



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/138 ✓

S/21161

23 February 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-fifth session

Items 23, 29, 32, 34, 35, **38**, 43, **82**

and 111 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND

ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

THE SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA

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INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG

ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 22 February 1990 from the Permanent **Representatives**
of ~~Indonesia~~ and Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint declaration of the Eighth Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) and the European Community (EC), which was held at Kuching, Malaysia, on 16 and 17 February 1990.

We should be grateful if you could arrange to have this text circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 23, **29**, 32, 34, 35, 30, 43, 82 and 111 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nana S. SUTRESNA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Indonesia

(Signed) ~~is~~ Mahon HAYES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ireland

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ANNEX
JOINT DECLARATION
EIGHTH ASEAN-EC MINISTERIAL MEETING
KUCHING, MALAYSIA,
16-17 FEBRUARY, 1990

1. The Eighth Meeting of the foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Community (EC) was held in Kuching, Malaysia from 16-17 February 1990. The Chief Minister of the State Government of Sarawak, His Excellency Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, welcomed the Ministers and the delegates to Kuching. His Excellency Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, addressed the opening session of the Meeting,

2. The Ministers had a comprehensive exchange of views on political and economic subjects. The Ministers reviewed the progress of ASEAN-EC relations since their last meeting which was held in Dusseldorf from 2-3 May 1988. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the continued cooperation that exists between ASEAN and the EC both in international fora and on a bilateral basis. Being cognizant of the impact of the European Single Market in 1992 and of recent political, social, and economic developments in Eastern Europe, both ASEAN and the EC were in agreement that greater efforts should be made to enhance cooperation between the two regions.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES

International Situation

3. The ASEAN and EC Ministers had a wide-ranging discussion on the latest international developments. They noted with satisfaction the existing disposition towards rapprochement and mutual accommodation among states, especially between the major powers, which has led to a visible

relaxation of international tensions and to even more vigorous efforts in resolving regional conflicts through dialogue and negotiations. The exchange of views also focussed on the fundamental changes presently taking place in Central and Eastern Europe and on the new opportunities as well as new challenges that these may entail.

4. While welcoming these developments as hopeful auguries for greater global peace and improved East-West relations, the Ministers recognised that imbalances and uncertainties still exist inter alia in the North-South relationship. They therefore resolved to enhance their cooperation in addressing the global problems of an increasingly interdependent and integrated world economy,

Disarmament and Arms Control

5. The Ministers welcomed recent progress in the areas of nuclear, chemical and conventional disarmament and arms control and noted that prospects are favourable for further progress. Through disarmament, new opportunities could be created for facilitating increased cooperation for development and for the safeguarding of the resources of the environment.

Cambodia

6. The Ministers had an extensive exchange of views on the latest developments regarding the Cambodian question and the continuing efforts to find a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the tragic conflict in that country, which can only be achieved through a comprehensive political settlement. Such a settlement should include, inter alia, the total withdrawal of foreign forces verified by the UN, a ceasefire, the ending of all forms of external military assistance to the belligerents, the introduction of an effective International Control Mechanism under UN auspices, the creation of a UN interim authority and the promotion of national reconciliation among the Cambodians, ensure respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and neutral and

non-aligned status of Cambodia, as well as the right of the Cambodian people to self-determination free from outside interference, and ensure also the non-return of the universally condemned policies and practices of a recent past. They stressed the fundamental right at Cambodians to choose their own government in free, fair and UN-supervised elections, in which all Cambodian parties should be allowed to participate. The Cambodian parties should commit themselves to honouring the results of these elections. They reaffirmed their condemnation of those responsible for the policies and practices which led to the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians from 1975 to 1978 and expressed the view that neither the Khmer Rouge nor any other Cambodian group should be allowed to seize or retain power through force of arms.

7. They shared the view that, while the Paris Conference had not as yet succeeded in achieving a comprehensive solution, it has made progress in elaborating a wide range of principal elements necessary for reaching a comprehensive settlement. They therefore urged the two Co-Chairmen of the Conference to continue their consultations with a view to resuming the negotiating process and the reconvening of the Paris Conference at an appropriate time.

8. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that parties directly involved in the conflict and other concerned countries now have accepted the central idea of a United Nations interim administration for Cambodia in the transitional period leading up to the holding of free and fair elections. They recognised that, on the modalities and actual forms of such UN interim administration, divergence of views still exist, thus requiring further detailed negotiations.

9. The Ministers were greatly encouraged by the results of the recent meeting of the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and welcomed the 16-point Summary of Conclusions adopted at the first Meeting which specifically endorsed an enhanced UN role in the resolution of the Cambodian question. They noted the further progress achieved at the meeting of the Five in New York on 12-13 February and welcomed the decision of the UN Secretary-General to set up under his chairmanship an intra-secretariat task-force.

10. In view of the afore-mentioned developments, the Ministers expressed their full support for the forthcoming Informal Meeting on Cambodia, to be convened in Jakarta within the framework of the Paris Conference. They expressed their hope that this meeting, together with the work currently underway among the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, will succeed in taking the negotiating process forward, thus paving the way for the reconvening of the Paris Conference.

Indochinese Asylum Seekers and Displaced Persons

11. The Ministers shared the view that the plight of those who have fled from Indochina, including those still in camps in ASEAN countries and Hong Kong and civilians displaced on the Thai-Cambodian border, remained a cause of serious international concern.

12. The Ministers affirmed that the continuing influx of asylum seekers and displaced persons from Indochinese countries imposes an intolerable burden on countries and places of first asylum in the region. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) as adopted at the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees held in Geneva in June, 1989 as a multilateral arrangement for the durable solution of this problem, they emphasized that a humanitarian solution to this problem lies in the balanced and coordinated implementation of all elements of the CPA by all parties concerned.

13. Towards this end, they called on the principal country of origin to take effective measures to deter clandestine departures and ensure that the Orderly Departure Programme be the sole mode of departure. They urged resettlement countries to maintain the agreed momentum of resettlement of refugees in first asylum countries. They agreed that, as a matter of priority, there must be an early implementation of the CPA as regards the repatriation of those not qualifying for the status of refugees to the country of origin in a phased, orderly and safe manner. They welcomed the fact that on 23-24

January, 1990 the Steering Committee set up under the CPA reached agreement on modalities for the return of all non-refugees to their country of origin and called upon the parties directly concerned to settle, as soon as possible, the outstanding issue, namely the date prior to which voluntary return alone should take place.

14. The Ministers also agreed that the implementation of the provisions of the CPA must lead to the durable solution of the problem of the Indochinese asylum seekers within a definite timeframe.

15. The Ministers noted with appreciation the offer of the Philippine Government to host a new processing and transit centre for refugees. They called on the other countries concerned to extend the fullest possible cooperation to the Philippine Government to enable it to undertake this new burden of the new centre.

Afghanistan

16. The Ministers expressed their concern over the protracted conflict in Afghanistan, two years after the Geneva Agreement on the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan and one year after the completion of the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Ministers called on all parties concerned to intensify their efforts towards a comprehensive political settlement based on the full and consistent implementation of the Geneva Agreements. They stressed the need for an intra-Afghan dialogue with a view to establishing a fully representative Government in which all segments of the Afghan people would take part. They confirmed their support for the United Nations Secretary-General in the efforts he is making to facilitate a settlement.

Middle East

17. The Ministers discussed the recent developments in the Middle East and in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. They expressed their grave concern over the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories. They stressed the

urgency of a settlement which would uphold the right to security of all States in the region, including Israel, that is to say, to live within secure, recognised and guaranteed frontiers, and would uphold justice for all the peoples of the region, which includes recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination with all that this implies, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

18. they noted that since their last meeting significant developments have taken place on the international political scene, which have opened up new opportunities for action by the international community with a view to achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this context, the ASEAN Ministers welcomed the positive approach of the EC as set out in the Madrid and Strasbourg Declarations.

19. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for an International Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, which would provide an appropriate forum for negotiations on a peace settlement.

