

# 1981 JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

*Issued in Manila, the Philippines on 18 June 1981*

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourteenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in Manila on 17 and 18 June 1981. The Meeting was formally opened by His Excellency President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Republic of the Philippines.
2. The Meeting was attended by H.E. Prof. Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia; H.E. Carlos P. Romulo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines; H.E. Suppiah Dhanabalan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore; H.E. Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetsila, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; and their respective delegations.
3. H.E. Narciso G. Reyes, Secretary General of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance.
4. H.E. Noel Levi, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Papua New Guinea attended the sessions of the Ministerial Meeting as Observer.
5. H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Representative of the Sultan of Brunei, attended the sessions of the Ministerial Meeting as Observer.
6. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Carlos P. Romulo, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines H.E. Suppiah Dhanabalan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore was elected Vice-Chairman.

## OPENING ADDRESS

7. In addressing the Meeting, His Excellency Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Republic of the Philippines, stated that in the past fourteen years, ASEAN had earned recognition as an important and constructive force in the global equation. He stressed that ASEAN as a group as listened to by the international community and that ASEAN's common initiatives in international fora are given the weight which ASEAN States collectively deserve.
8. The President drew attention to Southeast Asia's past and contemporary history and expressed ASEAN's determination that the region shall not continue to be the setting of exploitative and oppressive action and manoeuvrings by imperialistic powers. He noted that this common historical experience had intensified the common resolve of ASEAN States to close ranks and seek better chances of common salvation in unity and more effective regional cooperation. He expressed confidence that an ASEAN living under conditions of peace and productivity, and interacting with dynamism among its peoples and outside, will serve the wider cause of global peace as well as the search for deeper values of humanity.

9. The President focused attention on recent events which indicated the graffiti of the world situation and the tendencies that have been expressed lately and actively by countries that opted to employ force and violence in the pursuit of policies and national objectives. In this connection he cited the Kampuchean conflict and the recent bombing of nuclear reactors in Iraq, as dominant causes of ASEAN collective concern. He stressed that the forthcoming International Conference on Kampuchea, which would be convened by the United Nations upon the instance of ASEAN and with the overwhelming support of many UN members, will not only affect the future peace in Southeast Asia but will also directly affect the peace of the world.
10. The President declared that the Philippines, in contemplating its destiny, will always regard its role in ASEAN collective efforts for regional cooperation as an outstanding national concern. In this light, he stressed that the Philippines had come to regard ASEAN, together with all its partners in it, as the true effective hope for attaining the aims and objectives which defined the very purpose of ASEAN concord in Southeast Asia.
11. The President remarked that the goal of regional peace and security is co-dependent with the promotion of economic development of ASEAN States and the region as a whole. A Southeast Asian region that is stable in political but more importantly, in economic and social terms might yet prove to be the best source of stability, enduring peace and long-term well-being of the ASEAN peoples.
12. In this regard, the President reaffirmed that the proper kind of concern and assistance for ASEAN should be manifested in the terms of trade, not aid. Stability and justice in ASEAN societies will depend in large measure on their ability to build up their economies through trade. Upon deeper analysis, this also affects the capacity of ASEAN to meet internal threats. He hoped that the United States, Japan, Canada and other friends of ASEAN in the First World would come to terms with this reality.
13. The President urged ASEAN to now aim more seriously at attaining a higher level of cooperation by adopting new systems and innovative approaches that can guarantee better operations and more effective results from all the cooperative efforts being expanded by ASEAN States. He called on ASEAN to review its present system of operations in giving and in trying to give full implementation of ASEAN's goals and agreed objectives.
14. The President expressed his belief that the purpose of unity in ASEAN should transcend its mere political tidiness and reach the operational level of human usefulness manifested in better economic life, more humane social conditions, a more dignified political stature, livelier cultural exchanges, expanded technical and scientific interactions and mutually fruitful arrangements in the fields of intra-ASEAN commerce and trade, in government, and more so now, in private enterprise. In this light, the President welcomed the formal adoption of the Basic Agreement on ASEAN Industrial Complementation which he identified as the first ASEAN activity with direct and substantive participation by the private sector.

