

THE FIFTH
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES, 27 JULY 1998

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THE FIFTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

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1. The Fifth ASEAN Regional Forum convened in Manila on 27 July 1998. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Domingo L. Siazon, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. The Meeting was attended by all ARF participants, including the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The List of Delegates is attached as ANNEX A.

ARF Membership

2. The Ministers considered the results of the consultations conducted by the Chairman and the recommendations of the ARF Senior Officials Meeting in Manila on 20-22 May 1998 on the interest by a number of countries to participate in the ARF.
3. Having been guided by the principles and criteria of commitment and geographic relevance agreed to at the Third ARF on the admission of new participants, the Ministers welcomed Mongolia as a new participant in the ARF. The Ministers also welcomed Mongolia's commitment to help achieve the ARF's key goals and to fully abide by and respect the decisions and statements already made by the ARF.
4. With the addition of Mongolia in the ARF, the Ministers agreed to allow the ARF to consolidate as a group and to develop an efficient process of cooperation.

Overview of the ARF Process

5. The Ministers expressed satisfaction on the continued development of the ARF as an important forum for dialogue on political and security concerns in the region. The Ministers recognized the significant contribution of the ARF to the establishment of a strong foundation of trust and confidence among its participants, which would be essential in confronting the existing uncertainties in the Asia-Pacific region. The Ministers noted that the ARF process had contributed to the achievement of greater transparency and mutual understanding in the region, which had instilled among its participants a high sense of collective commitment to regional peace and stability. The Ministers agreed that the ARF should continue its steady progress to successfully carry through its goals in the face of even greater challenges in the future. The Ministers agreed that the full support of all ARF participants to the ARF's evolutionary, step-by-step development and its approach to decision-making by consensus had contributed

to the ARF's resiliency as a viable regional forum for political and security dialogue, encouraged open and frank discussions among ARF participants, and fostered the habit of cooperation and of resolutely working together to address common concerns. The Ministers recognized that the ARF had been living up to its potential and to the important role it had been envisioned to play in further strengthening the foundations for regional peace and stability. The Ministers commended ASEAN for its important contribution to the ARF process and expressed their support to ASEAN's continuing role as the primary driving force of the ARF.

6. The Ministers noted the positive outcome of the informal gathering at lunch of senior defense and military officials in Langkawi in 1997 and welcomed the continuation of this practice at the ARF Ministerial Meeting. The Ministers recognized that defense and military officials had a constructive contribution to the work and activities of the ARF and encouraged greater interaction and networking among these officials in the ARF. In this regard, the Ministers encouraged the active participation of defense and military officials at appropriate levels in all relevant ARF activities.
7. The Ministers noted that the ARF had maintained its approach to security concerns in a comprehensive manner. They welcomed the fact that while the focus of the ARF was on core military and defense-related issues, the ARF also addressed non-military issues, which would have a significant impact on regional security.
8. The Ministers expressed satisfaction on the progress in developing a range of regional, sub-regional and bilateral exchanges on regional security perceptions. The Ministers noted that these exchanges had also encouraged a rapid increase in the number of bilateral regional security dialogues between ARF participants. The Ministers emphasized the importance of exchanges on regional security perceptions in the overall objectives of the ARF and agreed that these should continue at the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures, at the ARF SOM, and at the annual meeting of the Ministers. At the sub-regional level, the Ministers welcomed the Agreements on Confidence Building reached among China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and between China and India. The Ministers also welcomed the regular security dialogues in various ASEAN meetings and among Northeast Asian countries at various Track II forums. The Ministers also noted with appreciation the security dialogue that takes place in CSCAP and other non-ARF Track II forums.

Review of the Regional Security Environment and Exchange of Views on Security Perceptions

9. The Ministers conducted an extensive discussion and exchange of views on security perceptions and on a wide range of issues on the regional security environment.

10. The Ministers expressed the view that the region had continued to benefit from peace and stability in spite of the current regional economic slowdown and the presence of potential sources of conflict. The Ministers noted that increased interaction and dialogue as well as enhanced cooperation among the countries in the region had contributed to the present favorable security situation. The Ministers believed that the security outlook in the region remained positive as this was underpinned by the relative economic growth of the countries in the region, the increasing trade and investments links and high levels of economic interdependency among them.
11. The Ministers discussed extensively the prevailing financial situation in the region. They were encouraged by initial signs of progress toward financial stability in the Asian region. The Ministers welcomed the various individual, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures that were undertaken to restore financial stability. They reaffirmed their support for the Manila Framework, which emphasizes a shared global responsibility in restoring stability in the region. The Ministers noted the constructive role of international financial institutions in restoring this stability and agreed on the need to support efforts to strengthen the international monetary system. They expressed optimism that, as the affected economies implement the necessary structural reforms, confidence would increasingly return. The Ministers expressed full confidence that the economies of East Asia would eventually regain their position as among the fastest-growing economies in the world. Noting the interdependence among Asian economies, they welcomed the assurances of Japan that it will revitalize its economy as well as the assurances of China that the value of the yuan will be maintained.
12. While recognizing the need for structural reforms in restoring confidence, the Ministers called for a balanced approach in addressing the socioeconomic impact of such reforms, particularly its impact on the less privileged sectors of society. They noted that certain aspects of the regional financial crisis could impact on the peace and security of the region and agreed that the ARF would have an important role to play in addressing these effects. The Ministers agreed that the current Asian economic difficulties should not undermine the process of ARF and other regional security dialogues and cooperation.
13. The Ministers underlined the fact that the state of relations among the major powers would always have a significant impact on the region as a whole. The Ministers stressed that it would be important for these countries to stay the course of constructive relationship among them. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the efforts that had been undertaken to develop constructive strategic relationships among the major powers through exchange of visits and regular meetings between and among their respective Heads of State/Government. The Ministers also welcomed other bilateral meetings between the Heads of State/Government of ARF countries and the summit meetings hold

between the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and the Heads of State/Government of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea in Kuala Lumpur on 14-16 December 1997. The Ministers noted that these meetings would have long-lasting positive impact on the stability and economic development of the region.