20. The Ministers voiced their deep concern over the continuing tragedy in Lebanon. They reaffirmed their support for the full sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon. They considered that there is no alternative to the national reconciliation envisaged in the Taif Agreement and urged that all will contribute to its peaceful achievement through dialogue.

21. On the Iran-Iraq situation, the Ministers noted that, while the ceasefire which entered into force in 1988 was still being observed, progress towards an overall resolution of the conflict remained stalled due to continuing differences in interpreting the implementation of the provisions of Security Council Resolution 598. They called upon the two States to resume the negotiations under the auspices of the UN and expressed their support for the efforts of the UN Secretary-General.

Southern Africa

22. The Ministers reiterated their total rejection of the system of apartheid which represents a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind and reaffirmed their commitment to its complete eradication, so that in its place a new, non-racial, united and democratic society could be built. They observed that the initiation of a national dialogue with the genuine representatives of the black majority of the South African people has become increasingly urgent. While welcoming the recent lifting of the ban on the ANC and other organisations and the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela, they were of the view that more needed to be done in order to establish a climate conducive to a meaningful dialogue. The Ministers reaffirmed that their common objective was the complete and peaceful eradication of the apartheid system and that, pending evidence of clear and Irreversible Change to this end, appropriate pressure should be maintained on the South African Government.

23. The Ministers rejoiced at the successful implementation of the UN Plan for Namibian Independence, based on UN Security Council Resolution 435, thus ending one of the longest and most difficult chapters in the annals of decolonisation. They looked forward to the imminent accession of Namibia to full sovereignty and independence and welcomed the prospect of Namibia joining the UN as its 160th member-state.

ASEAN-EC RELATIONS

24. The Ministers reviewed the activities being implemented within the framework of their bilateral relations and noted with satisfaction the progress made in the various fields. The Ministers were encouraged that the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement was renewed for another period of two (2) years effective from October, 1989 demonstrating the strong commitment of the two sides to strengthen further their relations. In this regard, the Ministers agreed that the private sector should assume a greater role in enhancing ASEAN-EC economic cooperation.

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25. The Ministers noted that sustained growth in both regions was closely linked to open market policies and to trade and continued efforts to further liberalize the multilateral trading system under the GATT.

26. The Ministers recognized that the completion of a European Single Market could constitute a *major* opportunity for trading partners, including ASEAN countries, as a source of economic growth and trade opportunities. The Ministers welcomed the information workshops on 1992 held in ASEAN under Community sponsorship and agreed to exchange information on a continuing basis.

27. The Ministers noted the progress made in the general economic development of ASEAN countries and noted the growing importance played by industrial and services sectors in furthering national development.

28. While recognising that ASEAN-EC relations have diversified and registered impressive progress, the Ministers agreed that a review of existing cooperation was needed to chart the course of ASEAN-EC relations to meet the challenges of the 90s, notably by on the one hand strengthening the impact of economic, financial and industrial cooperation, human resource development and science and technology programmes and by increasing trade flows and investments and by encouraging participation of the private sector, and on the other hand, continuing to stress assistance to the poorer segment of the rural population. The Ministers noted with interest the formation of a private sector Steering Committee on the European side for the European-ASEAN Business Council. The Ministers also agreed that participation of women in the development process and environmental protection should be given special attention.

Market: Access and Trade Promotion

29. The Ministers noted the positive sign in EC-ASEAN relations demonstrated by the **Increase** in trade flows between the two regions since the 7th Ministerial Meeting, particularly for industrial products. In order to take advantage of the new opportunities in both regions the Ministers shared the view that efforts should be intensified to improve market access in both regions.

30. The ASEAN Ministers requested the EC to provide better market access and a more open **trade policy** for textiles and clothing, tropical vegetable oils, cocoa products, canned pineapple, timber products, tobacco products, abaca, pulp, and fuel wood through reduction of tariffs, elimination of non-tariff barriers and elimination of tariff escalation. The ASEAN Ministers also requested the EC to take into account agricultural products of export interest to ASEAN in its implementation and review of the CAP,

31. The EC Ministers considered that market access questions are an element of the **global** process of trade liberalization within the Uruguay Round.