## **REVIEW OF ASEAN**

15. Reviewing the progress of ASEAN since its founding on 8 August 1967, the Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that ASEAN has made positive progress in various fields of cooperation. The Foreign Ministers also noted that ASEAN has gained wide international recognition for its aims and objectives. They observed that the political stability and economic viability of the member countries have been key factors in the rapid socio-economic development of the ASEAN region despite the difficulties posed by the world recession. These same factors have

attracted foreign entrepreneurs to participate in ASEAN's economic activities. The Foreign Ministers recognized that this participation has significantly accelerated economic growth in the region. They also expressed appreciation for the contribution of the ASEAN private sector in economic development. They noted the continuing efforts of the private sector of the member countries in strengthening ASEAN economic cooperation.

16. The Foreign Ministers noted that the international community has recognized ASEAN's role as an essential element in the maintenance of international peace and security. They expressed satisfaction that the far-reaching decisions of the Meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government in Bali in 1976, have significantly contributed to the strengthening of peace and stability in the region. The Foreign Ministers expressed confidence that ASEAN has a positive role to play in contributing to the political stability and economic viability of the region.
17. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the growing interest in ASEAN by the regional and international community and the desire by other states to participate more actively in its activities. They believed that this was a tribute to the significant progress made by ASEAN in creating an active and cohesive regional grouping. The Foreign Ministers agreed that without underestimating the importance of such wider cooperation, ASEAN's efforts must be focused on the consolidation of ASEAN so that ASEAN can play a more effective role in Southeast Asian affairs.

#### **SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA**

18. The Foreign Ministers noted with grave concern that despite the constructive efforts by ASEAN and the international community, the Kampuchean armed conflict remained unresolved. The Foreign Ministers reiterated the concern that the security interests of ASEAN States and the peace and stability in the region were being directly threatened as a result of the situation in Kampuchea. They also reiterated the view that the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea is in gross violation of the principles of international law and of the principles of the United Nations Charter. They particularly deplored the continued presence of Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea despite the decisions expressed in the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 34/22 and 35/6, which were overwhelmingly endorsed by the United Nations in 1979 and 1980, respectively.
19. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to these Resolutions which call for the cessation of all hostilities forthwith by all parties to the conflict and for the immediate and total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. This will enable the Kampuchean people to exercise their right of self-determination, free from outside interference, subversion and coercion.
20. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed that further escalation of the fighting in Kampuchea or incursion of foreign forces into Thailand would directly affect the security of the ASEAN member states, and would endanger the peace and security of the whole region. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore reiterated their firm support and solidarity with the Government and people of Thailand, or any other ASEAN country, in the preservation of its independence national sovereignty and territorial integrity.
21. The Foreign Ministers stressed that the so-called elections held in Kampuchea from March to May 1981, constituted a desperate attempt to confer legitimacy upon the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. They firmly emphasized that this, fraudulent elections did not constitute a genuine expression of the free will of the Kampuchean

people, for these elections were held under the shadow cast by the presence of 200,000 Vietnamese soldiers. They restated their firm belief that as long as Vietnamese occupation forces remained in Kampuchea, the Kampuchean people could not pursue their, national interests, form a government of their own choice or freely elect their leaders.

22. The Foreign Ministers commended the efforts of the UN Secretary General to implement the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 35/6 and welcomed his decision to convene the International Conference on Kampuchea in New York in July 1981. They expressed their confidence that the International Conference would make a positive contribution to the establishment of a framework for a lasting solution to the Kampuchean conflict, thereby contributing to durable peace and stability in the region. They therefore urged Vietnam, as a party to the conflict, which had expressed its wish to see peace and stability in Southeast Asia to join in the search for a solution, by participating in the International Conference.
23. The Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their belief that the success of the International Conference on Kampuchea was of vital importance to the members of the world community, particularly to the small nations, which may be increasingly confronted with the problem of protecting their territory against invasion, occupation and the imposition by militarily stronger powers of proxy regimes.
24. In order to reach a comprehensive political settlement in Kampuchea, the Foreign Ministers urged that the following initial steps, among others, should be taken :
  - (i) The dispatch of the UN peacekeeping forces to Kampuchea
  - (ii) The withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from Kampuchea in the shortest time possible under the supervision of the UN peace-keeping forces:
  - (iii) The disarming of all Khmer factions immediately after the Completion of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea.
25. The Foreign Ministers took note of the idea of a regional conference as proposed in Ho Chi Minh City on 28 January 1981 as a means of solving problems concerning peace and stability in Southeast Asia. They stressed that the Kampuchean conflict was the root cause of the threat to the peace and stability of Southeast Asia, and as the Kampuchean involved not only countries in the region but also outside powers, it therefore had international dimensions. Hence, the proposed regional conference could not provide an appropriate forum for any useful discussion that could lead to a durable solution.
26. The Foreign Ministers stressed that they are not opposed to the idea of having consultations and dialogues among countries of the region taking place, but such consultations and dialogues and dialogues are distinct and separate from the International Conference and should not be seen as a substitute for it.
27. The Foreign Ministers also reaffirmed that they continue to recognize the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and to extend their support for its continued representation at the United Nations. They stressed that the grounds for their support for the credentials of Democratic Kampuchea were based on the fundamental principles that foreign intervention must be opposed and that any change in the recognition of Democratic Kampuchea's credentials would be tantamount to condoning Vietnamese military invasion and occupation of Kampuchea. They saw absolutely no justification for other States to overthrow the legitimate government of another State as such action violated the internationally recognized principles governing interstate relations as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The Foreign