14. The Ministers welcomed the resumption of official dialogue between South and North Korea in Beijing and the launching of the Four-Party Talks Peace Process on the Korean Peninsula in Geneva. The Ministers emphasized the vital importance of the inter-Korean dialogue in promoting reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas. The Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of observing the 1953 Armistice Agreement. The Ministers reiterated their full and continued support for the talks and the KEDO project to help establish a durable peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and promote global nuclear non-proliferation. In view of the current financial difficulties that the KEDO is facing, the Ministers called for more international contribution to this organization.
15. The Ministers welcomed the commitment of all the countries concerned to the peaceful settlement of the dispute on the South China Sea, in accordance with the recognized principles of international law, including the UNCLOS. The Ministers expressed satisfaction on the continued exercise of self-restraint by all the Countries concerned and noted the positive contributions made by the bilateral consultations between the countries concerned, the dialogue in the ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations, the regular exchange of views in the ARF, and the continuing work of the Informal Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea.
16. The Ministers declared ARF's strong support for the efforts of ASEAN and the "Friends of Cambodia" in helping restore political stability and the climate of peace in Cambodia. They agreed that the holding of free, fair and credible elections was an important step towards enhancing peace and stability in Cambodia. The Ministers welcomed the huge voter turn-out in the 26 July 1998 elections and the initial reports that the voting process was generally peaceful. They expressed the hope that the next stages of counting ballots and the proclamation of the winners would also be peaceful and orderly. In this regard, they acknowledged the work of international observers who monitored the electoral process under United Nations' coordination.
17. The Ministers noted with appreciation the conclusion of the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines to ban the use, stockpile, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines and for their destruction. The Ministers also welcomed the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to re-appoint a Special Coordinator on landmines and efforts to bring into force the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) amended mines protocol (Protocol II). They also agreed to support initiatives to enhance international cooperation on demining, removal of unexploded ordnances, and victims'

assistance toward the goal of “zero victims”. The Ministers also welcomed offers by some ARF countries to provide training assistance on mine clearance.

18. The Ministers supported efforts to establish nuclear weapons free zones and noted the importance of the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in enhancing peace and security in the region. The Ministers welcomed the continuing consultations between the States Parties to the SEANWFZ Treaty and the nuclear weapon states and expressed the hope that the accession of the latter to the Protocol of the Treaty could be facilitated.
19. The Ministers commended the good progress that has been made in the first year of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and called on all states which have not ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so. The Ministers expressed hope that progress would be made in the work on the protocol dealing with compliance and verification of the Biological Weapons Convention. They also urged the Ad Hoc Group of States Parties to the BWC to intensify and complete its work as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference. To this end, the Ministers also welcomed efforts to give impetus and support to the Ad Hoc Group negotiations.
20. The Ministers welcomed the growing number of signatures and ratification of the CTBT, especially the ratification of the UK and France. The Ministers called for the immediate commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes. The Ministers also called on the nuclear weapon states to make further efforts towards achieving the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.
21. The Ministers recalled that as early as 1995 the ARF put emphasis on the importance of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in promoting regional peace and security. They also noted that the ARF subsequently welcomed the overwhelming adoption of the CTBT as an important step in prohibiting nuclear test explosions and stressed its determination to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. In this connection, the Ministers recalled the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1172 issued on 6 June 1998. The Ministers, therefore, expressed grave concern over and strongly deplored the recent nuclear tests in South Asia, which exacerbated tension in the region and raised the specter of a nuclear arms race. They called for the total cessation of such testing and urged the countries concerned to sign the Treaty on the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty without delay, conditions, or reservations. They asked the countries concerned to refrain from undertaking weaponization or deploying missiles to deliver nuclear weapons, and to prevent any transfer of nuclear weapon-related materials, technology and equipment to third countries. In the interest of peace and security in the region, the Ministers called on the countries concerned to resolve their dispute and security concerns through peaceful dialogue.

22. The Ministers noted the signing of the Second Protocol to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by the High Contracting Parties at the 31st ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila on 25 July 1998 and agreed to consider the call of the TAC High Contracting Parties for non-Southeast Asian states, particularly the major powers, to accede to the Treaty after the Second Protocol enters into force.

Reports of Track I and II Activities for the Current Inter-sessional Year (July 1997-July 1998)

Track I Activities

23. The Ministers noted the Co-Chairmen's Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief in Bangkok on 18-20 February 1998, which appears as ANNEX B, the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report of the Meetings of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures in Bandar Seri Begawan on 4-6 November 1997 and in Sydney on 4-6 March 1998, which appears as ANNEX C, and the Chairman's Report of the First ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions in Manila on 7-8 October 1997, which appears as ANNEX D.

Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief

24. The Ministers welcomed the contribution of the Second ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief towards the continued development of the ARF and in enhancing cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. They agreed that cooperation on disaster management contributes significantly to the ARF's goal of regional confidence building. The Ministers also recognized the potential of furthering regional cooperation on disaster management through the continuation of the work of the ISM. The Ministers endorsed the list of recommendations contained in the Co-Chairmen's Report. The Ministers also agreed that the ARF Disaster Relief Experts Group should report its findings to the Third ISM. The Ministers expressed appreciation to Thailand and New Zealand for the successful co-chairing of the meeting.

Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures

25. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress of the work of the ISG on CBMs. The Ministers noted that the ISG had served as an effective forum for frank, open and substantive dialogue on the regional security environment, for the exchange of information on security-related developments in individual countries, and for the development of practical and doable activities to enhance confidence among ARF participants. The Ministers endorsed the Recommendations contained in the Co-Chairmen's Summary Report. The Ministers agreed there was still considerable scope to further develop and deepen cooperation on confidence building measures among ARF

members and in this context felt that the work of the ISG on CBMs should continue for the foreseeable future.

26. Pursuant to the request of Ministers at ARF 4 that inter-sessional meetings should review the implementation of agreed CBMs, the Ministers welcomed the set of matrices and tables, including the summary table, which had been produced by the ISG on CBMs showing the degree of implementation of agreed ARF CBMs (ANNEX E). The Ministers expressed satisfaction with the high degree of implementation and agreed that these matrices and tables should be updated on an annual basis.
27. The Ministers endorsed two lists of new CBMs contained in ANNEX F and agreed that these should be considered by the ISG on CBMs for implementation in the near future (Basket 1) and over the medium term (Basket 2). The Ministers welcomed the offers by several countries to hold expert level first track meetings under the auspices of the ISG on CBMs.
28. Noting that the distinction between CBMs and preventive diplomacy was blurred, and in light of the decision of ARF 2 that the consideration of these two issues could proceed in tandem, the Ministers agreed that the ISG should further consider the following tabled proposals: an enhanced role for the ARF Chairman, particularly the idea of a good offices role, the development of a register of experts or eminent persons among ARF participants; Annual Security Outlook; and voluntary background briefing on regional security issues. The Ministers agreed that the ISG should hold two meetings in the next inter-sessional year with one meeting addressing the overlap between CBMs and preventive diplomacy, including the four proposals tabled.
29. The Ministers noted that maritime safety, law and order at sea and protection and preservation of the marine environment were important issues appropriately considered by the ARF under the rubric of comprehensive security. The Ministers agreed that ARF countries should lend their full support to existing regional and multilateral arrangements and instruments in these areas. The Ministers considered that these three areas should be further discussed in the ISG on CBMs, with the advice of specialist officials, to develop a clearer sense of the areas where the ARF could add value to existing activities.

First ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions

30. The Ministers affirmed the importance of cooperation on security education and research in enhancing confidence building in the region. The Ministers expressed satisfaction that the First ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions in Manila had helped in this effort. The Ministers believed that the networks established by this meeting would serve as a strong foundation for further ARF cooperation in this important area. The Ministers agreed that this meeting contributed to the growing

awareness and recognition of the vital role of defense officials in the ARF process. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Philippines for the successful hosting of the First ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions.

Track II Activities

31. The Ministers noted the Co-Chairmen's Report of the Third ASEAN Regional Forum Track Two Conference on Preventive Diplomacy, which appears as ANNEX G, held on 9-11 September 1997 in Singapore and jointly organized by Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies (IDSS) and United Kingdom's International Institute for Strategic Studies. They also noted the results of the seminar on "The Future of ARF" in Singapore on 27-28 April 1998, which was organized by IDSS. The Ministers deemed it useful that the ISG on CBMs consider the recommendations of these meetings in the next inter-sessional period.

Program of Work for the Next Inter-sessional Year (July 1998-July 1999).

Track I Activities

32. The Ministers agreed that the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief should continue for another year and welcomed the offer of Vietnam and the Russian Federation to co-chair the next ISM in the first half of 1999 in Moscow. The Ministers noted that the ARF Disaster Relief Experts Group would convene prior to the Third ISM.
33. The Ministers agreed to extend the mandate of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures for another year and welcomed the offer of Thailand and the United States to co-chair the next ISG on CBMs. The Ministers noted that the ISG had decided to hold two meetings within the next inter-sessional year, one in November 1998 and the other in March 1999, with one meeting addressing the overlap between CBMs and preventive diplomacy, including the four proposals tabled, and the other on the remaining issues on the ISG's agenda including the list of new CBMs and the maritime issues of maritime safety, law and order at sea, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The Ministers also noted that the following first track activities under the auspices of the ISG on CBMs would take place in the next inter-sessional year:
 - A meeting of specialist officials on maritime issues to be held in conjunction with the November meeting of the ISG;
 - Second Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions on 8-10 September 1998 in Seoul;
 - Training on Regional Security for Foreign Affairs and Defense Officials in Spring of 1999 in the United States;

- Military Medicine Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Epidemic, Control in Tropical Regions on 25-27 November 1998 in China; and
 - Seminar on Production of Defense Policy Documents in Canberra on 31 August-3 September 1998 to be organized by Australia and Malaysia.
34. The Ministers also welcomed the offers to host follow-up activities on peacekeeping namely:
- Workshop on Approaches to Training for Peacekeeping co- chaired by Ireland, on behalf of the European Union, and Thailand in Dublin on 19-23 October 1998; and
 - Peacekeeping Training Course co-chaired by Canada, Japan and Malaysia in Tokyo on 22-26 March 1999.

Track II Activities

35. The Ministers agreed to the holding of the following Track II activities in the next ARF inter-sessional year:
- Conference Towards Comprehensive Security and Cooperation in Asia-Pacific on 27-30 September 1998 in Vladivostok; and
 - Workshop on Common Principles of Disaster Management in the Asian Disaster Prevention Center in Bangkok to be organized by the ADPC and the United States in time for recommendations to be considered by the ARF Disaster Relief Experts Group.