32. The EC Ministers requested ASEAN to sign the MTN agreements (technical barriers, government procurement, etc.) and to provide improved market access to products such as motor cars, personal computers, paper, textiles and clothing, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals and chemical products through reduction of tariffs and elimination of non-tariff barriers.

33. The EC Ministers also requested that access to supplies of ASEAN raw materials for manufacturing in the EC be maintained.

34. The Ministers agreed that problems or shortcomings in bilateral trade relations should be taken up by the ASEAN-EC Joint Trade Experts Group at its Meetings.

35. The Ministers agreed that the EC GSP scheme was an important tool to diversify and increase ASEAN exports to the EC. The ASEAN Ministers noted the greater flexibility made in the ECs 1989 and 1990 GSP schemes, notably the move towards a Community-wide system and further access in some EC sensitive sectors. The Ministers noted that the cumulative rule of origin for ASEAN in the EC GSP Scheme has just come into force. The ASEAN Ministers requested that the donor country content be included in the GSP scheme,

36. The ASEAN Ministers expressed appreciation to the EC for its assistance in ASEAN's trade promotion programmes which were intended to enhance ASEAN exports to the EC and third countries. The Ministers agreed that in future fewer, but more in-depth, pluriannual programmes should be launched.

Industrial Cooperation and Investment Promotion

37. The Ministers noted that ASEAN was a vital component in the vibrant and dynamic Asia Pacific region and represented a rapidly expanding area of special interest to European investors. The Ministers expressed their conviction that many opportunities are available in the ASEAN region and advantage could be taken of the privileges granted under the ASEAN industrial programmes. The economic and investment environment has improved in ASEAN since the 7th Ministerial Meeting. There was agreement that favourable investment conditions would further stimulate private sector investment in ASEAN countries. The Ministers recognised that industrial cooperation should be accorded high priority in the ASEAN-EC dialogue relations as it would be instrumental in forging constructive economic ties that would be mutually beneficial to both regions.

38. Further to the plan of action proposed in the EC-ASEAN Joint Memorandum on Industrial Cooperation, the Ministers noted the intensification of initiatives taken to strengthen business and investment contacts between the ASEAN and EC through seminars, exchange

programmes and Industry specific workshops, specially directed at the medium and small business. The Ministers directed that the next JCC should integrate the various projects into a coherent industrial cooperation programme. In view of the new incentives provided under the ASEAN Industrial Joint Ventures (AIJV) scheme, the Ministers urged the active participation from private sectors of both sides in developing viable AIJV projects.

39. The Ministers noted the role of the Joint Investment Committees in each ASEAN capital in promoting joint activities. The Ministers agreed that ASEAN and the EC should encourage their respective private sectors to assume a greater role in the JICs. A comprehensive data bank of available industry sector studies will be soon completed for each ASEAN country and put at the disposal of ASEAN and EC business communities to encourage their involvement in the industrial development in ASEAN.

40. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the "EC International Investment Partners" is now operational in its pilot phase and promotes the establishment of joint-ventures together with ASEAN or EC financial institutions. The ASEAN region has been the major user of the facility since it started. The Ministers also noted that the facility could be actively promoted for ASEAN initiated projects with the participation of ASEAN merchant banks and other financial institutions.

Science and Technology Cooperation

41. The Ministers recalled that since 1987 emphasis has been placed on the generation and support of joint scientific research projects, the ultimate goal of which is to create permanent links between the scientific communities of the two regions. The Community has placed at the disposal of ASEAN research Institutes and scientists two preparatory instruments to facilitate the definition of joint research projects: the post-doctoral fellowship scheme and the organisation of workshops. A series of workshops in biotechnology, quality of life and natural resources has been identified.

42. In addition, a considerable thrust has been given specifically to EC/ASEAN joint research in tropical medicine and tropical agriculture with the support of the Community's "Science and Technology for Development Programme".

43. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for the continuing contributions made by the EC to the ASEAN-EC Cooperation in science and technology. Given its importance, the Ministers emphasised the need to further develop programmes in this field. To this end, they recommended that the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science and Technology be used as a basis.

Human Resource Development

44. The Ministers stressed that in view of the rapid economic and technological changes and the need of ASEAN for qualified personnel such as scientists and engineers to support their economic development, human resource development should continue to be a top priority and therefore an assessment and review of ASEAN-EC HRD Programmes be undertaken expeditiously.

45. Following decisions taken at the 7th Ministerial Meeting, steps have been taken to establish the EC/ASEAN Management Centre, based in Brunei Darussalam. The Ministers noted that the establishment agreement will be signed soon.

46. Recalling the importance of the participation of women in the development process, the Ministers agreed that all opportunities to promote the role of men should be taken,

47. The Ministers noted that EC-ASEAN Energy Centre in Jakarta had started its programme of activities. They believed that these and other centres would further strengthen the EC presence in the region.

Regional Projects

48. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation for the important contribution by the EC in the field of development cooperation and hoped that this Cooperation would be expanded both in scope and depth in regional projects open to all its member states.

49. The Ministers noted that two regional cooperation projects have become operational since the 7th Ministerial Meeting; the ASEAN Aquaculture Development Programme, to Improve productivity through know-how and technology transfer in fish farming and the EC-ASEAN Industrial Standards and Quality Control Programme.

ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting on Economic and Trade Matters

50. The ASEAN Ministers proposed that, given the rapid changing international economic situation and the expansion of ASEAN-EC economic and trade relations, an ASEAN-EC Ministerial Meeting on Economic and Trade Matters be convened as soon as possible.

51. Taking note of this proposal, the EC Ministers stated that the Community is in principle open to participate in such an ad hoc meeting. It was agreed that each side would designate its Ministers according to the traditions in the various States participating.

52. The two sides would discuss through the appropriate channels the remaining details such as the date, agenda, and how best to integrate the work of the Meeting with that of the AEMM.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

the European Single Market of 1992

53. The ASEAN Ministers noted that the EC was actively working towards the establishment of the European Single Market by 1992 and that by the beginning of 1990 some 60% of the programme had been achieved.

54. While welcoming the trade and investment opportunities created as a result of the removal of internal barriers, the ASEAN Ministers expressed concern over possible adverse impact of the Single Market on ASEAN trade with the EC. The EC Ministers assured them that the EC would remain open to its trading partners because of its commitment to the multilateral trading system and that the Single Market would lead to an improvement of EC competitiveness and further stimulate the liberalisation of world trade. The ASEAN Ministers welcomed this assurance and agreed that ASEAN and the EC were dependent on export-led growth and therefore any move towards liberalising trade could only be beneficial to both regions.

55. The Ministers noted that the "Colloquium on ASEAN and Europe 1992: Implications and Responses" was held in Kuala Lumpur from July 10-11, 1989. The Ministers agreed that sector specific workshops on the impact and opportunity of the Single Market on ASEAN's trade and investment interests with the EC, to be held in ASEAN capitals. The ASEAN Ministers informed their EC counterparts that an ASEAN Technical Experts Group is being established to monitor and appraise developments on the evolution and harmonization of standards in the EC which will involve exchange of views.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

56. The ASEAN Ministers informed the EC Ministers on the outcome of the initial exploratory Ministerial level Consultative Meeting on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) which was held in Canberra from 6 - 7 November 1989.

57. The Community indicated that as a major trade partner of the Asia-Pacific region, it has followed the discussions on this issue with great interest.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

58. The Ministers had a wide ranging exchange of views on the current international economic situation.

59. The Ministers noted the European Community's commitment to support the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which are seeking a new direction towards democratically based open market economies. Concerns were expressed that trade, investment and development assistance flows from the EC might now be diverted from ASEAN to Eastern Europe. Assurances were given that the new relations between the Community and Central and Eastern Europe would not in any sense lessen the Community's longstanding commitment to ASEAN. The two sets of relationships are complementary.

60. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic cooperation, in particular to the revitalization of the economic growth and development of the developing countries, in New York from 23-27 April 1990. The Ministers agreed that, besides providing policy guidelines for the economic activities of the United Nations system, this special session is also another effective means of promoting multilateral cooperation, embodying new approaches and reflecting new spirit in international cooperation.

Uruguay Round

61. The Ministers acknowledged that the current Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (URMTN) was approaching its final and crucial stage and that it was an important avenue towards trade liberalisation and expansion as well as to counteract protectionism. They recognised that a successful conclusion of the URMTN would have an important bearing on the future of GATT and the multilateral trading system. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to the conclusion of the Round by December, 1990 taking into account the areas of interest to the developing countries. To this end, the Ministers agreed that ASEAN and the EC will continue to be constructive in the final phase of the negotiations and urged other participants to do likewise. To ensure the success of the Round, considerable joint efforts must be undertaken so that its outcome could be meaningful and beneficial to all participants.

62. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their concern that progress in the various Negotiating Groups had been severely imbalanced. Negotiations on areas which are of particular interest to developing countries have lagged far behind those which are of interest to developed countries. They stressed the need to redress such imbalance immediately. In this regard, the ASEAN Ministers expressed the hope that negotiations will be expedited in the areas of their concern, particularly tropical products, agriculture, textiles and clothing and international trading rules including anti-dumping and countervailing measures, and sought the cooperation of the EC to achieve this objective, in particular they requested further concessions on tropical products as a matter of first priority.

63. The EC Ministers took note of these concerns. The Community approach was to achieve a balanced overall result covering all sectors including new areas such as Trade in Services, Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs). The EC Ministers recalled the Community's substantial contribution to the first liberalization package on tropical products and its commitment to further liberalization in this sector on the basis of contributions from all participants. With a view to achieving a better balance of obligations among all contracting parties, the Community expected the developing countries, especially the most advanced, to make effective market openings such as tariff reductions and bindings, and to conform to existing GATT disciplines - suitably reinforced in certain fundamental aspects thus ensuring fair and equitable competition.

64. The ASEAN Ministers reiterated their support for the Cairns Group's comprehensive proposals on agriculture, which they considered to be the most reasonable and realistic basis for further negotiations in this area. While taking note that the EC had also tabled a proposal on agriculture recently, they expressed concern that the introduction of the concept of rebalancing in this proposal would have very serious adverse effects on some of ASEAN's major exports, such as tropical vegetable oils and tapioca products,

65. The EC Minister took note of this cover-n. The concept of rebalancing was one of the major elements of the Community's negotiating position on agriculture in the Uruguay Round. It had been put forward by the Community with a view to a better balance of obligations amongst all the Contracting Parties.

66. The Ministers agreed that special and differential treatment for developing countries was an integral element of the negotiations as expressed in the Punta del Este declaration and reaffirmed at the mid-term review meeting, and was particularly important to the meaningful and active participation of the developing countries in the Round.

Commodities

67. The Ministers noted that instability in market prices for some commodities had produced adverse effects on the export earnings of some developing countries. They stressed the need for international cooperation and national efforts to deal effectively with commodity problems.

68. The Ministers underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation in the development of resource-based industries in the ASEAN region to intensify downstream activities towards achieving more value-added products. The ASEAN Ministers sought the EC's continued support on this development process in terms of providing investment and project financing, transfer of technology and marketing for such processed and semi-processed products. The Ministers agreed to continue to encourage small and medium sized EC industries which utilized such raw commodities to invest in this region.

69. The Ministers placed high priority on cooperation towards the development of the mineral sector, particularly in training and transfer of technology. For this purpose, the ASEAN Ministers requested the EC to jointly organise and finance seminars and workshops on the development of the mineral sector in this region.

70. The Ministers recognized the importance of intensifying research and development activities to find new uses and application for commodities and therefore, agreed to enhance cooperation in these efforts. The ASEAN Ministers sought the EC cooperation and support on such research and development efforts.

