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10TH ASEAN-EC MINISTERIAL MEETING
29-30 OCTOBER 1992, MANILA

JOINT DECLARATION

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Community (EC) was held on 29-30 October 1992, in Manila, under the co-chairmanship of the Philippines and the United Kingdom. The Ministers had a comprehensive and useful exchange of views on a number of political and economic issues.

2. The Ministers reviewed the developments in ASEAN-EC relations since their last meeting in Luxembourg on 30-31 May 1991. They expressed satisfaction over the progress of the relationship and agreed that there was a need to consolidate, deepen and diversify ASEAN-EC cooperation to enable it to keep abreast of global changes and to ensure an enduring and mutually beneficial relationship in an increasingly interdependent world.

DEVELOPMENTS IN ASEAN AND THE COMMUNITY

3. The Ministers had an extensive exchange of views on the developments in ASEAN and in the Community since their last Ministerial Meeting in Luxembourg. They noted the rapid economic growth of ASEAN member countries and the increasing collaboration between them.

4. The Ministers noted the progress towards ratification of the Treaty agreed at Maastricht to establish a European Union, steps towards completion of the Single Market and prospects for enlargement of the Community. The ASEAN Ministers expressed the hope that such developments would enhance ASEAN-EC cooperation. The Ministers welcomed the links established between the European Parliament and the ASEAN Interparliamentary Organisation.

ASEAN-EC RELATIONS

5. The Ministers noted that since the signing of the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement in 1980, commercial, economic and development cooperation has made significant progress. Both groups being outward looking, GATT-consistent and supportive of the process of trade liberalization -- the EC moving to a single market and the ASEAN to a free trade area -- the Ministers agreed to continue to accelerate joint efforts in enhancing ASEAN-EC relations.

15. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of private sector participation in ASEAN-EC industrial and investment cooperation. They agreed to encourage their private sectors to participate in the various ASEAN industrial programmes and in the EC Investment Partner (ECIP) scheme in order to realize more ASEAN-EC joint venture projects. In this regard, the Ministers also agreed that information on business opportunities, new policy directives, rules and regulations in both regions should be widely disseminated to their private sectors.

16. The Ministers welcomed the extension of the ECIP scheme which had financed over 100 potential joint ventures between companies in the EC and ASEAN since it began in 1989 and the increase in the resources for each ECIP project to 1 million ecu.

17. The Ministers also agreed on the need to continue to improve the investment climate, including the protection of investments and intellectual property rights. This would help to promote technology transfer, to encourage inward investments and to develop trade. The Ministers commended the 7.5 million ecu ASEAN-EC Patents and Trademarks Programme.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

18. The Ministers had a fruitful exchange of views on the basic principles and priorities guiding their economic and development cooperation policies.

19. The Ministers considered constructive the recent decisions taken at the ASEAN-EC Joint Cooperation Committee to improve the criteria for regional projects and programmes.

20. They noted that development cooperation would be aimed at poverty alleviation programmes conducted with individual ASEAN member countries.

COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

21. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of environment protection and sustainable development both for the present and future generations. They reiterated that environment protection and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing and interrelated.

22. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the special resources which the EC had set aside for environmental protection including the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical forests. The Ministers underlined the urgent need for plans of action on forestry cooperation.

23. The Ministers noted the launching of several programmes for the protection of the urban and industrial environment. The Ministers commended the forthcoming establishment of the EC-Singapore Regional Environment Technology Institute.

24. The Ministers agreed that the present and future needs of the ASKAN region in safeguarding the quality of the environment, the development of long-term plans, and the effective utilization of EC-ASEAN bilateral funding available for environmental protection should be pursued in the relevant ASKAN-EC fora.

OTHER PRIORITY SECTORS FOR COOPERATION

25. Apart from the priorities above, the Ministers particularly noted that:

- On human resource development, joint training activities were already underway which concentrated on skills upgrading. They also welcomed the establishment of the ASKAN-EC Management Centre in Brunei Darussalam.

- On science and technology, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of ASKAN-EC cooperation in this field. They welcomed the cooperation efforts of the EC to strengthen the institutional capabilities of ASKAN in this area as well as the rapid increase in joint scientific research under the EC's Life Science and Technologies for Developing Countries Programme contributing to sustainable development, and underlined the need for programmes promoting technology transfer capable of commercial applications in specific ASKAN industrial sectors.