Future Direction of the ARF Process

36. The Ministers agreed that the evolutionary approach to the development of the ARF process would be maintained. The Ministers stressed the importance of proceeding in the development of the ARF, from confidence building to preventive diplomacy to elaboration of approaches to conflict, in an incremental and step-by-step manner. The Ministers affirmed the approach to decision-making by consensus while taking into consideration the interests and comfort level of all ARF participants.
37. The Ministers agreed to request the ISG on CBMs to continue its work in exploring matters in the overlap between CBMs and preventive diplomacy, including the four proposals tabled, and to submit recommendations on ways and means of addressing them with the view to consolidating the gains of the ARF and firmly establishing its foundations to prepare for the challenges of the future.
38. The Ministers noted the growing involvement and participation of defense and military officials in the work and activities of the ARF and expressed the view that this trend should be strongly supported.

CO-CHAIRMEN'S REPORT OF THE SECOND ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON DISASTER RELIEF

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 18-20 FEBRUARY 1998

1. As agreed by Ministers at the Fourth ASEAN Regional Forum in Malaysia, on 27 July 1997, the Second ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief was held on 18-20 February 1998 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was organized by Thailand and New Zealand, and Co-chaired by Dr. Sukhum Rasmidatta, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mr. Win Cochrane, Director of the South/Southeast Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand.
2. The Meeting was attended by 20 ARF members. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the ASEAN Secretariat and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) participated as resource persons and guest speakers. The Meeting welcomed in particular delegates from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia, which participated for the first time. As with the 1st ISM-DR, various countries were represented by their Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense as well as additional agencies involved in disaster management, which allowed for a valuable interchange of experience in the subject area. A list of participants is attached as ANNEX A, and contact points as ANNEX B.
3. The Meeting adopted the agenda which is attached as ANNEX C. The programme of the Meeting is attached as ANNEX D.
4. The Meeting was opened by H.E. M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. In his Keynote Address, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs commended the activities of the ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, noting that they contributed towards confidence-building, and constituted a concrete manifestation of the ARF countries' will to cooperate on matters of common interest affecting the comprehensive security of states. He expressed the hope that ARF activities in this field could complement those of ASEAN and other existing bodies and avoid duplication so as to provide an impetus for a more structured framework for formulating regional responses to disasters. He was confident that the activities of the ISM-DR would serve to strengthen the institutional vitality of the ARF process as well as assist in the

fulfillment of the objectives of the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990-2000 (IDNDR).

5. The Meeting was held in plenary. During the course of the Meeting, a field trip was made to the Royal Thai Army's Engineer Department, Ratchaburi Province. The delegates were briefed on the activities of the Royal Thai Army in delivering disaster relief and shown a demonstration of disaster relief techniques.

Item 1. Review of the 1st ISM-DR and General Exchange of Views

6. New Zealand briefed the Meeting on the results of the 1st ISM-DR, and in particular the recommendations of the Wellington Meeting. The Meeting agreed that the recommendations of the Wellington Meeting provided the basis for discussion and steps should be taken to implement its recommendations.

Item 2. Further Exchange of Views on National, Sub-regional and Regional Delivery of Disaster Relief

7. A number of countries gave presentations on their national experiences and the national delivery mechanisms for dealing with disasters. Participants agreed that such exchange of information was in itself a useful confidence-building measure. In particular, many participants pointed to the role of defense establishments in national efforts and the importance of civil-military coordination. In discussing sub-regional and regional delivery of disaster relief, the Meeting highlighted the role and experience of existing regional organizations such as ASEAN, in particular the activities of the ASEAN Expert Group on Disaster Management (AEGDM). The Meeting was briefed on the concept of using Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) in disaster relief in the Asia-Pacific region and on proposals to enhance cooperation on disaster preparedness within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC).

Item 3. Cooperation in Enhancing Regional Disaster Preparedness

8. Noting the recommendations of the 1st ISM-DR on the usefulness of building upon existing national and regional institutions within the ARF area, such as the ADPC and various national bodies in different countries, the Meeting had an extensive exchange of views on how best to achieve optimum synergy. While stressing the importance of avoiding duplication, participants underlined the importance of sharing expertise and organizing joint activities. However, participants also recognized the need to further enhance local preparedness to better support wider efforts.

9. Participants emphasized the need for enhancement of early warning capabilities on emergencies such as earthquakes, floods and severe storms. Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States provided briefings on their efforts to enhance disaster preparedness and ability to provide assistance in the regional context. The IFRC, UNDP and UNOCHA gave comprehensive presentations on their capabilities and resources at their disposal to assist Asia-Pacific countries in disaster management. The ADPC gave a briefing on its capacity to play a focal role as technical support unit to the ARF in the areas of training, information exchange and dissemination strategic planning, disaster management programme and protocol development.

Item 4. Enhancement of Operational Delivery of Disaster Relief in the Region

10. There was a further exchange of information on existing sub-regional cooperation in delivering disaster relief. The usefulness of developing common approaches to disaster management was considered. In this regard, the Meeting underlined the importance of better coordination to facilitate the exchange of information in a neutral fashion and help reduce delays in providing a regional response to emergency situations. The Meeting agreed that specific areas of national expertise and national centers of excellence should be identified so as to further promote the sharing of expertise among the participants.
11. A case study presentation was made on the subject of regional responses to the haze problem in Southeast Asia in late 1997 as a recent example of a regional disaster affecting many ARF countries. The Meeting agreed that given the seriousness of its impact on local environments and ecologies, early coordination of information and responses would be valuable on similar situations occurring in the future. An exchange of views was held on the most appropriate mechanisms for coordinating such activities. The Meeting welcomed the contributions of various countries and organizations in helping to resolve this problem, including ASEAN's Regional Haze Reduction Action Plan, ADPC's sponsorship of the El Nino Conference on 2-6 February 1998, and the United States' Southeast Asian Environment Initiative.