Ministers, therefore, called upon member states of the United Nations to up-hold the principle of non-intervention and to support the continued recognition and representation of Democratic Kampuchea at the United Nations.

28. The Foreign Ministers rejected the various arguments that were being repeatedly advanced to justify the continued occupation of Kampuchea and to seek recognition for the regime established in Phnom Penh by Vietnamese forces. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their stand that no regime set up by occupying forces, howsoever it be given the appearance of legitimacy, could lawfully be recognized under the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter.
29. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the current consultations among Kampuchean nationalists to form a United Front with a view to the early setting of a coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea in pursuit of their inalienable right to liberate their country from foreign occupation and domination. They recognized that the establishment of a truly representative government in Kampuchea must remain a matter for the Kampuchean people themselves to decide and pursue.
30. The Foreign Ministers expressed their conviction that a comprehensive political solution of the Kampuchean conflict was vital to the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia which would ensure the independence and sovereignty of all States in the region.
31. The Foreign Ministers stressed that the situation in Kampuchea and Afghanistan had as common denominator the invasion and occupation of a small independent State by a foreign power through the use of force in open violation of international law. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers reiterated their strong support for the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 35/37 as well as the Resolution of the Islamic Summit in Saudi Arabia on 25-28 January 1981 on the Situation in Afghanistan and the Final Political Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi on 13 February 1981, which urgently called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

### **INDOCHINESE REFUGEES**

32. The Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore reiterated their full support for the programme of voluntary repatriation of Kampuchean illegal immigrants/displaced persons/refugees carried out by the Government of Thailand in cooperation with the UNHCR. They expressed their conviction that it was the inalienable right of these Kampuchean people who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries to return safely to their homeland. They also recognized that it was in full accord with humanitarian principles and constituted the most natural solution to the problem. They also supported the view of the Thai Government that while it had granted these Kampuchean first refuge, it was not obligated in any way to accept these people for permanent settlement in its territory.
33. The Foreign Ministers noted with appreciation that the generous contributions made by donor countries to the United Nations Kampuchean Emergency Relief Programme had saved millions of Kampuchean from famine and hunger, and they saw the need for the continuation of such assistance for the needy Kampuchean for whom it was intended. The Foreign Ministers stressed that the objective of humanitarian relief assistance was not for the development of economic and social infrastructures and they expressed grave concern over reports of diversion of such assistance for the rehabilitation and development of economic and social infrastructures

To this end, they urged the United Nations and other international and voluntary agencies to closely and effectively monitor the proper distribution of such humanitarian relief assistance.

34. The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation to the United Nations, the international community and various international and voluntary agencies for their humanitarian assistance to destitute Indochinese illegal immigrants/displaced persons/refugees as well as the affected Thai villagers. At the same time, they appealed for further substantial contributions by donor countries as well as for the prompt resettlement of all refugees in Third Countries so that the ASEAN member countries would not be saddled with burdensome residual problems.
35. The Foreign Ministers expressed grave concern over the situation pertaining to Vietnamese illegal immigrants. They noted that while there had been a decline in the number of illegal departures after the UN Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in Southeast Asia, held in Geneva in July 1979, they were seriously concerned over the fresh arrivals of Vietnamese illegal immigrants in alarming numbers in recent months. They were also concerned over the reduced rate of departures of Vietnamese illegal immigrants from transit camps in ASEAN countries for resettlement in Third Countries.
36. The Foreign Ministers drew attention to the fact that the ASEAN countries had extended to these illegal immigrants all possible assistance by providing them shelter and transit facilities. In this connection, they expressed their hope that the problem would be tackled at its source and urged Vietnam to cooperate by preventing further illegal departures. They also urged Vietnam, the UNHCR and resettlement countries to exert earnest efforts in implementing the Programme of Orderly Departure. They expressed appreciation for the commendable role played by resettlement countries, the UNHCR and international and voluntary agencies in helping to alleviate the burden of this problem on ASEAN countries. At the same time, they appealed to resettlement countries to continue to display the generosity of spirit, understanding and cooperation which they had shown all along so that the suffering of the illegal immigrants would be alleviated and they will be offered permanent homes.

