



# THAILAND

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## News Letter

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5 JULY, 1988

### STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE JAKARTA INFORMAL MEETING

1. THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM WHICH IS NOW IN ITS TENTH YEAR.
2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS EXPRESS ASEAN'S FULL SUPPORT FOR THE JAKARTA INFORMAL MEETING WHICH HAS AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM. THEREFORE, ASEAN WELCOMES THE WILLINGNESS EXPRESSED BY VIETNAM AND ALL KAMPUCHEAN FACTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SAID MEETING. THEIR PARTICIPATION IS DEEMED ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING IN ACHIEVING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM.
3. THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WISH TO IMPRESS UPON THE PARTIES CONCERNED THE NECESSITY FOR THEM TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AIMED AT RESOLVING THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM.
4. THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UPCOMING JAKARTA INFORMAL MEETING AS A FOCAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR THE LONG-AWAITED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE KAMPUCHEAN PROBLEM. IN THIS REPORT, VIETNAM'S AND THE KAMPUCHEAN FACTIONS' ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT AND POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WOULD SERVE TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN KAMPUCHEA.

BANGKOK

3 JULY 1988

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[This document was provided by the Royal Thai Embassy, Canberra.]



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6 JULY, 1988

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON INDOCHINESE  
REFUGEES, BANGKOK 4, JULY 1988

1. THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUED **OUTFLOW** OF REFUGEES, DISPLACED PERSONS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM INDOCHINA AND THE PROBLEMS THIS POSES FOR THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS NOTE WITH PARTICULAR CONCERN THE LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE COMING INTO THE ASEAN REGION OVER THE PAST YEAR.
2. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THE STRUCTURES, PREMISES AND ASSUMPTIONS OF THE PAST ARE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PROBLEM. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREE THAT A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTION IS NEEDED.
3. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CALL FOR THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL IN EARLY 1989 TO FORMULATE A NEW COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTION.
4. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREE ON THE URGENCY FOR INCREASED EFFORTS TOWARD RESOLVING THE PROBLEM AT ITS SOURCE. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IN THE INTEREST OF REGIONAL PEACE, STABILITY AND HARMONY, AND IN CONFORMITY WITH HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES:-
  - TO DISCOURAGE THE ILLEGAL OUTFLOW OF ITS PEOPLE:
  - TO ACCEPT THE RETURN OF THOSE WHO DO NOT MEET INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA FOR REFUGEE STATUS: AND,
  - TO EXPAND THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMME (ODP).
5. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE OF THE VIEW THAT ANY EVENTUAL

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POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE KAMPUCHEAN CONFLICT SHOULD ALSO CREATE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH KAMPUCHEAN DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND IN SAFETY AND WITH DIGNITY.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO RENDER ITS FULL COOPERATION TO THE UNHCR WITH REGARD TO THE REPATRIATION OF LAO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND AND OF THOSE WHO DO NOT MEET INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE CRITERIA.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REAFFIRM THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO FIND A DURABLE AND HUMANE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

BANGKOK

4 JULY 1988

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19 January 1988

CHANGE IN RECOGNITION POLICY \*

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Bill Hayden, MP., today announced that Australia has changed its policy on recognition of foreign governments.

Mr Hayden said that his Department had for some time been conducting a review of Australian policy on the question of formal recognition of governments. As a result of the review, the Government had now decided that the practice of formally recognising or withholding recognition of foreign governments should be abandoned.

From now on the Australian Government will not extend formal recognition, whether de facto or de jure, to new governments taking power in other countries. Instead, Australian authorities will conduct relations with new regimes to the extent and in the manner which may be required by the circumstances of each case.

Mr Hayden said that successive Australian Governments had been concerned for a number of years about the public presentation of Australia's practice of extending formal recognition to foreign governments which come to power otherwise than by normal constitutional processes.

The decision whether to recognise or not recognise such a regime had at times led to misunderstandings and complications in any dealings Australia might need to have had with the new regime for consular or other purposes.

In the first place, the extension of recognition to a new regime was often misinterpreted in the public mind as denoting Australia's approval of that regime. Second, existing practice had forced successive Australian governments to make a simple black and white choice between recognition and non-recognition. This had created practical difficulties, particularly in a rapidly evolving situation when flexibility on Australia's part might have suited Australia's interests better.

The adoption of the new policy will make it easier for the Government to indicate to a new regime to what extent it is prepared to do business with it, and to do so in a less dramatic way than sometimes occurs under the present practice.

The new policy is consistent with the practice of other major Western countries.

The Government will not take any steps under the new policy to establish formal relations with either Afghanistan or Kampuchea

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\*[This is the text of a news release dated 19 January 1988, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Canberra].