Item 5. Future Directions of ARF Disaster Relief Activities

12. The Meeting confirmed its belief that cooperation on all aspects of disaster management contributes significantly to the ARF's goal of regional confidence building.
13. The Meeting considered that the ARF at Ministerial and Senior Officials levels should continue to give overall direction for further action in this field, including a decision to hold a future ISM-DR, for which an offer was received from the Russian Federation to co-host a third session in Moscow.

14. The Meeting arrived at a broad consensus on the following:
 - 14.1. In furthering the recommendations from the Wellington Meeting, endorsed by the Fourth ARF Ministerial Meeting in Malaysia, particular attention should be given to:
 - 14.1.1. Training and technical cooperation to further develop national disaster management capabilities;
 - 14.1.2. The development of early warning systems with consideration being given to improving access to existing early warning information; and
 - 14.1.3. The development of a regional disaster relief capabilities database.
 - 14.2. Offers to support these and other activities were made by the EU, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United States, IFRC, UNDP, UNOCHA and ADPC.
 - 14.3. The Meeting considered these offers to be valuable, and that they deserved a more detailed evaluation by government officials and experts.
 - 14.4. The Meeting stressed the importance of bilateral, sub-regional and multilateral cooperation on disaster management.
 - 14.5. The exchange of information and informal networking could continue, although the need for better coordination and a greater awareness of existing information resources was recognized.
 - 14.6. To consider these proposals, there was general support for the formation of an ARF Disaster Relief Experts Group. The work of this Group would include the evaluation of the offers and the modalities of any subsequent recommendations made, and the reporting of its findings in time for consideration by the ARF SOM in 1999.
15. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the ADPC to hold a Workshop on Disaster Management later in 1998. The United States offered to provide funding for such a workshop, which could involve participation of civilian and military disaster managers. The workshop might include topics such as appropriate roles and responsibilities of responders, as well as principles, concepts and terminology of disaster management. The Meeting further considered that the organization of other relevant training courses could be proposed by interested countries.
16. The Meeting was of the view that future joint and combined military exercises, whether bilateral or multilateral, undertaken by ARF participants should, as appropriate, incorporate disaster relief activities. Cooperation among the military, and between

civilian and military disaster responders, was also regarded as desirable in such areas as information exchanges to explore the possibility of formulating common operational procedures, as well as exchanges of training, seminars and study tours.

17. The Meeting noted that cooperation and exchanges to enhance early warning capabilities and improving preparedness for such emergencies as droughts, earthquakes, floods and severe storms were valuable. In this regard, the involvement of international organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization in developing such regional capabilities and information sharing was considered important.
18. The Meeting considered that informal networking among the participants should be further promoted pending final decision being taken on the modalities for future cooperation.

Acknowledgements

19. The Meeting thanked Thailand and New Zealand for co-chairing the ISM-DR over the past two years and ensuring that the activities of ISM-DR made a concrete and lasting contribution to furthering cooperation and enhancing confidence among the ARF countries.

CO-CHAIRMEN'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE ARF INTER-SESSIONAL SUPPORT GROUP ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, 4-6 NOVEMBER 1997
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 4-6 MARCH 1998

Introduction

1. Pursuant to the agreement at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Subang Jaya, Malaysia, on 27 July 1997, the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (ISG on CBMs), Co-chaired by Brunei Darussalam and Australia, held two meetings in Bandar Seri Begawan and Sydney on 4-6 November 1997 and 4-6 March 1998 respectively. The meetings were attended by all ARF participants and most participants had defense officials in their respective delegations.
2. Both meetings were conducted in a frank and cordial manner and participants had useful and constructive discussions on matters relating to confidence building. These discussions contributed to moving the ARF process forward. Two important new topics were discussed – CBMs/preventive diplomacy and maritime issues.
3. The agendas of the meetings are attached as ANNEX A, the programs of activities as ANNEX B and the lists of delegates as ANNEX C.
4. The following is a summary of discussions of and recommendations from the two meetings.

Summary of Discussions

Review of Activities of the ISG on CBMs, including Implementation of Agreed CBMs

- a) Review of the Progress of the ISG on CBMs, Its Future Directions and Ways of Developing Its Activities
5. The participants expressed satisfaction with the progress of the ISG on CBMs. It was felt that in the relatively short period of time since its establishment, the ISG had made an important contribution to the building of confidence and trust in the region. The ISG provided a forum for frank, open and substantive dialogue on the regional security environment, for the exchange of information on security-related developments in

individual countries, and for the development of practical confidence building measures. The habits of dialogue and cooperation which were being developed in the ISG and the ARF as a whole would help promote lasting peace and stability in the region.

