

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council met in Paris on 12-13 March 1990 for a third session of discussions on the modalities of a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict. Their starting point was the agreement reached at the previous sessions in Paris and New York, taking account of the recent discussions among the Cambodian parties and of the Informal Meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta.

Although no text was formally adopted in Jakarta, the Five noted that in the course of the meeting, common understanding was reached among all concerned, notably the Cambodian parties, on the need for the United Nations to have an enhanced role in dealing with the various aspects of the Cambodian settlement process and for the establishment of a Supreme National Council.

In this connection, the Five recalled the statement issued after their meeting in New York and reaffirmed that the question of Cambodia must be resolved by a comprehensive political settlement including both military and administrative aspects, during the transitional period.

They also stressed the need for effective measures to guarantee the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cambodian people.

A primary purpose of the United Nations' involvement will be the organisation and conduct of free and fair elections under its direct administration. This will require the creation of a neutral political environment in which no party would be advantaged.

1/ Organisation of Elections.

The United Nations should be responsible for the organisation and conduct of free and fair elections on the basis of genuine and verified voter registration lists of Cambodian citizens. Eligibility to vote, including provisions regarding the conditions of residence in Cambodia, will be established in the electoral law. Special electoral arrangements should be agreed to guarantee the right to vote of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons.

The electoral process should therefore be guided by the following principles :

- the system and procedures adopted should be, and be seen to be, absolutely impartial while the arrangements should be as administratively simple and efficient as possible ;
- all Cambodian participants in the elections should have the same rights, freedoms and opportunities to take part in the election process ; and
- all parties should commit themselves to honouring the results.

The duration of the electoral process should be consistent with the above and as short as possible . It should lead to a single election of a constituent assembly which would approve a Constitution and transform itself into a legislative assembly.

2/ Supreme National Council

Bearing in mind the principle according to which the Cambodian parties should be consulted on questions relating to Cambodian sovereignty, the Five invited the four Cambodian parties to agree that a Supreme National Council should be established as the unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the period of transition, national sovereignty and unity should be enshrined.

Its composition should be decided by the Cambodian parties themselves and could include representatives of all shades of opinion among the people of Cambodia. From its creation, it will delegate to a United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) all necessary powers including those to conduct free and fair elections. It will interface with the United Nations Transitional Authority and be consulted on, and give advice relevant to, the functions of civil administration and electoral organisation.

As the enshrinement of Cambodian sovereignty, the Supreme National Council would occupy the seat of Cambodia at the United Nations and its specialised agencies, and at other international bodies and conferences.

3/ Creation of a United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)

Given the need for a neutral administration in Cambodia during the transitional period and the need to create a neutral environment in which free and fair elections could take place, the creation of a United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia is necessary.

The United Nations Transitional Authority will be established by the UN Security Council under the direct responsibility of the United Nations Secretary-General who may appoint a Special Representative. It should exercise all powers necessary over Cambodian territory in its entirety in order to :

- assure the Cambodian people of freedom from intimidation and the threat of force and corruption ;
- provide them with protection from economic and social discrimination ; and
- guarantee human and civil rights for all.

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The Five met M. Rafeuddin Ahmed, Under Secretary General of the United Nations. Through him, they asked the Secretariat of the United Nations to provide relevant technical information and advice. The Five consulted again with representatives of a number of other countries, also actively engaged in the search for a peaceful settlement in Cambodia.

They agreed to meet, if possible before the middle of May, in New York to continue their work to achieve a comprehensive settlement, including the military and peacekeeping aspects and the question of existing structures and regimes. They further intend to meet in Paris and, if the conditions are ripe, to consult with the representatives of the Cambodian parties.

In the interim, they will maintain contact with the United Nations Secretary-General's task force on Cambodia through their missions in New York and continue their consultations with other interested parties./.

Paris, march 13

10 pm.