



**EMBASSY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

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C O M M U N I Q U E  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS  
OF VIETNAM, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA  
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Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Co Thach, Foreign Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Phoume Sipaseuth, and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea Hun Sen met on January 27 and 28, 1981 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in the three Indochinese countries and international issues of common concern, discussed measures aimed at strengthening the solidarity and cooperation between the three fraternal countries.

1- The Ministers warmly welcome the great achievements the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea have recorded in national construction and defense, in particular, the prodigious rebirth of the Kampuchean people, who have during the last two years, made rapid progress in production, overcome famine, stabilized the living conditions, done away with the heavy consequences left behind by the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary genocidal regime, and built up a new life.

The Conference warmly hails the decision taken by the Kampuchean People's Republic to make public the draft constitution, and to hold general elections in the near future, and considers it an important step on the way to firmly consolidate the new regime, and bring into full play the right of the Kampuchean people as masters of their own destiny.

These achievements have increased the strength and confirmed the irreversible march forward of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, who with the help of the Soviet Union, other socialist countries, the non-aligned countries and the world's people, are striving to overcome all difficulties, and defeating all manoeuvres and acts conducted by the Beijing bellicist circles in collusion with the imperialist and other reactionary forces against the peoples of the three Indochinese countries, the situation in the countries in the Indochinese peninsula is never as steady as now. The three Indochinese countries are becoming increasingly an important factor guaranteeing peace, stability and cooperation in

South East Asia. Militant solidarity, friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance in all fields in the struggle for national liberation, national construction and defence have become fine traditions permeating the relations between the three Indochinese peoples.

With a view to unceasingly consolidating and broadening the cooperation between the three countries, the Foreign Ministers exchanged views regarding preparations for a Summit Conference of the three countries to be held at an appropriate date.

The Foreign Ministers of the three countries decided to hold regular meetings twice a year, at the beginning and in the middle of each year, with a view to increasing cooperation between the three countries, the places of the meetings will alternatively be in each country. Apart from the regular meetings, the parties can hold extraordinary meetings, if necessary.

The Ministers exchanged views on the immediate measures aimed at promoting the all-sided cooperation between the three countries, and on some specific fields like the cooperation between the Mekong Committees of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea, the cooperation between the three countries in communications and transport, providing Laos with an access to the sea etc...

2- The Ministers unanimously hold that the three revolutionary currents in the world, which during the last year do not cease to grow up and are in a position of strategic offensive, changing the balance of forces in a way favourable to the forces of peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. Reaffirming that the struggle of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries is an integral part of the struggle of the world people, the Ministers resolutely condemn the manoeuvres of the imperialists headed by the US imperialists, and of international reactionary forces to intensify the arms race, create international tension with a view to opposing the aspirations of the peoples, undermine peace and stability in Asia and the world. They fully support the efforts and initiatives of the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community aimed at realizing disarmament, decreasing tension, consolidating peace and international security.

3- The Ministers highly appreciate <sup>the</sup> December 5, 1980 Moscow meeting of the Party and State leaders of the Warsaw Treaty member countries and the unanimous position taken by the Warsaw Treaty Organization at this meeting. They reaffirm the necessity of strengthening the solidarity among the forces of peace, national independence and socialism against the acts of aggression and war provocation conducted by imperialism and international reactionaries.

The Ministers firmly condemn the schemes of the imperialist and reactionary forces which carry out acts of sabotage against socialist Poland and interfere in her internal affairs. The three Indochinese countries reaffirm their strong solidarity and support for the Polish People's Republic, the Party and the people of Poland with the conviction that the Polish working people, under the leadership of the Unified Workers' Party and with the strong support of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries, will develop their traditions and revolutionary forces, overcome all difficulties and trials, foil all manoeuvres of the imperialists and reactionaries, resolutely defend the socialist regime, and ensure the continued development of the country on the way to prosperity and happiness.

4- The peoples of the three Indochinese countries resolutely stand on the side of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples in the struggle for peace, national independence and social progress.

The Ministers stress that the expansionist and big-power hegemonist policy of the reactionary clique in the Beijing ruling circles and the increasing collusion between China and the United States constitute a big danger for the interests of the peoples, and for peace and security in Asia. Being deeply conscious that the solidarity of the Asian countries is an important factor checking every manoeuvre and design of the Beijing bellicist circles, the conference calls on the Asian peoples to heighten their vigilance, intensify their struggle to defeat all manoeuvres and adventurous acts of the imperialists headed by the US imperialists and of reactionary forces, so as to maintain peace, stability and the development of the relations of cooperation and friendship among the Asian countries, thus contributing to the cause of peace in the world.