6. In discussing its future activities the ISG stressed the importance of confidence building to the ARF. Participants felt that there was still more work to be done on the ARF CBMs agenda and looked forward to the development of new CBMs. The ISG emphasised the need to continue focusing on core military defense-related CBMs, while noting that in accordance with the ARF's comprehensive security approach, some non-military CBMs might usefully be addressed. Several participants stressed the desirability of continuing the practice of holding two meetings of the ISG each inter-sessional year.
7. The ISG recognized the great potential and important role of the ARF in further strengthening the foundations of regional peace and stability. In this context, they saw the work of the ISG on CBMs continuing for the foreseeable future. The ISG agreed therefore to recommend to the ARF SOM that the mandate for the ISG on CBMs be extended for the next inter-sessional year

b) Implementation of Agreed CBMs

8. Pursuant to the direction of Ministers at ARF 4, participants underlined the importance of keeping track of agreed CBMs. The ISG agreed that it had a good report to make in this regard. For example:
 - 8.1 The ISG had fully completed two agreed CBMs – the establishment of an inter-sessional meeting on disaster relief and the first ARF Meeting of Heads of National Defense Colleges.
 - 8.2 Good progress had been made in developing a range of regional, sub-regional and bilateral exchanges on regional security perceptions. At the regional level, these exchanges took place at the ISG, at the SOM and at the ARF Ministerial itself. Dialogue was also taking place at the sub-regional level (for example, in the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue and at ASEAN Meetings) and there had also been a rapid expansion in the number of bilateral regional security dialogues between ARF members.
 - 8.3 The number of high-level bilateral defense contacts had been expanding rapidly.
 - 8.4 Defense training and defense exchanges were also frequent.
 - 8.5 ARF member participation in UNCAR was very high and members were beginning to circulate their returns to each other.

- 8.6 Participation in global disarmament and non-proliferation regimes was encouraging.
- 8.7 Several ARF members had voluntarily submitted annual defense policy statements and there had also been very good progress in the voluntary development of Defense White Papers.
9. The ISG agreed that there would be value in attempting to present information implementation of agreed CBMs in a concise and accessible form. Participants completed a set of matrices and tables including a summary matrix to chart the implementation of agreed CBMs which appears as ANNEX D. The ISG felt that these would provide a useful means of presenting the degree of implementation of agreed CBMs to the ARF SOM and to Ministers, as requested by Ministers at ARF 4. It was agreed that these matrices and tables should be updated on an annual basis.
10. The inclusion in the matrices and tables of reference to signature and ratification of the Ottawa Treaty was discussed. It was noted that at the time the CBM on encouraging adherence to the global arms control and disarmament regimes was agreed, the Ottawa Treaty was not yet in existence but that by the time of the Sydney meeting of the ISG this Treaty had already attracted considerable support including from ARF members. An information paper indicating the degree of ARF participation in the Ottawa Treaty was circulated (ANNEX E). The inclusion of the Ottawa Treaty in the matrices and tables would be considered by the ARF SOM.

High Level Defense Contacts and Exchanges Among Defense Staff Colleges and Military Training Institutions

11. Many participants reported on or submitted papers outlining their high-level defense contacts and exchanges. The ISG was encouraged by the high number of such contacts and exchanges. Participants agreed that such exchanges were useful in promoting mutual understanding and confidence, strengthening friendship and eliminating suspicions. It was suggested that a standardized approach to submitting information on defense contacts and exchanges would be useful.

Report on the Meeting of Heads of National Defense Colleges by the Philippines

12. The delegation of the Philippines briefed the Meeting on the outcome of the first ARF Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions held from 7-8 October 1997 in Manila. The Chairman's Report of the Meeting was submitted to the Co-Chairs of the ISG and circulated at the Meeting.
13. Participants agreed that cooperation on security education and research was important in enhancing confidence building in the region and provided an opportunity for the

Heads of Colleges or similar institutions to establish networks and build people-to-people contacts.

14. The ISG recommended that the ARF SOM endorse the areas of cooperation identified by the Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions, which were: faculty and student exchanges, training seminars and academic conferences on mutually agreed topics, country visits, faculty development programs, exchange of publications and greater interaction among heads and senior members of the institutions to be involved.
15. The ISG welcomed the offer by the Republic of Korea to host the next Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions in September 1998 and recommended that this decision be endorsed by the ARF SOM.

Update of ARF Contact Points

16. Pursuant to the recommendations of the ISG on CBMs at its Meeting from 6-8 March 1997 in Beijing, the Co-Chairs circulated an updated list of ARF contact points, including ARF defense contact points. The participants noted that the list was very useful in facilitating contacts among members.

System of Compiling ISG on CBMs Documents

17. The ISG was informed that the Co-Chairs would compile and number documents submitted to the ISG on CBMs. The lists of documents tabled at the two meetings is contained in ANNEX F.

c) Information Exchanges on Other Regional CBMs Cooperation

18. The ISG participants were briefed by the delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC) on its border agreements with a number of countries. These were: Agreements on Confidence Building in the Military Field Along Border Areas signed in 1996, and Agreement on Mutual Reduction of Military Forces in the Border Areas signed in 1997 between the PRC and the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Tajikistan; and Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India Border Areas signed in November 1996 between the PRC and the Republic of India. The ISG agreed that such agreements and the principles embodied therein would promote confidence building among countries concerned and contribute to the peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

19. There was extensive exchange of views under this topic. The ISG was of the view that the region was currently enjoying an unprecedented period of peace and stability and that the security outlook remained positive. It noted that increased dialogue and improved communications between countries had contributed to the situation. Participants noted that economic growth, increasing trade and investment links and high levels of economic interdependency were underpinning the current period of peace and stability. In this context, it was felt that the current economic slowdown in parts of the region would be temporary and that the economies of East Asia would continue to be among the fastest growing in the world.
20. Many participants underlined the importance for the region of stable and constructive relations among the major powers. The ISG welcomed the very significant steps achieved in developing a constructive strategic partnership between the US and the PRC during the October/November 1997 visit to the US by President Jiang Zemin. The ISG also welcomed recent meetings between Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Yeltsin, President Jiang Zemin and President Yeltsin, and Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and President Yeltsin and President Clinton and Prime Minister I K Gujral.
21. The ISG also noted the ASEAN Informal Summit to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Association as well as the Summits between ASEAN and the PRC, Japan and the Republic of Korea in Malaysia from 14-16 December 1997.
22. The ISG welcomed the successful and peaceful transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong from the United Kingdom to the PRC.
23. The ISG was briefed on the recently completed review of the Japan-US Defense Cooperation Guidelines and noted earlier comprehensive briefings contributed to transparency.
24. Participants noted that while the security outlook for the region was generally positive, nevertheless they also recognized some potential problems. The ISG welcomed the briefing by the Republic of Korea and the US on developments on the Korean Peninsula and underlined the importance of the Four Party Talks process and KEDO in working towards peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.
25. On the South China Sea, the ISG welcomed the efforts by countries concerned to seek solutions by peaceful means in accordance with international law and the continued exercise of self-restraint in the interest of maintaining peace and stability in the region. The ISG also noted the positive contributions made by bilateral consultations between countries concerned and dialogue in the ASEAN-China Senior Officials Consultations

