

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 10TH CONFERENCE OF INDOCHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER
HO CHI MINH CITY, 1985.

1. THE CONFERENCE IS OF THE UNANIMOUS VIEW THAT THE YEAR 1984 MARKED A NEW STEP FORWARD IN THE GROWTH OF THE FORCES OF PEACE, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN THE FIRCE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND INTERNATIONAL REACTION. SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS WITNESSED VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS FAVOURABLE TO THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE AND BUILDING OF THE LAO, KAMPUCHEAN AND VIETNAMESE PEOPLES. WITH THE VIGOROUS AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, THE NONALIGNED COUNTRIES AND FRIENDS OVER THE WORLD, LAOS, KAMPUCHEA AND VIETNAM ARE STEADILY FORGING AHEAD. THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA IN THE ECONOMIC, MILITARY, POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC FIELDS CONFIRM THE IRREVERSIBILITY OF THE KAMPUCHEAN SITUATION WHILE ALL SCHEMES OF THE IMPERIALIST, EXPANSIONIST AND REACTIONARY FORCES IN THE LAST SIX YEARS AIMED AT RE-INSTALLING THE GENOCIDAL POL POT CLIQUE BACK IN KAMPUCHEA HAVE MET WITH DISMAL FAILURE. IT IS AN UNDENIABLE REALITY THAT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA OVER SEVEN MILLION KAMPUCHEANS ARE TRULY TAKING IN THEIR HANDS THEIR OWN DESTINY IN THEIR MIRACLOUS REBIRTH. THE SO-CALLED COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA IS NOTHING BUT THE SHADOW OF THE POL POT CLIQUE LIVING IN EXILE IN SANCTUARIES IN THAILAND, NURTURED AND MANIPULATED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO TURN AGAINST ITS OWN FATHERLAND. THERE IS AN EVER GREATER MOMENTUM FOR THE EXCLUSION OF POL POT AND HIS ASSOCIATES SO AS TO SAFEGUARD THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ONLY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AND THE REACTIONARIES WITHIN THE THAI RULING CIRCLES HAVE BEEN STUBBORNLY PROPPING UP THE GENOCIDAL POL POT CLIQUE IN ORDER TO OPPOSE THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE'S RENAISSANCE AND SERVE THEIR SELFISH INTERESTS.

2. THE CONFERENCE REVIEWED THE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PAST YEAR IN PURSUANCE OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION. IT IS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD APPRECIATE EVER MORE HIGHLY AND EXTEND AN INCREASINGLY STRONG SUPPORT TO THE JUST POSITION AND GOOD WILL OF THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES IN REGARD TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE WORLD.

THE CONFERENCE APPRECIATES HIGHLY THE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA, ESPECIALLY THE VISITS UNDERTAKEN BY ITS FOREIGN MINISTER IN A NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES AS WELL AS HIS BROAD CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES IN SWEDEN AND FRANCE. IT CONSIDERS POSITIVE THE MEETINGS HELD DURING THE PAST YEAR BETWEEN THE LAO AND THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN SEVERAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. THESE MEETINGS PROVE THAT IN SPITE OF A FEW REMAINING DIFFERENCES THE MAJORITY OF STATES IN THE REGION ARE

BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE NECESSITY, THROUGH DIALOGUE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING AND ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S LEGITIMATE INTERESTS, TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION, AND TO CREATE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INTR-REGIONAL DIFFERENCES WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE.

THE CONFERENCE TAKES NOTE OF THE VIEW HELD BY SEVERAL ASEAN COUNTRIES THAT THE KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE IS NOT (NOT) A PROBLEM BETWEEN THE ASEAN AND THE INDOCHINESE STATES. THIS CORRECT APPROACH HELPS FOSTER BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LATTER AND OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND DO AWAY WITH ARTIFICIAL OBSTACLES TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A ZONE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE INTENTION OF SEVERAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES TO DEVELOP THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND LAOS. IT CONSIDERS THE VISIT TO VIETNAM MADE BY GENERAL L. B. MURDANI, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES, THE SEMINARS AMONG VIETNAMESE AND INDONESIAN SCHOLARS AND THE EVENTUAL VISIT OF INDONESIAN LEADERS TO VIETNAM TO BE POSITIVE EFFORTS THAT THE BENEFICIAL NOT ONLY TO THE BILATERAL INDONESIAN-VIETNAMESE TIES OF CO-OPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BUT ALSO TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN ASIA AND OF THE SOLIDARITY AMONG NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES ALL ENDEAVOURS OF ANY NATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE WORLD TO HELP SETTLE THE EXISTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES AND ANOTHER STATE WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE REGION.

THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE MALAYSIAN PROPOSAL TO TURN SOUTHEAST ASIA INTO A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE AND TO MATERIALIZE THE ZOPFAN CONCEPT PENDING A SOLUTION TO THE 'KAMPUCHEA PROBLEM.' THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES DECLARE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH THE OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES IN CARRYING OUT THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE.

3. THE CONFERENCE EXPOSED THE SCHEMES UNDERTAKEN BY THE BEIJING REACTIONARY RULING CIRCLES OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS IN COLLUSION WITH THE US IMPERIALISTS AND THE REACTIONARIES WITHIN THE THAI RULING CIRCLES AIMED AT WEAKENING THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES THROUGH A MULTIFACETED WAR OF SABOTAGE, FOMENTING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES AND UNDERMINING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. WHILE RESOLUTELY STRUGGLING TO DEFEND THEIR RESPECTIVE FATHERLANDS, THE THREE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES INVARIABLY TREASURE THEIR TIME-HONOURED FRIENDSHIP WITH THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY RESTORATION OF THIS FRIENDSHIP. A RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAM, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA ON THE ONE HAND AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE OTHER, WOULD CONSTITUTE A FACTOR OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD SHOW GOOD WILL. IN THAT SPIRIT, THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA FULLY SUPPORT THE ENDEAVOURS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO RESTORE PEACE IN THE VIETNAM-CHINA BORDER REGIONS AND TO RESUME THE SINO-VIETNAMESE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF THEIR RELATIONS.

4. THE PRESENT TENSION PREVAILING ON THE KAMPUCHEAN-THAI AND LAO-THAI BORDERS STEMS FROM THE THAI EXPANSIONIST POLICY HITHERTO PURSUED BY THE REACTIONARY RULING CIRCLES OF THAILAND VIS-A-VIS THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES. SUCH A SITUATION IS, ON THE ONE HAND, CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLES OF THESE COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE OTHER SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, AND ON THE OTHER, TO THE SOLE ADVANTAGE OF OUTSIDE HEGEMONIST FORCES WHICH ARE ATTEMPTING TO PIT THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ONCE AGAIN REAFFIRM THEIR DESIRE AND WILLINGNESS TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO FOSTER GOOD NEIGHBOUR LINES WITH THAILAND IN ORDER TO TURN THE KAMPUCHEAN-THAI AND LAO-THAI BORDERS INTO BORDERS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THAILAND THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. IN THIS SPIRIT, THE CONFERENCE ASSESSES HIGHLY THE DETERMINATION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE REGION OF THE THREE LAO HAMLETS IN SAYABOURI PROVINCE WHICH HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED BY THAILAND. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHILE FULLY SUPPORTING THE JUST POSITION AND THE GOOD WILL OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, FIRMLY DEMAND THAT THE THAI SIDE IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM THE THREE HAMLETS, RETURN THE LAO CIVILIANS THAT HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED TO THAILAND AND COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSSES INFLECTED ON THE LAO POPULATION BY THE THAI ARMY IN ORDER TO NORMALIZE THE TWO COUNTRIES' RELATIONS.

THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES ALL EFFORTS AIMED AT BRINGING PEACE AND SECURITY FOR BOTH COUNTRIES ALONG THE KAMPUCHEAN-THAI BORDER UNDER AN INTERNATIONAL FORM OF GUARANTEE AND SUPERVISION AND AT HALTING COMPLETELY THE USE OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS BY THE KHMER REACTIONARIES AS BASES FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE. THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WHOLLY SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA ON URGENT MEASURES AIMED AT ENSURING PEACE AND SECURITY ALONG THE BORDER WITH THAILAND AND ON THE REPATRIATION OF KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES RESIDING ON THAI SOIL ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES MUTUALLY AGREED UPON.

