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1- COMMUNIQUE ON FIFTH INDOCHINESE FOREIGN MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE

Hanoi VNA February 17 - The following communique was released in Vientiane today by the fifth Indochinese Foreign Ministerial conference held in the Lao capital on February 16-17, 1982

C O M M U N I Q U E
FIFTH FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OF LAOS,
KAMPUCHEA AND VIETNAM
(Vientiane 16-17/2/1982)

1- The fifth conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held in the capital city of Vientiane from February 16th to 17th, 1982. The conference reviewed the world and regional situation as well as relations of friendship and brotherly cooperation between these three countries in their common struggle to build and to defend their respective fatherland, for the sake of national independence and socialism on the Indochinese peninsula, and of peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

The conference notes with satisfaction that in spite of the still numerous difficulties caused by the war and the hostile actions of expansionism, imperialism and other reactionary forces, the situation in the three Indochinese countries keeps improving. The situation in/Kampuchean people have recovered their normal life and are now the true masters of their country. The prestige of the State of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the sole legal and authentic representative of the Kampuchean people, keeps growing. The special ties between Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea keep consolidating and developing. The regular high-level consultations between the three countries have helped strengthen their militant solidarity and oneness of mind. The three countries' coordination on the diplomatic front in the recent period has

//Kampuchea is constantly stabilizing:

proved harmonious and fruitful. With their foreign policy of peace, the three countries of Indochina have been constantly enhancing their role as a positive factor for peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The conference highly values the fruitful efforts of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in its capacity as a representative of the three Indochinese countries and whose activities have contributed to increasing mutual understanding between the Asean and Indochina groups of countries and to promoting dialogue between both groups aimed at solving questions related to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The conference has assessed preparatory work for the first summit conference of the three countries to be held this year and decided to step it up.

The conference is satisfied with the positive constant growth of the allround cooperation between the three countries of Indochina and the Soviet Union and the world socialist community. The conference expresses its high appreciation of the results of the working consultative conference of the vice-foreign ministers from the socialist countries held in Vientiane in December 1981, considering it a major contribution of the world socialist community to the common struggle for peace and stability in Southeast Asia that helps ease tension in the world.

The conference exchanged views on the situation of the non-aligned movement and the coordination needed between the three countries so as to make an active contribution to the success of the 7th Summit Conference of the non-aligned countries so that the movement can bring into full play its important role in the common struggle for peace and independence, against imperialism, colonialism and other reactionary forces.

2- The conference is of the unanimous view that the main cause of the tension that is threatening peace in the world at present stems from the interventionist policy of the imperialist circles and the hegemonistic expansionists headed by American

Imperialism that are stepping up the arms race and rekindling the cold war aimed at the Soviet Union, the socialist countries, and at the revolutionary struggle of nations. The Chinese card policy of the Reagan administration and the Sino-American collusion represent a permanent threat to world peace and more particularly a serious danger to security and stability in Asia. Given such a situation, the conference holds the view that the peoples' first and foremost task is to struggle to defend peace and defeat all dark schemes and acts of aggression on the part of American imperialism colluding with Chinese expansionism and other reactionary forces. The conference is happy to see that thanks to the allround growth and the foreign policy and line of peace of the Soviet Union and the other countries in the socialist community, thanks to the efforts of the non-aligned countries and the peace and democratic forces, as well as the long and deep-rooted aspiration of broad sections of the world peoples, mankind is more and more truly able to defend peace and drive back the danger of a new world war.

3- In order to safeguard their respective national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as peace and security in Southeast Asia and the world, the Lao, Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples are determined to struggle against the policy of aggression and intervention of the reactionary Beijing authorities colluding with American imperialism. However the Lao, Kampuchean and Vietnamese peoples consistently treasure their long-standing friendship with the Chinese people and wish to restore normal relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, of mutual non-aggression and non-intervention in each other's internal affairs, on an equal footing and on the basis of mutual benefit, good neighbourhood relations and of the settling of disputes through peaceful means.

World opinion shows great concern for the normalization of relations between the three Indochinese countries and China, considering it an important factor for peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, the People's

Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam once again state their wish for a positive response from the Chinese side to the proposal dated January 28th, 1982 of the three Indochinese countries concerning the signing of treaties of peaceful coexistence with the People's Republic of China.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea wholly support the good will proposal of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam put forward in the note dated January 30th, 1982 and addressed by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry to its Chinese counterpart concerning the termination of military hostilities in the borderline regions between the two countries and the rapid holding of the third round of Vietnam-China negotiations with a view to ensuring peace and stability in the borderline regions and discussing problems of interest to both parties. They express unreserved support for the January 31st, 1982 Message of the President of the Council of Ministers, Pham Van Dong, welcoming the United Nations Secretary General's initiative proposing that Vietnam and China prolong the state of peace in the borderline regions beyond the TET period.