and in the ARF as well as the work of the Informal Workshops on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea.

26. The ISG strongly supported ASEAN's efforts in helping to restore political stability in Cambodia and, in this context, noted the importance of holding successful free, fair and credible elections this year.
27. Canada briefed the ISG on developments in the Ottawa process on Anti-Personnel Landmines.

Observer Participation in and On-going Notification of Military Exercises

28. In the implementation of agreed CBM from ARF 3, the ISG had a useful exchange of information on ARF members' respective practices with regard to observership and notification. It was noted that a number of ARF members invited observers to and provide notification of selected military exercises, including unilateral, bilateral and multilateral exercises, on a voluntary and case-by-case basis. Participants noted that such individual practices could contribute towards enhancing mutual confidence.

Defense Participation in the ISG/ARF

29. Many participants noted the importance of active defense participation in ARF processes. Defense involvement in the ARF complemented existing bilateral and regional defense agencies and helped build trust and confidence. Defense participants also had an important contribution to make to ARF exchanges on regional security issues, the development of practical confidence building measures, and the promotion of cooperation at the technical level.
30. Many participants pointed out that defense officials should be fully integrated into the ARF process at all levels, although they left open the possibility of defense-only meetings on specific issues. The ISG noted that there was already a high level of defense participation in the ISG on CBMs.
31. The agreement that Ministers could be accompanied to the ARF by a second official had also facilitated defense participation in the Ministerial Meeting. A number of participants noted, however, that currently at the ARF SOM there was only a limited role for defense officials.
32. The ISG agreed therefore that it would be useful for an additional official to participate at future ARF SOM Leaders' Retreats in order to accommodate defense representation. Participants agreed to make this recommendation to SOM. The ISG also agreed that it should be up to each Leader to decide the composition of their delegation. Participants

noted that the involvement of defense officials in the ARF should take place in an incremental manner and at a pace comfortable to all members.

New Confidence Building Measures

33. The ISG had an extensive discussion on good, well thought out ideas for new CBMs, of both an ongoing process and project nature, tabled by many participants. The ISG discussed which of these were suitable for consideration by the ARF in the near and medium term. The ISG recommended two baskets of proposed new CBMs which appear as ANNEX G to be forwarded to the ARF SOM and to Ministers for their consideration noting the desirability of adopting a flexible approach to take account of future developments. The first basket consisted of new CBMs which the ISG should consider in the near term while the second basket consisted of the new CBMs which it was felt were likely to need more time and on which agreement was more likely in the medium term.
34. In view of the offers made by the People's Republic of China and Australia, the ISG agreed to recommend the immediate implementation of two of the projects in Basket 1. The ISG welcomed the offer by China to host a Military Medicine Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Epidemic Control in Tropical Regions in November 1998 and by Australia to host and co-chair a seminar in the next inter-sessional year on the production of defense policy documents. The US offer to collect and collate the list of publications of CBMs was accepted and this list will be disseminated at the ARF SOM.
35. It was felt that some of the proposals raised were more appropriately considered under existing activities and agenda items. It was agreed that the ISM on Disaster Relief and the ARF SOM should take forward a proposal to enhance cooperation among ARF members in disaster relief; UN Conventional Arms Register data should be handled under the existing ISG Agenda item on the Register; and that Marine Environmental Protection should be discussed under the separate Agenda Item on Maritime issues. Other proposals were discussed but no agreement was reached on taking these forward.

ARF Principles

36. The ISG also took note that there was a suggestion to consider the development of a set of guiding principles on promotion of confidence building and cooperation for the maintenance of lasting peace and development in the Asia Pacific region in general and for the activities of the ARF in particular. The ISG was of the view that this matter might be included in the discussion at the track two meeting to be held in September 1998 in Vladivostok.

CBMs/Preventive Diplomacy and the ARF

37. In accordance with the mandate of ARF 4, the ISG discussed areas of overlap between CBMs and preventive diplomacy and ways and means of addressing these while maintaining the focus on CBMs. It was felt that the ISG had maintained the focus on CBMs and that discussions on new CBMs ensured that this focus would be maintained for the foreseeable future.
38. There was general agreement that many issues could be identified as falling within the area of overlap. Some were already being dealt with as CBMs and others could also be proposed as preventive diplomacy measures. Noting that the distinction between CBMs and Preventive diplomacy was blurred, and in light of the decision of ARF 2 that the consideration of these two issues can proceed in tandem, there was general support for further consideration of the following tabled proposals;
- i. An enhanced role for the ARF Chairman, particularly the idea of a good offices role.
 - ii. The development of a register of Experts or Eminent Persons among ARF participants.
 - iii. Annual Security Outlook.
 - iv. Voluntary background briefing on regional security issues.
39. In this regard, the ISG agreed to recommend to the ARF SOM and Ministers that two meetings of the ISG on CBMs be held in the next inter-sessional year with one meeting addressing the overlap between CBMs and preventive diplomacy, including the four proposals tabled. Some participants also suggested the possibility of consideration of common approaches and understandings on preventive diplomacy. The ISG also stressed the importance of proceeding in an incremental and step-by-step manner and of taking decisions by consensus while taking into consideration the interests and comfort level of all ARF participants.