The Ministers totally support the struggle of the people and Government of Afghanistan, who enjoy help from the Soviet Union, to safeguard and consolidate the gains of the April Revolution, to defend their independence and sovereignty. The Ministers sternly condemn the imperialists and reactionary forces intensified armed intervention in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean region which caused a dangerously tense situation in the area and warmly welcome and fully support the new important proposals President L. Brejnev made in New Delhi on December 10, 1980 on measures for ensuring peace and stability in the Persian Gulf area. The Ministers are of the opinion that the Iraq - Iran conflict only benefits imperialism and Zionist expansionism and wish that both sides try to find a peaceful solution to this conflict. The Ministers support the struggle of the Palestinian people, whose only authentic representative is P.L.O., to regain their fundamental national rights, including the right to establish an independent and sovereign state, warmly hail the great victories of the fraternal peoples of Angola and Mozambique in their struggle to consolidate national independence and build their prosperous countries, support the struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of S.W.A.P.O. against the brutal domination of neo-colonialism and the apartheid policy of the South African racists, for the right of self-determination and genuine independence, support the struggle of the people of the Arab Republic of Democratic Sahrawi under the leadership of Polisario, to achieve their sacred fundamental national rights. The peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea fully support the fraternal people of Cuba in their struggle against the policy of war threat and economic blockade imposed by US imperialism and other reactionary forces, support the struggle of the peoples of Nicaragua and Grenade to consolidate their national independence and reconstruction. The Ministers particularly extends support and militant solidarity to the people and the revolutionary and democratic forces in El Salvador who are waging a staunch struggle for the overthrow of the dictatorial military regime and against the intervention of the US imperialists. The Ministers support the struggle of other people in Asia, Africa and Latin America for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

5- The Ministers highly appreciate the major role played by the non-aligned movement and its active contribution to the struggle for

peace, national independence, against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid, zionism and hegemonist expansionism, support the struggle of the developing countries against economic exploitation by imperialism, for the establishment of a fair, equal new international economic order. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, The Lao People's Democratic Republic and The People's Republic of Kampuchea under-take to work for the strengthening of the solidarity within the non-aligned movement, making it more powerful and effective in defending and realizing its just objective, welcome Cuba who as a Chairman of the non-aligned movement has made efforts and constructive initiatives aimed at promoting her positive role in the movement, welcome India for her active contributions to the non-aligned movement, and to the consolidation of peace and stability in Asia and in the world. The Ministers are confident that with the active and constructive contribution of the member countries together with Cuba, the Chairman of the movement, and India, the host country, the forthcoming conference of the Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned countries in New Delhi will be successful, making the most of the results of the sixth Summit Conference and bringing about new successes for the movement.

Ho Chi Minh City, January 28, 1981.

S T A T E M E N T  
BY THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS  
OF VIETNAM, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA ON PEACE,  
STABILITY, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION  
IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

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1- *The current developments in South East Asia continue to be a source of deep concern for world public opinion.*

*With their foreign policies of peace, friendship, cooperation and their goodwill, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, The Lao People's Democratic Republic and The People's Republic of Kampuchea are increasingly becoming a factor guaranteeing regional peace and stability. The initiatives put forward by the three Indochinese countries at the Conferences of their Foreign Ministers held in Phnom Penh (January 1980) and Vientiane (July 1980) aimed at improving the relations between the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries and consolidating peace, stability and cooperation in South East Asia have enjoyed broad approval from world public opinion. World public opinion especially set great store by the four-point proposal of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council which aims at restoring peace and stability on the Kampuchea - Thailand border, the tireless efforts and goodwill of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in normalizing its relation with Thailand and the contacts between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the other countries in the region. Thanks to the above-mentioned efforts, the dialogue between the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries which, for a short time, was discontinued, is being resumed. In particular, recently the friendly relations between Laos, Vietnam and Burma have been further consolidated and strengthened.*

*Tension, however, continues to prevail in South East Asia. The national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea continue to be threatened. Peace and security of the other countries in the region are not yet secured. The main cause of this situation is the expansionist and big-power hegemonist policy of the reactionary clique in the Beijing ruling circles in collusion with imperialism. They are carrying out a systematic hostile policy against*

*the three Indochinese peoples resorting to armed provocations, constant threat of war and subversive activities against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, using the genocidal Pol Pot clique and other Khmer reactionaries to grossly intervene in Kampuchea hoping to oppose the rebirth of the Kampuchean people, trying to instigate an atmosphere of confrontation and to disrupt the dialogue between the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries, Paralled with opposing the three Indochinese countries, the Beijing authorities are employing rebels disguised as revolutionaries to grossly interfere in the internal affairs of other countries in South East Asia.*

*2- Being threatened with aggression and intervention by the Beijing authorities, it is absolutely legitimate for the three Indochinese peoples to strengthen their solidarity and mutual assistance on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. In accordance with the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between Vietnam and Kampuchea, the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea is to deal with the Chinese threat. Like on two previous occasions, the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea this time is only temporary. When the threat from China no longer exists, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will consider the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. Right now, part of the Vietnamese troops will be withdrawn from Kampuchea, if Thailand put an end to the use of Thai territory by the Pol Pot gang and other reactionary Khmer forces as their foothold to oppose the Kampuchean people, stop supplying them with weapons and food, disarm and concentrate them in camps far away from the border.*

*The UN General Assembly's recent adoption of a resolution maintaining the seat of the genocidal Pol Pot clique at the United Nations and a resolution demanding that an international conference be convened so as to impose a solution on the Kampuchean problem ignoring the protest of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council, the sole authentic and legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people, constitutes a violation of the sovereignty, a gross interference in the internal affairs of the Kampuchean people, and runs diametrically counter to morality and the principles of the UN Charter. The Indochinese countries*



once again reaffirm their position, namely that they categorically reject such resolution .