4- Having fought for centuries for their own independence the three peoples of Indochina always respect the independence and sovereignty of neighbouring and other countries. In spite of the Thai authorities former and present policy of hostility towards the three Indochinese countries, the latter's peoples always value the friendship with the Thai people and wish to establish relations of good neighbourhood with the Kingdom of Thailand for the sake of each country and of peace and stability in Southeast Asia. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea welcome the results of the visit undertaken in the Kingdom of Thailand in November 1981 by the Lao deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Phoune Sipaseuth, and totally support the just policy and good will of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in its relations with the Kingdom of Thailand. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea once more solemnly declare that they respect Thailand's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea results from an agreement between the Governments of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam so as to deal with the threat from China's hegemonistic expansionism. Once this threat is removed, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea will agree on the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

The presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea in no way threatens Thailand's security. The three countries of Indochina are prepared to examine and support any initiative, from whatever quarters, that contributes to stabilizing the situation along the Kampuchea-Thailand border on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They are also prepared to discuss with Thailand all questions of common concern. These contacts may be undertaken directly or indirectly, bilaterally or between the three Indochinese countries on the one hand and Thailand on the other. Such contacts bear no relation whatsoever to the question of a mutual de facto or de jure recognition. Depending on the results of these contacts, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Kampuchea will agree on a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. The three countries of Indochina once more stress the just and reasonable character of the proposal of the People's Republic of Kampuchea concerning the creation of a demilitarized zone under some form of international supervision so as to ensure security in the Kampuchea- Thailand border line region.

5- At present the Indochinese countries are doing their utmost so that, together with other countries in the region, they may build new relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence between states of different socio-political regimes. At the 36th General Assembly of the United Nations, the Lao Foreign Minister, on behalf of the three Indochinese countries, put forward a 7-point proposal aiming at gradually turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability and cooperation. This proposal fully meets the Southeast Asian peoples' aspirations

and enjoys the approval and support of world opinion. It is regrettable that the efforts of the Indochinese countries are being strongly impeded by the imperialist and expansionist forces' policy of intervention and aggression. The American imperialists, colluding with China and other reactionary forces, are undertaking a hostile policy of blockade and encirclement toward the Indochinese countries. They are reactivating American bases in Thailand, strengthening their military presence and organizing bilateral and multilateral military manoeuvres in the region, thus jeopardizing the sovereignty and security of the countries in this zone. While on a world scale encouraged by the United States the ruling circles in Beijing are trying to exacerbate tension in the world.

They are trying by all means to pit the United States against the Soviet Union, the NATO bloc against the WARSAW bloc and to undermine peace and international detente. In Southeast Asia, they are goading the Asean countries and Indochinese countries into confrontation in the hope of sowing division between these two groups of countries and thus pave the way for them to realize their dreams of hegemony and expansion in the region. While maintaining Maoist forces in order to interfere crudely in the internal affairs of the Asean countries and of Burma, the Beijing ruling circles are now engaged in a kind of multifarious war of destruction against Vietnam and Laos. They go on feeding, supplying and using Pol Pot genocidal forces and other reactionary Khmer forces to impede the rebirth of the Kampuchean people and their task of national reconstruction.

China's repeated refusals to all the proposals made by/Vietnam-China border and to those of the Indochinese countries aimed at normalizing their relations with China as well as the fact that the latter constantly seek to impede the trend towards dialogue between the countries of Indochina and those of Asean rouse the discontent of world opinion. The latter realizes more and more clearly that China has an interest in maintaining tension in the region so as to serve its expansionist designs that go against the aspirations and interests of the peoples in the region. Consequently, /Vietnam with a view to stabilizing the situation along the

it appears that the main threat to the independence and security of Southeast Asian countries comes from Chinese expansionism. It is growingly evident that the true nature of the present crisis in Southeast Asia does not consist in the dissension between the Asean countries and the Indochinese countries, but in the policy of aggression and intervention of the Chinese authorities against the latter.

In the face of such a situation, an urgent task sets itself to the peoples in the region, namely act jointly to root out the origin of the threat to the Southeast Asian peoples' sovereignty and security, and to peace and stability in the region, and to put an end to any intervention and dictate on the part of expansionist and imperialist forces. It is necessary that the countries in the region meet to discuss and solve regional problems on the basis of equality, mutual respect and non-imposition of one's views on others. The Indochinese countries hail the trend existing within the Asean countries in favour of dialogue with the Indochinese countries. If the Asean countries should not yet be ready to take part in a regional conference as proposed by the Indochinese countries, Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam are prepared to hold contacts with the Asean countries, directly or indirectly, bilaterally or multilaterally, so as to discuss together and together find a solution to questions related to peace and stability in the region. Such contacts can in no way be linked to the question of a mutual de facto or de jure recognition.

