions as Observer.
- 5 His Excellency Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, chaired the Meeting. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, was elected Vice-Chairman.

OPENING ADDRESS

- 6 In his Opening Address, H.E. General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister of Thailand stated that ASEAN in its twenty-first year must increasingly assume the responsibility that comes with the growing maturity. The Third Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government in Manila in December 1987 had made a collective commitment to develop ASEAN into an organization of dynamism and strength. ASEAN should also endeavour to generate more tangible benefits for its people of the region. With regard to the achievement of peace in the region, there had emerged an agreed assessment that this was the opportune time. Efforts had been made by the major powers to

mitigate their international rivalries in order to turn to economic expansion. Recent dialogue with the Soviet Union and Vietnam had shown that the possibility of reaching a political solution to the Kampuchean problem could be achieved. It was hoped that an equitable settlement of the Kampuchean issue could be hastily reached, in order to bring about a new era of peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

THIRD ASEAN SUMMIT

24 The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction that the successful outcome of the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government in Manila in December 1987 has provided new directions to intensify and accelerate political, economic, social and cultural cooperation of ASEAN. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers emphasized the importance of the follow-up actions on the decisions of the ASEAN Heads of Government to ensure their expeditious implementation. They noted the progress made by the relevant ASEAN committees in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the ASEAN Heads of Government.

REVIEW OF ASEAN COOPERATION

26 The Foreign Ministers, in accordance with the directives of Third ASEAN Summit on the enhancement of political cooperation among ASEAN countries, expressed their support for Malaysia's candidature for a non-permanent member seat in the United Nations Security Council for the term 1989-90.

27 The Foreign Ministers commended the efforts made by other ASEAN Ministers to improve and enhance ASEAN cooperation in their respective fields of responsibility. They noted that various ministerial meetings were held during the year to prepare for the Third Meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government. They noted with satisfaction the results of the 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, the Informal Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers, the Ninth Meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, which had made useful and practical recommendations to enhance intra-ASEAN cooperation.

28 The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that the relevant ASEAN Committees have made marked progress in the implementation of the improved ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements (PTA) and ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures (AIJV) scheme. They further noted that the ASEAN Committee on Trade and Tourism (COTT) has adopted the 1988 Programmes of member countries to phase-in items on their exclusion lists into the PTA and that negotiations on the rollback of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) will begin soon. The Foreign Ministers expressed confidence that the improved AIJV Scheme and the Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investment in ASEAN would promote joint venture cooperation among member countries and between ASEAN and foreign investors, and increase the flow of foreign investments into the ASEAN region. They welcomed the steps taken by the ASEAN Committee on Industry, Minerals and Energy (COIME) to draw up the pre-approved list of AIJV products.

29 The Foreign Ministers recalled the decision by the ASEAN Heads of Government to declare the year 1992, the 25th anniversary of ASEAN, as the "Visit ASEAN Year" (VAY). They expressed the hope that the VAY Programme would promote intra-ASEAN tourism, increase visitor traffic to ASEAN from major tourist generating markets, and help develop the tourist

industry in the region. The Foreign Ministers believed that the objectives of the VAY Programme would be realized through close cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN Heads of National Tourism Organizations, the ASEAN national flag carriers and ASEANTA.

30 The Foreign Ministers noted the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation and expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the field of energy cooperation. They further noted that follow-up actions have been taken to implement the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement signed in 1986 in Manila.

31 The Foreign Ministers noted that functional cooperation has made significant progress in promoting ASEAN ideals and regional cooperation. They further noted that functional cooperation, which embraces a wide spectrum of activities in areas such as science and technology, culture and information and social development covering social welfare, education, women, youth, health, labor and population, is being intensified towards achieving the common aims of increasing awareness of ASEAN, widening the involvement and increasing the participation of the peoples of ASEAN in ASEAN undertakings, and promoting socio-economic development through human resources development (HRD). The Foreign Ministers, recognizing the role of women as active agents in and beneficiaries of development, signed on 5 July 1988 the Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region.

POLYSECTORAL PROGRAMME FOR THE PHILIPPINES

32 The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their belief that the political and economic resilience of each individual ASEAN country was vital to the stability and security of the region as a whole. They, therefore, expressed full support for the efforts and progress being made by the Philippine Government to revitalize the Philippine economy and promote the well-being of its people. The Foreign Ministers further called upon the international community to consider the immediate implementation of a polysectoral programme for economic assistance for the Philippines in order to give impetus to the economic recovery of the Philippines. They also stated that the other ASEAN member countries stand ready to contribute actively to such polysectoral programme for the Philippines. They emphasized the urgency of the plan and urged the major industrialized countries and other nations to respond positively and render full support to this initiative.

PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

33 The Foreign Ministers commended the private sector including the ASEAN-CCI, the research institutions in member countries and other ASEAN non-governmental organizations for their contribution to the formulation of new initiatives for future ASEAN cooperation. They emphasized the important role of the private sector in intra-ASEAN cooperation and in economic development of ASEAN and expressed the view that the active participation of the private sector in both intra-ASEAN cooperation and in its relations with the Dialogue Partners should be encouraged. In this regard, they noted that Guidelines for Private Sector Participation in ASEAN Meetings and Activities had been formulated by the ASEAN Standing Committee.