71. The Ministers noted that the European Council Meeting at Strasbourg in December 1989, had urged a resumption of negotiations on the renewal of the International Coffee Agreement as soon as possible. The Community, for its part, affirmed its resolution to adopt a flexible approach and to have regard to the economic and political importance of arriving at an appropriate solution.

DRUGS

72. The Ministers underlined their deep apprehension and concern over the growing problem of drug abuse and the escalation of illicit trafficking in drugs. The Ministers expressed their resolve to undertake concerted and coherent action to tackle this deadly scourge. The Ministers were informed of the principal elements of the Community's programme on North-South cooperation in this field and agreed that over and above the action being taken at regional level an effective solution had to be sought at international level. They welcomed the adoption of the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and called for its prompt and effective application. They urged the signatory parties to immediately proceed to the process of ratification and urged those countries that have not yet signed to do so,

73. The Ministers also welcomed the initiative taken by the Commonwealth Heads of Government at its Meeting in Kuala Lumpur from 18-24 October, 1989. They expressed strong support to the Commonwealth's decision to promote more effective national and international action on a number of key issues especially those related to the enactment of appropriate legislation on drug trafficking, money laundering, the

confiscation of illicit assets of convicted drug traffickers, crop substitution programmes and mutual legal assistance. In addition to these actions to curb the availability of drugs, they agreed that an equally important element that should be addressed urgently was the question of global demand for drugs.

74. The Ministers also welcomed and pledged their full support of the recent UNGA resolution to hold a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of International cooperation against drugs from 20-23 February 1990 in New York. They further agreed that the special session should produce a political declaration and a concrete and realistic global programme of action which would deal with all aspects of the drugs problem.

75. The Ministers commended and welcomed the initiative of the British Government to host a World Ministerial Summit to Reduce Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat from 9-11 April 1990 in London,

76. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the continued cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN and the EC on drug matters. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their appreciation to the EC for its assistance for the ASEAN-EC drug related projects in the areas of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

ENVIRONMENT

77. The Ministers recognised that threat to global environment is a shared responsibility which requires urgent and appropriate international action. They agreed that the protection of the environment should be viewed in a balanced perspective and that due emphasis be accorded to promoting economic growth and sustainable development.

78. The Ministers noted that, the ASEAN Heads of Government at their Third Summit in Manila in December, 1987 had adopted the principle of sustainable development, including the incorporation of environmental concerns into economic planning and policies and agreed to integrate sustainable development into economic activities of ASEAN.

79. The Ministers also noted that the European Environmental Agency would become operational in the Current year and will provide a valuable source of Advice, expertise And assistance.

80. The ASEAN Ministers were informed that the EC has taken, or is in the process of taking, A number of decisions of immediate effect, in particular with regard to global environmental protection:

- the early implementation of, and at a faster rate, the Helsinki decisions on the eradication of chlorofluorocarbons;
- the launching of d programme o f action on the "green house' effect;
- accession to theBasle Convention on movements of dangerous waste and its strict application in respect of the export of such waste to the developing countries;
- the drawing up of A programme for tropical forest assistance.

81. These rctlons, coupled with support for international negotiations and the integration of environmental issues into mutually beneficial cooperation with developing countrieswere indicative of the European Community's strong commitment tothe preservation of global environment.

82. The Hlnlsters agreed thatto ensure A moreintegratedapproach to environmental and development problems, developing countries' abilityto respond to environmentalconcerns must be strenghtuned. In this context, they agreed thatenvironment concerns should be A major Issue but should not be usedto Introduce A new form of conditionality in aid snd developmentflnrncng. The EC Ministers also agreed toconsiderassisting

the upgrading of ASEAN's facilities, capabilities and expertise in the areas of management of natural resources and environment monitoring through technical and financial assistance.

83. The Ministers noted with great interest the Langkawi Declaration on Environment Issued by the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth in October 1989, and strongly welcomed the programme of action contained in the Declaration and the convening of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. They also welcomed the convening of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Environment organised by ESCAP which is scheduled to take place in Thailand in the later half of 1990.