6- The conference has been held in an atmosphere of friendship and solidarity and characterized by oneness of mind. The conference states its confidence and firm conviction that in spite of the numerous difficulties and complexities still ahead, the struggle of the three peoples to build and defend their respective fatherland is bound to meet with complete success. Peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world are bound to be consolidated and strengthened further.

JOINT STATEMENT
ON THE OFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISIT TO VIETNAM
BY THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA
H.E.MR. P. V. NARASIMHA RAO

At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Nguyen Co Thach, the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao paid an official friendly visit to Vietnam from February 12 to 15, 1982.

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India laid a wreath at the President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and visited his home and working place.

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India and his party called on and had cordial talks with Chairman of the State Council Truong Chinh, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong, and the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, general Vo Nguyen Giap.

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the other distinguished guests visited a number of cultural and economic establishments in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The two sides held discussions in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding covering a wide range of international, regional and bilateral matters.

Both sides re-affirmed their adherence to non-alignment and to the principles of peaceful co-existence. They expressed the hope that the forthcoming meetings of the non-aligned movement during 1982 would make major contributions towards achieving the goals of the movement, and also towards enhancing peace and stability in the world.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the recent efforts to improve and strengthen relations among the countries of South Asia.

Both sides felt that efforts should be continued to reduce tension and resolve all problems concerning peace and stability in South East Asia through a process of peaceful negotiations and mutual understanding. They expressed their hope that differences among the states of the region would be resolved by themselves through dialogues resulting in durable peace and stability as well as the elimination of foreign threats and intervention.

The two sides decided to further expand and strengthen existing cooperation between the two countries in various fields of mutual interest. They decided that officials of the two countries should meet annually to exchange views on important international developments and to review progress in bilateral cooperation.

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India expressed his sincere thanks for the hospitality, warm reception given to him by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam throughout the visit.

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India extended invitations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to pay visits to India. The Foreign Minister of Vietnam accepted the invitation with pleasure.

3- VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPLIES TO CHINESE NOTE

Hanoi VNA February 16 - The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam today sent the following note in reply to the February 11, 1982 Note of the Chinese Foreign Ministry:

"In spite of China's rejection of the proposal of December 18, 1981 of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry that both sides refrain from hostile armed activities in the border area of the two countries during the ten days of the Lunar New Year Festival, the Vietnamese side has unilaterally decided to implement its own proposal.

The Vietnamese armed forces in the border area have strictly implemented the order, thus creating favourable conditions for the population and soldiers along the border to enjoy the festival in tranquility and joyfulness. Worldwide public opinion has welcomed this demonstration of good will of the Vietnamese side.

The United Nations Secretary General has also recognized that a tranquil situation has taken place in the border region of the two countries during the Lunar New Year Festival.

However, on February 11, 1982, the Chinese Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Vietnamese Embassy in Beijing in which it concocted the story of Vietnam intensively staging armed provocations on the Chinese border. This is a familiar practice of the Chinese authorities aimed at distorting the act of good will of Vietnam and misleading public opinion which is demanding that China positively respond to the recent proposal of Vietnam. It is also aimed at covering up China's scheme and acts of continuing its armed provocation, war preparations and threat of war against Vietnam in order to create tension in the border region and continue a type of war of sabotage in many fields to weaken Vietnam. This also lies in China's overall scheme of continuing its expansionist and big-nation hegemony, threatening the independence, peace and stability of the Indochinese countries and other countries in Southeast Asia.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam categorically rejects the fabrications and slanders contained in the note of February 11, 1982 of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

The Vietnamese people are determined to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They demand that the Chinese side withdraw from all the areas in Vietnamese soil that it has illegally occupied.

Proceeding from their friendship with the Chinese people, from their desire for peace and stability in the border area

between the two countries, and their eagerness to contribute to common peace and stability in the region, and from the interests of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples as well as the peoples of other countries in Southeast Asia, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has persistently been seeking a solution to all questions in the relations between the two countries through negotiations and will do everything in their power in that direction. In its note of January 30, 1982, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry proposed that the two sides put an end to all hostile armed activities along the common border and quickly undertake the third round of the Sino - Vietnam^{ese} talks in order to solve the question of ensuring peace and stability in the common border area and discuss questions of mutual concern. This has once again proved the good will of the Vietnamese side.

Public opinion is waiting for China to positively respond to that proposal. We are waiting for an early answer from the Chinese side.

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