## **ASEAN COOPERATION**

37. The Meeting reviewed the developments in ASEAN regional cooperation and welcomed the efforts to intensify closer collaboration in the economic, social and cultural fields. The Meeting reaffirmed that these collective endeavours would further enhance the economic well-being of the region and its people.
38. The inauguration of the new ASEAN Secretariat Building in Jakarta by President Suharto on 9 May 1981 symbolizes a new chapter in ASEAN unity and cooperation.
39. The Foreign Ministers formally signed the Basic Agreement on ASEAN Industrial Complementation (AIC). The Meeting agreed that the AIC represents another break-through in ASEAN industrial cooperation and welcomed the contribution made by the private sector in evolving the scheme. The Meeting commended the ASEAN Economic Ministers for their efforts in bringing about a new and effective form of industrial cooperation.
40. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the progress of the ASEAN Industrial Projects which are regarded as a milestone in fostering cooperation, solidarity and unity in the region. The ASEAN Urea Project (Indonesia) and the ASEAN Urea Project (Malaysia) are being implemented on schedule. In respect of the ASEAN Urea Project (Malaysia), the Meeting noted that the terms of the loan have been agreed to in principle and the Bintulu Fertilizer Sendirian Berhad in

Sarawak, the project company, was launched on 25 April 1981. On the ASEAN Rock Salt Soda Ash Project (Thailand), the Thai Government has decided that the site of the Project is in the area near Sattahip.

41. The Meeting welcomed the decisions of the ASEAN Economic Ministers that the Copper Fabrication Plant is now the ASEAN Industrial Project for the Philippines. The Meeting also endorsed the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to allow up to three projects per country to be considered at any one time. The Meeting believed that this new procedure will allow a more speedy consideration of ASEAN industrial projects.
42. The Meeting commended the ASEAN Economic Ministers in their efforts to further expand and liberalize intra-ASEAN trade. The Meeting viewed with satisfaction the substantial increase in items enjoying tariff preferences under the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangement which now totals 6,581. The Meeting also endorsed the decisions of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to expand the coverage of items eligible for a 20-25 per cent tariff preference from US\$ 50,000 to US\$ 500,000 (c.i.f.) import value based on 1978 statistics. The Meeting viewed these measures as a concrete manifestation of the collective desire of ASEAN countries to develop more meaningful trade relations among them.
43. In the field of food, agriculture and forestry, the Meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress of specific cooperation programmes which have contributed to the economic resilience and stability of the ASEAN region. The Meeting welcomed in particular the establishment of the ASEAN Food Handling Bureau in Kuala Lumpur as a useful mechanism for providing appropriate technical assistance and coordination in all aspects of food handling and distribution. The Meeting noted the convening of the First Meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board in Bangkok and pledged continued cooperation in strengthening the region's capabilities to cope with acute food shortages. The Meeting stressed the importance of addressing the problem of rural development and urged member countries to direct greater attention towards raising agricultural and farm productivity.
44. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the ASEAN Economic Ministers on Energy Cooperation for their role in promoting cooperative endeavours in conventional and non-conventional energy. It welcomed the progress made in the area of non-conventional energy such as solar, biogas, geothermal, wind, endothermal, and micro hydro energy. Cooperation in the field of conventional energy has been identified as coal and power utilities.
45. The Meeting lauded the decision of the First Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers of Science and Technology held in Pattaya, Thailand on 27-28 October 1980 to strengthen cooperation in science and technology through the establishment of an ASEAN trust fund, exchange of scientific and technological information, conduct of technical workshops and exchange of scientists and technologists. The Meeting welcomed the formulation of the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology for Development as the framework for the formulation and implementation of all programmes and projects in science and technology.
46. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Environment agreed in Manila on 30 April 1981 during the First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment. It commended the adoption by the Ministers of Environment of the ASEAN Environmental Programme covering the following priority areas: marine environment, environmental management including environmental impact assessment, nature conservation and terrestrial ecosystems, industry and environment, environmental education and training and environmental information.