ASEAN PACIFIC COOPERATION—HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

37 With regard to the APC-HRD, the Foreign Ministers noted that the two year moratorium has expired and agreed to consider other projects besides the existing ones. It was further agreed that

the ASEAN Directors-General consider the existing guidelines on APC-HRD in order to make recommendations to SOM for consideration.

COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE PARTNERS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

38 The Foreign Ministers noted the progress of ASEAN's cooperation with its Dialogue Partners namely Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States and the UNDP. They expressed their appreciation to the Dialogue Partners and the UNDP for their continued cooperation with ASEAN in various development projects. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance ASEAN attached to the cooperation with the Dialogue Partners and stressed that ASEAN is determined to make the dialogue relations more effective and mutually beneficial. Noting the decisions of the Third ASEAN Summit that emphasis of ASEAN cooperation with the Dialogue Partners should be placed on areas of special interest to ASEAN such as market access, trade and tourism promotion, investments, flow of resources, industrial development, transfer of technology, human resources development, and support for ASEAN's position at international fora such as GATT and UNCTAD, the Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction that these decisions are being implemented.

39 The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the results of the 11th ASEAN-Australia Forum in Manila on 7-8 June 1988. They noted that ASEAN and Australia shared common views on many issues related to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. They further noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the second phase of the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Programme (AAECP) had been finalised and would be signed by Australia and the Philippines, on behalf of ASEAN, during the Post Ministerial Conference with Australia on 9 July 1986. They were pleased to note that AAECP Phase II shall focus on areas of special interest to ASEAN.

40 The Foreign Ministers noted the successful conclusion of the Fifth ASEAN-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) Meeting in Ottawa on 7-8 April 1988. They also took note of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and Canada on the ASEAN-Canada Forest Tree Seed Centre (Phase II). The Foreign Ministers expressed appreciation for Canada's continued endeavour in promoting trade, economic and development cooperation with ASEAN. They welcomed the participation of the representatives of the ASEAN-Canada Business Council (ACBC) at the Fifth JCC Meeting. The Foreign Ministers also stressed the need for close consultation between ASEAN and Canada on the Uruguay Round. [They also noted that the Memorandum on Understanding (MOU) on ASEAN Grain Post-Harvest Programme would be signed by Canada and Thailand, on behalf of ASEAN, during the Post Ministerial Conference with Canada on 8 July 1988.]

41 The Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the Seventh ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting (AEMM VII) on 2-3 May 1988 in Dusseldorf. The constructive and cordial exchange of views on political and economic issues of common concern has brought about better understanding and closer cooperation between ASEAN and the EC. The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that the close cooperation in economic field has benefited the two regions. They also expressed great interest in intensifying industrial cooperation between ASEAN and the EC. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Joint ASEAN-EC Investment Committees (JIC) in all ASEAN capitals and agreed to accord high priority to the promotion of ASEAN-EC joint ventures. In the field of human resources development, the

Foreign Ministers took note that the operational details on the establishment of the ASEAN-EC Management Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan would be submitted to the EC prior to the next JCC Meeting. The Foreign Ministers stressed the need for close consultation between ASEAN and the EC on the Uruguay Round.

42 The Foreign Ministers noted the outcome of the Ninth Meeting of ASEAN-Japan Forum in Melaka, Malaysia on 22–23 July 1987. They also expressed the view that ASEAN-Japan cooperative activities have proceeded well in both economic and development fields. They however expressed the view that Japan could further improve its market opening measures to enable ASEAN countries to gain greater access, especially for their manufactured and semi-manufactured goods. They also urged Japan to take effective measures that could relieve the problems relating to the appreciation of the Yen faced by some member countries. The Foreign Ministers stressed the need for close consultation between ASEAN and Japan on the Uruguay Round.

43 The Foreign Ministers expressed appreciation for Japan's initiative in establishing the ASEAN-Japan Development Fund (AJDF). They also welcomed Japan's announcement to launch the "Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Exchange Programme" (JACEP) which was aimed at promoting exchanges in a variety of fields among the six ASEAN countries and Japan.

44 In noting the positive trend in ASEAN-New Zealand relations, the Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction with the progress made on various cooperative projects and New Zealand's increased interest in promoting trade and investment cooperation with ASEAN. They welcomed New Zealand's initiative to launch two programmes namely Trade and Investment Promotion Programme (TIPP) and Inter-Institutional Linkages Programme (IILP) as important areas for future cooperation. They expressed the hope that these two programmes will bring mutual benefits to both ASEAN and New Zealand. The Foreign Ministers stressed the need for close consultation between ASEAN and New Zealand on the Uruguay Round.

