IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 29 November 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instruction of our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit, for the information of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the attached Declaration and joint communiqué issued in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 27 November 1971.

We should be grateful if you could arrange to circulate this letter and the attached Declaration and joint communiqué as official documents of the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session under agenda item 34.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Anand PANYARACHUN
Acting Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

(Signed) J.B.P. KARAMIS
Acting Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

(Signed) H.M.A. ZAKARIA
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations

(Signed) Narciso G. REYES
Permanent Representative of Philippines to the United Nations

(Signed) Shunmugam JAYAKUMAR
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations

71-25753
DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
OF ASEAN, HELD AT KUALA LUMPUR ON 27 NOVEMBER, 1971

We, the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and the Special Envoy of the National Executive Council of Thailand:

Firmly believing in the merits of regional co-operation which has drawn our countries to co-operate together in the economic, social and cultural fields in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

Desirous of bringing about a relaxation of international tension and of achieving a lasting peace in South-East Asia;

Inspired by the worthy aims and objectives of the United Nations, in particular, by the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, abstention from the threat or use of force, peaceful settlement of international disputes, equal rights and self-determination and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

Believing in the continuing validity of the Declaration on the Promotion of World Peace and Co-operation of the Bandung Conference of 1955, which among others, enunciates the principles by which States may coexist peacefully;

Recognizing the right or every State, large or small, to lead its national existence free from outside interference in its internal affairs, as this interference will adversely affect its freedom, independence and integrity;

Dedicated to the maintenance of peace, freedom and independence unimpaired;

Believing in the need to meet present challenges and new developments by co-operation with all peace- and freedom-loving nations, both within and outside the region, in the furtherance of world peace, stability and harmony;

Cognizant of the significant trend towards establishing nuclear-free zones, as in the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Lusaka Declaration proclaiming Africa a nuclear-free zone, for the purpose of promoting world peace and security by reducing the areas of international conflicts and tensions;

Reiterating our commitment to the principle in the Bangkok Declaration which established ASEAN in 1967, "that the countries of South-East Asia share a primary responsibility for strengthening the economic and social stability of the region and ensuring their peaceful and progressive national development, and that they are determined to ensure their stability and security from external interference in any form or manifestation in order to preserve their national identities in accordance with the ideals and aspirations of their peoples";
Agreeing that the neutralization of South-East Asia is a desirable objective and that we should explore ways and means of bringing about its realization; and

Convinced that the time is propitious for joint action to give effective expression to the deeply felt desire of the peoples of South-East Asia to ensure the condition of peace and stability indispensable to their independence and their economic and social well-being;

Do hereby state:

(1) That Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand are determined to exert initially necessary efforts to secure the recognition of, and respect for, South-East Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, free from any form or manner of interference by outside Powers;

(2) That Southeast Asian countries should make concerted efforts to broaden the areas of co-operation which would contribute to their strength, solidarity, and closer relationship.
JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE MEETING
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ASEAN, HELD AT
KUALA LUMPUR ON 27 NOVEMBER 1971

As agreed at their meeting in New York on 2 October 1971, a Meeting of Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries was held in Kuala Lumpur on 26-27 November 1971. The Meeting was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, His Excellency Tun Adam Malik; the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, His Excellency Tun Hj. Abdul Razak bin Hussein; the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, His Excellency Dr. Carlos P. Romulo; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. S. Rajaratnam; and the Special Envoy of the National Executive Council of Thailand, His Excellency Tun Thanat Khoman. The Foreign Ministers' Meeting was preceded by a meeting of their officials on 25-26 November 1971.

2. The Meeting was held in a very informal and friendly atmosphere and was characterized by free and frank discussions in the spirit of regional co-operation and consultation among ASEAN member countries.

3. The Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy exchanged views and discussed matters of mutual interest concerning recent developments in the international situation as they affect the region of South-East Asia.

4. The Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy agreed to continue to consult each other with a view to fostering an integrated approach on all matters and developments which affect the South-East Asian region.

5. At the end of their deliberations, the Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy signed and issued a declaration in which they stated their determination to exert initially necessary efforts to secure the recognition of and respect for South-East Asia as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality, free from any form or manner of interference by outside Powers, and also stated that South-East Asian countries should make concerted efforts to broaden the areas of co-operation which would contribute to their strength, solidarity and closer relationship.

6. The Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy agreed that their concern for peace and stability should be manifested through a meeting at the highest level. They accordingly agreed to recommend that a summit meeting of the heads of State or Government of the members of ASEAN be held in Manila at a date to be announced later.

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7. The Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy also agreed that they would bring the contents of their Declaration to the attention of the other countries of South-East Asia and would encourage them to associate themselves with the aspirations and objectives expressed in the Declaration.

8. The Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy also agreed to establish a Committee of senior officials initially of the ASEAN countries to study and consider what further necessary steps should be taken to bring about the realization of their objectives. The Committee would be convened in Malaysia.

9. The Foreign Ministers and the Special Envoy expressed their sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Malaysia for the warm and generous hospitality extended to them during the Meeting.