47. In the field of transportation and communications, the Meeting expressed satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the International Civil Aviation Policy (ICAP) issue on the participation of ASEAN airlines in the Australia – United Kingdom Low Fare Scheme. ASEAN airlines are now able to participate on an equal footing with the airlines of Australia and United Kingdom as from 1 June 1981.
48. On social development, the Meeting expressed satisfaction over the cooperative endeavours in the fields of education, population, drug prevention and health. The Meeting reiterated the need to further expand the activities and projects in these areas. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that the ASEAN Ministers of Health at their First Meeting held on 22-24 July 1980 in Manila adopted the Declaration on Collaboration in Health to strengthen and coordinate regional cooperation in health among ASEAN countries.
49. In the field of culture and information, the Meeting expressed satisfaction on the completion of twelve (12) cultural projects under the ASEAN Cultural Fund.

### **GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL**

50. The Foreign Ministers welcomed the endeavours of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council towards greater self-reliance through economic, social and cultural cooperation. They recognized the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council as a positive contribution towards the maintenance of peace and stability in the Gulf region.

### **COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES**

51. The Meeting reviewed the progress made in the dialogues with Australia, Canada, EEC, Japan, New Zealand, the USA and UNDP/ESCAP and expressed the need to evolve a more productive and intensified relationship between ASEAN and its dialogue partners. The Meeting endorsed the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to formulate appropriate policy guidelines for ASEAN cooperation with third countries. The Meeting reaffirmed the view that ASEAN should focus on areas of priority interest such as shipping, energy, and access to markets in dialogues with third countries.
52. The Meeting welcomed the cooperation between the private sectors of ASEAN and those of the dialogue partners which contributed to the expansion of the dialogues and recommended that similar contacts at other levels should be encouraged.
53. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the steady progress in ASEAN-Australia cooperation. It was pleased to note the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Joint Research Project as well as the establishment in Kuala Lumpur of the ASEAN Food Handling Bureau under the ASEAN Food Handling Project. The Meeting welcomed Australia's decision to extend the ASEAN Protein Project for another three years and its continuing assistance to the Consumer Protection Agency Project. The Meeting also expressed appreciation on the readiness of Australia to assist ASEAN in energy cooperation. The Meeting also reaffirmed its support to the establishment of the ASEAN- Australia Business Council as a vehicle for interaction and cooperation among the private business sectors.
54. The Meeting noted the progress in the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue and expressed satisfaction over the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Forest Tree Seed Center Project

and on the Fisheries Post Harvest Technology Project. The Meeting looked forward to an early conclusion of the proposed cooperation agreement between ASEAN and Canada.

55. The Meeting noted with satisfaction that, in pursuance of the ASEAN-EEC Cooperation Agreement, the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) was formally established in November 1980. It noted the decisions of the First JCC Meeting which covered the areas of commercial, economic, and development cooperation as well as measures for the implementation of the Agreement. The Meeting, in particular welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Trade Issues to facilitate consultations between ASEAN and the EEC on trade matters. The Meeting noted with appreciation a two-year programme of ASEAN-EEC cooperation in science and technology and the financial assistance to be extended to the programme by the EEC. In the area of trade promotion, the Meeting was pleased to note that the Letter of Acceptance on the ASEAN Trade Promotion Center in Rotterdam was deposited with the Government of Netherlands. The establishment of this Center will help expand trade between ASEAN and EEC.
56. The Meeting welcomed the ratification of the Agreement on the ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism by ASEAN countries and Japan which came into effect on 25 May 1981. The Meeting noted with appreciation the loans provided by Japan for the establishment of the ASEAN Urea Project (Indonesia). The loan agreement in respect of the Urea Project (Malaysia) is being linked. The Meeting welcomed the creation of ASEAN Centres for Appropriate Technology (ACAT) and the implementation of the Japan Scholarship for ASEAN Youth. It also looked forward to the early implementation of the proposed ASEAN Human Resources Development Project which would form an important component of the national development efforts of ASEAN member countries.
57. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction over the progress of the ASEAN-New Zealand Dialogue in particular, the assistance extended by the New Zealand Government to further support on-going projects, namely: survey of end uses of timber, livestock development, afforestation, and ASEAN Fellowship Programme. New Zealand has also offered to assist in geothermal energy development and other non-conventional energy sources. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of links between the Chambers of Commerce of ASEAN and New Zealand and hoped that the private sectors would play a significant role in expanding trade opportunities between ASEAN and New Zealand.
58. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the designation of ASEAN by the United States Government as a regional association for the purpose of availing of the cumulative rules of origin under the US GSP. It welcomed the indication of interest by the US to assist ASEAN in the fields of non-conventional energy, tropical medicine, and public health. The Meeting likewise welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Agricultural Development Planning Centre in Bangkok and the ASEAN Regional Plant Quarantine Training Institute (PLANTI) in Kuala Lumpur.
59. The Meeting took note with satisfaction over the progress being made on the ASEAN projects with the assistance from the UNDP and looked forward to further cooperation under the ASEAN-UNDP/ESCAP Programme for 1982-1986.