45 The Foreign Ministers noted the constructive result of the 8th ASEAN-US Dialogue on 10–11 February 1988 in Washington, D.C. They expressed satisfaction with the efforts undertaken by both sides to further improve the dialogue relations. They expressed the view that the Joint Study on ASEAN-US Economic Relations, to be launched soon, would enable the two sides to examine the modalities of the ASEAN-US Initiative (AUI). The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the Presidential veto of the Omnibus Trade Bill and urged the US Administration to resist legislations which would adversely affect trade relations between ASEAN and the US. They expressed the hope that the US would work closely with ASEAN to ensure the success of the Uruguay Round.

46 The Foreign Ministers noted that immediately after the Post Ministerial Conferences of the 21st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, there will be a rotation of the coordinating countries of the ASEAN Dialogues for a period of three years.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

47 In reviewing the international economic environment, the Foreign Ministers noted that the global economic situation is still characterized by imbalances, rising protectionism, foreign debt problems, volatility in the exchange rates, unfair trade practices, subsidized programmes, instability in the prices of commodities, and agricultural products. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers

stressed the need for closer and concrete cooperation between the developed and developing countries in achieving a sound international economy.

48 The Foreign Ministers noted the progress in the Uruguay Round and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the attainment of the objectives laid down at Punta del Este. They also expressed the conviction that an open international trading system is fundamental for the sustained economic growth of all countries. The Foreign Ministers called on all participants in the negotiations to make concerted effort to overcome international trade problems through trade liberalization and the strengthening of the multilateral trade system. They also stressed that the commitment to the principles of standstill and rollback must be strictly adhered to.

49 The Foreign Ministers noted that world trade in agriculture has been adversely distorted by massive and excessive farm supports and subsidies, especially among major industrialized countries. They emphasized that the problem needed to be tackled at its root, particularly by phasing out all distorting measures on agricultural trade at the earliest. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their belief that progress in this sector is an important element to the overall success of the Uruguay Round as well as to the promotion of world agricultural trade. They expressed the view that the Cairns Group's recommendations could be a basis for solutions to the global agricultural trade problem.

50 The Foreign Ministers reiterated the importance that ASEAN attaches to the negotiations on tropical products and to its desire to achieve early results in the negotiations. They called upon all parties concerned to adopt a more positive attitude in the negotiations on tropical products and to take into account the interests of developing countries.

51 The Foreign Ministers welcomed the convening of the Mid-Term Review Conference of the Uruguay Round at Ministerial Level in Montreal in December 1988. They expressed the hope that this Review would generate the necessary political impetus to make the negotiations successful, as well as stimulate progress towards the achievement of the negotiating objectives. They called for early agreements on Agriculture, Dispute Settlement, Tariff and Non-Tariff Measures, Safeguards, and Functioning of the GATT System. The Ministers reiterated that Tropical Products should be accorded fast track status as contained in the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration.

52 The Foreign Ministers reiterated that the Principle of Special and Differential Treatment (S&D) for developing countries should be applied to all aspects of the Uruguay Round.

53 The Foreign Ministers expressed concern over the instability in commodity prices and export earnings of the developing countries. They also expressed concern on the activities undertaken by certain groups in the major industrialised countries against the various commodities particularly on tropical vegetable oils and tropical timber. The Ministers called on the governments of the countries concerned to take steps to end such activities which have the effect of restricting the exports of ASEAN's commodities. They agreed that concerted international efforts should be exerted towards finding ways and means to bring about growth, diversification and expansion of international commodity trade. The Ministers also called on all parties concerned to ratify the International Natural Rubber Agreement 1987 before 1 January 1989 so that it could enter into force as scheduled.

54 The Foreign Ministers noted that satisfactory progress had been made in the ratification process of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities and were confident that the Agreement will enter into force soon.

55 The Foreign Ministers expressed concern over the problems of the international exchange rate realignment and the foreign debt burden of developing countries. They called for coordinated efforts by major industrialized countries towards achieving stable exchange rate relationships among their respective currencies. The Foreign Ministers also stressed that a lasting solution to the debt problem could not be realized unless the industrialized countries provide crucial support by eliminating protectionism, increasing financial assistance on concessional terms, and adopting sound fiscal and monetary policies.

56 The Foreign Ministers noted that ASEAN had presented an ASEAN Memorandum to the Toronto Summit, outlining its positions on major international economic issues. They welcomed the desire by the Summit to achieve successful negotiations on the Mid-Term Review. They were also satisfied that the Toronto Summit supported the efforts to adopt a framework approach, including short and long term goals to reduce all direct and indirect subsidies and other measures affecting agricultural trade.

57 The Foreign Ministers reiterated ASEAN's commitment to intensify joint efforts to deal with international economic issues. They also reaffirmed ASEAN's determination to promote close economic cooperation among developing countries in order to accelerate and strengthen South-South cooperation.

ASEAN SECRETARIAT

65 The Foreign Ministers approved the budget of the ASEAN Secretariat for the financial year 1988/1989. They commended the ASEAN Standing Committee for its continued endeavours to find effective means to improve the efficiency of the ASEAN Secretariat.

TWENTY-SECOND ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

66 The Foreign Ministers agreed that the 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting be held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 7-8 July 1989.

SOURCE: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.