3- In order to restore peace and stability in South East Asia it is essential that China put an end to its hostile policy against the three Indochinese people and its policy of interference in other countries in the region.

The three Indochinese countries and China are close neighbours whose relationship dates back to time immemorial. The peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea always treasure their traditional friendship with the Chinese people. Proceeding from the policy of peace and friendship and goodwill, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea announce their readiness to sign with the People's Republic of China bilateral treaty of peaceful co-existence based on the principles of strict respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression against each other, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefits, good neighbourliness and settling all disputes by peaceful means.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam calls on the People's Republic of China to early resume the Vietnam - China talks to settle the problems in the relations between the two countries as repeatedly proposed by the Vietnamese side. The Vietnamese side once again reaffirms its readiness to discuss, in the context of such talks, issues raised by the Chinese side and demands that the latter show the same attitude regarding the issues of Vietnam's concern.

In the interest of the Lao and Chinese peoples, the Lao People's Democratic Republic demands that the People's Republic of China respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos and stop supporting, aiding and nurturing the clique of exiled Lao reactionaries on Chinese territory and in other countries, put an end to military threats in the Laos - China border areas, stop sending spies and commando detachments into Laos and stop making slanderous propaganda against the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

*The Lao People's Democratic Republic deems that a favourable response to this just demand will constitute a basis for restoring normal friendly relations between the two countries.*

*The People's Republic of Kampuchea demands that the People's Republic of China stop using the Pol Pot - Ieng Sary - Khieu Samphon reactionary clique and other Khmer reactionaries against the People's Republic of Kampuchea, respect the independence and sovereignty, stop interfering in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea with the People's Revolutionary Council as the only authentic and legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people. The People's Republic of Kampuchea deem that the abovementioned points constitute a basic condition for peace and stability in South East Asia and also for the normalization of the relations between the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the People's Republic of China.*

*Should the afore said proposals of the three Indochinese countries be met with positive response from the Chinese side, they will contribute to restoring the friendship between the peoples of the Indochinese countries and the Chinese people as well as to maintaining peace and stability in South East Asia. The Beijing authorities should prove their words of "goodwill" by practical deeds.*

*4- Although differing in political and social systems and on various questions, the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries share common basic interests, i.e. regional peace, stability, friendship and cooperation, vital conditions for maintaining national independence and security and for building their countries into prosperous and happy ones, each according to its own way. In the interest of their own peoples and of the region as a whole, the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries should uproot the designs of interference and division of outside countries and should not let differences and disagreements effect the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two groups so as to build South East Asia into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. Accordingly, after defeating all imperialists wars of aggression, and regaining national independence, freedom and unification, the Indochinese countries have overlooked the past and taken the initiative to promote the normalization of relations with the Asean*

countries. The normalization has opened up a new page in the history of South East Asia, but it is unfortunate that it has been undermined over the past few years.

The experience of the past two years has again showed that confrontation and imposition of the will by one side on the other only lead to increasing the tension in South East Asia. The tireless efforts of the three Indochinese countries for maintaining dialogue and settling all disputes by negotiations have proved to be the correct way to guarantee regional peace, stability and cooperation.

In this spirit, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea propose :

A) A regional conference be held between the two groups - the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries - to discuss the problems of mutual concern in the interest of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in South East Asia on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual agreement, respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country, non-imposition of the will by one group on the other, and non-interference from outside.

In the common interest of the region, the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries should early set aside obstacles and discuss the questions relating to the holding of such conference, the agenda, time and place of this conference will be agreed upon by the two groups.

For their part, the three Indochinese countries propose that the conference be convened in March 1981, the place of the conference will be either, in rotation, the capital of a Indochinese country (Vientiane) and the capital of an Asean country (Djakarta or Kuala Lumpur), or the capital of another Asian country that the parties might agree upon. The three Indochinese countries will welcome the participation of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma in the conference and fully respect Burma's decision of whether participating or not in the conference.

B) After the countries of the two groups conclude a treaty on peace and stability in South East Asia, a broad international conference will be convened with the purpose of recognizing and guaranteeing that treaty.

*To prepare for the regional conference between the two groups, there will be a preparatory meeting between a representative of the three Indochinese countries and a representative of the five Asean countries. The three Indochinese countries appoint the Lao People's Democratic Republic their representative at such a meeting.*

*The dialogue between the Indochinese countries and the Asean countries will surely help easing the tension, gradually promoting their mutual understanding and trust, facilitating the settlement of urgent problems of common interest so as to improve, step by step, the relations between the two groups, thus bringing about fine prospects for the building of South East Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation.*

*The three Indochinese countries hope that their fair and reasonable proposals and goodwill will be met with positive response from the Asean countries, in conformity with the aspirations of the peoples in South East Asia and the world.*

*Ho Chi Minh City, January 28, 1981.*