## **INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES**

60. The Meeting viewed with grave concern the continuing negative trends in international economic relations as illustrated by the failure to launch the scheduled global consultations on

economic cooperation and development in September 1980. They agreed that ASEAN should strengthen its collective efforts in all International fora and multilateral dialogues to cushion the adverse effects of global economic and political instability on the ASEAN countries. They expressed their belief that greater collective action will make ASEAN a potent force in the global round of negotiations.

61. The Meeting therefore agreed that ASEAN in concert with all its dialogue partners actively support the launching of the global round of negotiations during the 36th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). They affirmed that the success of the global round of negotiations would accelerate the resolution of the North-South issues and would create a more conducive atmosphere for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.
62. The Meeting reviewed the developments relating to the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities (IPC). It welcomed the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the Common Fund. The Meeting noted that a number of developed and developing countries have signed the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities and agreed that in view of ASEAN's considerable interest in the success of the Common Fund, all ASEAN member countries should endeavour to join the Fund.
63. The Meeting considered the problems relating to specific international commodity agreements. It discussed international tin issues and reaffirmed the particular importance that ASEAN attaches to the successful conclusion of the Sixth International Tin Agreement (ITA) negotiations. Noting that the failure to conclude the Sixth ITA would have serious consequences for producer-consumer cooperation in the commodity field, the Foreign Ministers reiterated the concern expressed by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and urged the developed consuming countries to exercise the necessary political will to subscribe to the consensus towards an early conclusion of the ITA negotiations. Noting further the depressed state of the international tin market, the Foreign Ministers called for the substantial upward revision of the International Tin Council (ITC) buffer stock price range and the suspension of sales of tin from the US strategic stockpiles. In this regard, the Foreign Ministers agreed to take up these matters with the dialogue partners during the Post-Ministerial Meetings.
64. In the spirit of ASEAN solidarity, the Meeting invited all ASEAN natural rubber producing and trading countries to participate fully in the International Natural Rubber Agreement. The Meeting also expressed the readiness of ASEAN to take an active part in the negotiations on the International Copper Agreement.
65. The Meeting endorsed the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to formulate a common ASEAN position on the renegotiation of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA). The Meeting agreed that this would safeguard the interests of exporting developing countries like ASEAN.
66. The Meeting welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers that ASEAN play a more active role in Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) matters. The Meeting expressed the view that ASEAN's efforts at economic cooperation is concrete example of its contribution to ECDC and on this account, ASEAN economic cooperative endeavours should be further intensified. The Meeting endorsed the guidelines governing ASEAN participation in ECDC activities as formulated by the ASEAN Economic Ministers.

### **THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

67. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the increasing activities of the ASEAN private sectors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which broaden and strengthen ASEAN cooperation and solidarity and in particular people-to-people contacts for the promotion of goodwill and cooperation in trade and industry. The Meeting agreed that there should be close interaction with affiliated NGOs and that there was need to consider the modalities of cooperation with these organizations. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers to invite the ASEAN-CCI to report to the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting on matters relating to ASEAN economic cooperation.

### **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MINISTERIAL MEETING**

68. The 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting will be held in the Republic of Singapore in 1982.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

69. The Delegations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Philippines for the warm and generous hospitality accorded them and for the excellent facilities provided and efficient arrangements made for the Meeting.
70. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN friendship and solidarity.