- On energy cooperation, they welcomed the decisions taken at the Tenth ASKAN-EC Joint Cooperation Committee to promote energy cooperation so as to assist the strengthening of energy planning and management capabilities by reinforcing energy technology in an environmentally sound manner in the ASKAN member countries and creating favorable conditions for a greater presence of European energy technologies in ASKAN.

- On the fight against narcotics, they emphasized the importance of increasing the efficiency of policies and measures to counter the supply and illicit traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances, the laundering of financial proceeds from such activities and the diversion of trade in the precursor chemicals, as well as measures to prevent and reduce drug abuse.

37. The Ministers called for full support of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 770 (1992) relating to the effectiveness of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in carrying out its tasks of peacekeeping, protection and ensuring delivery of humanitarian relief throughout the former Yugoslavia, and No. 780 (1992) providing for the creation of an impartial commission of experts to assist the UN Secretary-General in the collation and analysis of evidence of war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

ASIA-PACIFIC

38. Determined to take advantage of the end of the Cold War and to reinforce security and stability in the Southeast Asian region, the EC Ministers welcomed the accession of Vietnam and Laos to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and looked forward to wider cooperation in the entire Southeast Asia in ensuring lasting regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

39. Emphasizing the need to resolve all sovereignty and jurisdictional issues pertaining to the South China Sea by peaceful means and without resort to force, the EC Ministers endorsed the ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea issued in Manila in July 1992 and called on the regional powers to work to this end.

40. The Ministers noted that the workshops on the South China Sea held in Indonesia had contributed to a better understanding of the issues involved. They hoped that further talks among the concerned parties to explore possibilities of joint cooperation in the South China Sea could be held at an appropriate date.

INDOCHINA

41. The Ministers underlined their commitment to the peace process in Cambodia and the importance of persevering with the implementation plan on schedule, despite the difficulties encountered in the implementation of phase 2 of the Paris Agreements, particularly cantonment and demobilization and free access by UNTAC. They called on all the parties to observe scrupulously their obligations, as underlined by Security Council Resolution 783, allowing registration to proceed on time for elections to the Constituent Assembly in April/May 1993. They welcomed initiatives now underway to secure cooperation of all parties towards the final implementation of the Paris Agreements. The Ministers noted the sizeable contribution that ASEAN and EC member states were making to the UNTAC operations.

42. The Ministers reiterated their recognition of the leadership of Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of the SNC, as vital to the maintenance of peace and stability in Cambodia as well as to the rebuilding of that country.

43. The Ministers welcomed the success so far of the repatriation programme for Cambodian displaced persons and encouraged the UNHCR to complete the process in time for the elections in Cambodia in April/May 1993.

44. The Ministers welcomed recent political developments in Vietnam, efforts to move towards a market economy and closer economic relations with the rest of Southeast Asia. They recognized the importance of the early normalization of Vietnam's relations with the international financial institutions.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

45. The Ministers reviewed the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese refugees. They welcomed the progress that has been made so far. They called on the international donor community to continue to fund generously the annual UNHCR CPA appeal and the various programmes for the repatriation to and reintegration of non-refugees in Vietnam, in particular the international programme initiated by the EC. The Ministers, noting the three-year time frame envisaged at the UN International Conference on Indo-Chinese refugees held in Geneva in June 1989, called on the UNHCR to accelerate the resettlement of refugees in third countries, including in particular the long-stayers. They highlighted the need to repatriate soon the tens of thousands of non-refugees in the countries of first asylum in the region.

THE SITUATION IN MYANMAR (BURMA)

46. Bearing in mind the respective positions set out in various fora by the two sides, the Ministers expressed the hope that the Myanmar government would make further progress towards political and economic reforms.

CONCLUSION

47. Finally, the Ministers decided:

- to strengthen cooperation, building on the 1980 Cooperation Agreement, to their mutual advantage.

- to promote further ASEAN-EC bilateral trade and investments, taking account of their respective economic situations;

- to intensify their close dialogue on all areas of mutual interest and priorities of importance to both regions, through the mechanisms for consultation and dialogue agreed between them;

- henceforth to conduct their dialogue at the levels of both Ministers and Senior Officials; Ministers will meet at least once every two years and the Senior Officials will meet in the intervening years between the meetings of the Ministers.
