

ASEAN - KAMPUCHEA AND INDOCHINESE REFUGEES*

Following is joint press statement issued at end of ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting, Bandar Seri Begawan Brunei Darussalam, 21 January 1989.

1. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterated their stand on the need for a comprehensive and durable political solution to the Kampuchean problem which has posed a serious threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia for the past decade. They expressed the hope that the intensified efforts and dialogues among the various parties concerned would contribute positively towards this end.

2. The Foreign Ministers stressed that all parties concerned should strive for a comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean problem involving both external and internal aspects in an integral way

3. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their determination to work for the interests of the Kampuchean people by continuing their cooperation with the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK). They also reaffirmed their view on a future government in Kampuchea that is sovereign, independent, neutral and non-aligned under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

4. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the second Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM 2) should be held as planned on 19-21 February 1989 and every effort should be exerted to ensure its success. They were of the view that in order to facilitate the reaching of a comprehensive political solution, the JIM process could eventually be expanded to include extra-regional countries concerned. The Foreign ministers were of the view that the JIM

* [The text of this joint press statement was made available by the Royal Thai Embassy, Canberra.]

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process would lead to the convening of an International Conference.

International Conference on Indochinese Refugees (ICIR)

5. The Foreign Ministers recalled their joint statement issued in Bangkok on 4 July 1988 which called for the convening of an International Conference on Indochinese Refugees to formulate a new comprehensive plan of action to deal with the new dimensions of the Indochinese Refugee problem.

6. The Foreign Ministers noted that the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 43/119 of 8 December 1988 requested the United Nations Secretary-General to convene the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees at ministerial level at the earliest possible date during the first half of 1989.

7. The Foreign Ministers called upon all countries and International Organizations concerned to render full cooperation to these endeavours.

8. The Foreign Ministers reiterated that resettlement of all those presently in refugee camps in the ASEAN countries, reduction of the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers, and viable solutions to deal with all future arrivals are necessary components of a satisfactory and comprehensive plan of action.