5. LOOKING BACK ON THE RELATIONS OF VIETNAM, LAOS AND KAMPUCHEA WITH THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE END OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF AGGRESSION, THE CONFERENCE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE PRESENT ABSENCE OF NORMALIZATION STEMS FROM THE SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS' HOSTILE POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE LATTER ARE INVARIABLY LOOKING TO THE FUTURE. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES CONFIRMS TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED AND OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ASSUME A RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TO LONG-TERM PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE BROADENING CONTACTS BETWEEN VARIOUS STRATA OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND POLITICAL CIRCLES AND THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES. THE CONFERENCE IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE RECENT VISITS OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN'S DELEGATIONS TO LAOS, VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA HAVE BEEN POSITIVE, AS THEY INCREASED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND HELPED FOSTER THE SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS TO EACH OF THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER.

6. INSPIRED BY THEIR ARDENT ASPIRATION FOR THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ONCE AGAIN REITERATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED SO AS TO REACH AN EARLY SOLUTION ENCOMPASSING AT THE SAME TIME THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEER FORCES FROM KAMPUCHEA PAIRED WITH THE EXCLUSION OF THE GENOCIDAL POL POT CLIQUE, RESPECT FOR THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, FIRST AND FOREMOST THE RIGHT TO COME BACK TO A LIFE FREE FROM THE THREAT OF GENOCIDE, THE HOLDING BY THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE OF FREE GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS, BUILDING SOUTHEAST ASIA INTO A ZONE OF PEACE AND STABILITY WHEREIN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS LIVE IN PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITHOUT ALLOWING THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES TO BE USED AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES, RESPECT BY ALL EXTERNAL STATES OF THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORM OF GUARANTEE AND SUPERVISION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENTS.

THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES ONCE AGAIN RENEW THEIR PROPOSAL ON THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS ALL PROBLEMS RELATED TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THAT WOULD BE ATTENDED BY ALL STATES WITHIN THE REGION AND THOSE OUTSIDE THAT ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED OR HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO SOUTHEAST ASIA'S PEACE AND STABILITY.

THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES CONSIDER THAT THE BEST WAY IS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY STATE THEIR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE FOR THE DEFENCE AND BUILDING OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. WITH REGARD TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA IN PARTICULAR, CONCURRENTLY WITH ITS GROWTH AND CONSOLIDATION CONTINGENTS OF VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEER FORCES HAVE SUCCESSIVELY BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THIS COUNTRY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE WITHDRAWN IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR AS WELL AS THE COMING YEARS. IN THIS PERSPECTIVE THE CONFERENCE IS CONFIDENT THAT WITHIN FIVE TO TEN YEARS' TIME THE SO-CALLED KAMPUCHEA PROBLEM WILL OF ITSELF BE SETTLED EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM VALUE HIGHLY THE POLICY OF NATIONAL UNITY PURSUED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA AND WHICH FINDS AN EXPRESSION IN FOREIGN MINISTER HUN SEN'S DECLARATION OF 18 SEPTEMBER, 1982 AND THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN AUGUST 1984 BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA. THIS POLICY OF NATIONAL UNITY HAS BEEN WARMLY WELCOMED BY BROAD SECTIONS OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION.

THE THREE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES HAVE DONE THEIR UTMOST FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE WORLD. IN THIS SPIRIT THE CONFERENCE VALUES HIGHLY AND FULLY SUPPORTS THE IMPORTANT PEACE INITIATIVES OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET UNION'S POSITION IN THE ONGOING SOVIET-US TALKS AIMED AT HALTING THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, EASING INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND CONSOLIDATING THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE WORLD PEOPLE. IT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER FASCISM WHICH WILL BE STIRRINGLY COMMEMORATED BY NATIONS ACROSS THE WORLD. FOR THE THREE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES 1985 WILL ALSO BE MARKED BY MAJOR CELEBRATIONS : THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OF REVOLUTION IN THE THREE COUNTRIES AND THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR VICTORY OVER THE US IMPERIALIST WAR OF AGGRESSION. THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS CONSTITUTE A LIVING MANIFESTATION OF THE TIES BINDING THE FATE OF THE THREE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES TO THAT OF THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD. THE HISTORY OF THE PAST FORTY YEARS SHOWS THAT IN SPITE OF MANY REMAINING DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES NOTHING CAN THREAT THE WORLD PEOPLES - AMONG WHOM THOSE OF INDOCHINA - IN THE REALIZATION OF THEIR LOFTY GOALS, NAMELY PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.