Exchange of Views on Defense Policies

40. Participants explained their defense policies and also exchanged views on the content of their respective defense policies. The ISG welcomed the increasing number of ARF participants who had submitted defense policy papers. The ISG continued to encourage the voluntary annual submission of defense policy papers and suggested that those countries able to do so should submit these to the ISG on CBMs. The ISG noted the increased number of ARF participants preparing defense white papers or their equivalents for the first time. The ISG continued to see considerable value in the regular publication of defense white papers or similar papers by ARF participants on a voluntary basis. The ISG agreed that continued exchanges on this subject would further contribute to

increased transparency and mutual understanding and thereby the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

Defense Conversion

41. The ISG had a briefing and sharing of information by some ARF members on defense conversion which was seen as useful not only in promoting disarmament but also for economic development. Some participants encouraged ARF members to continue sharing information and seeking cooperation in this area on a voluntary basis.

Arms Modernization in the Region

42. The ISG exchanged views on trends in arms modernization in the Asia Pacific region and stressed the importance of transparency in force structures and strategic policies. Participants also had a brief exchange of views on the potential impact of the current financial downturn on defense programs and on regional security more generally.

Arms Control and Non-proliferation

43. The ISG noted that progress had been made in controlling the spread and inhibiting the use of weapons of mass destruction. There was considerable support for internationally recognized non-proliferation and disarmament conventions, treaties and regimes and it was acknowledged that adherence to these contributed to regional peace and security. The ISG discussed the desirability of the resumption of an active work program in the Conference on Disarmament, mentioning a range of issues. Attention was once again called to the ARF's earlier commitment to encouraging ARF countries to sign and ratify global non-proliferation regimes specifically the NPT, CWC, BWC, CCW and CTBT. Certain Missile Technology Control Regime members encouraged other ARF participants to support the non-proliferation aims of the Regime. Several participants drew attention to the threat posed by small arms proliferation and the illicit trafficking in these weapons.
44. The ISG noted the signature by 123 states including 11 ARF participants of the Ottawa Treaty banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines (APL) in December 1997. Some participants underlined the desirability of work being undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament on APL, particularly transfers. Conscious of the human suffering caused by APL participants endorsed the urgent need to continue to support efforts in demining, including training, and in the removal of unexploded ordinance as well as the rehabilitation of victims. The ISG understood the ROK's position that security considerations prevented it from signing the Ottawa Treaty at this stage.

United Nations Register of Conventional Arms

45. The ISG reaffirmed the value of the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms as an important transparency and confidence building measure. The very high level of ARF country participation in the Register was pleasing but it was important for the region to maintain its good record. The ISG continued to encourage ARF participants to circulate to each other their UNCAR annual returns. A number of participants raised the possibility of the ARF adding further substance to its discussion under this Agenda Item.

Training on Regional Security

46. The ISG had a useful exchange of views on training on regional security and facilities available to ARF members. The ISG reaffirmed the value of training in contributing to the development of human resources and towards strengthening networking and fostering of people-to-people contacts amongst officials involved in decision making on regional security. Training on regional security was also seen as useful in further promoting confidence building among participants.
47. The ISG strongly supported the offer by the US to organize an integrated training program on regional security for foreign affairs and defense officials to be held in Washington in September 1998. The ISG felt that such programs should be a permanent CBM activity which could be conducted regularly and that flexibility would be required in determining the format, duration and concept of such courses. Other participants also indicated their willingness to consider hosting such programs in future years. The ISG noted that some participants might require assistance to enable them to participate.
48. The ISG welcomed the offer by Canada, Japan and Malaysia to organize a peacekeeping training seminar for the ARF to take place in Japan in the next inter-sessional year. A number of participants provided information on other training courses and facilities available in their countries to which other ARF participants could be invited. The ISG also welcomed the offer and suggestions by some participants in organizing similar or other training programs relevant to regional security.

Maritime Issues

49. The Co-Chairs invited an Australian expert on maritime issues, Dr Ross Babbage, to make some introductory remarks about changes in the maritime environment including trends in regional shipping and the growth of regional ports. The ISG felt that this had been useful in setting the scene for the subsequent discussion of specific issues.

(a) Maritime Safety

50. Participants noted that shipping was one of the engines of growth in the Asia-Pacific. The region's waterways were carrying more ships and a greater volume of hazardous cargo. These trends were likely to continue and congestion in key "chokepoints" such as the Malacca Straits was a concern to many regional countries. Maritime safety was therefore an important issue appropriately considered under the rubric of comprehensive security. The ISG reviewed the existing regional framework for promoting maritime safety and underlined the importance of ARF members ratifying and fully implementing the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the key International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions on maritime safety as well as the new International Safety Management Code (ISM). Participants noted that technical assistance for those countries which found it difficult to implement their IMO commitments was available. Training of seafarers to reduce human error as a factor in maritime disasters was important.
51. The ISG also noted the important work of the Tokyo MOU on Port State Control in the Asia Pacific region and encouraged ARF members who were not either members or observers of the MOU to support its activities. The ISG was briefed on advances in traffic management and pollution control in the Malacca and Singapore Straits. The ISG expressed its support for other existing regional cooperation in the area of maritime safety, including in APEC and the Indonesian Informal Workshop Series on Managing Potential Conflict in the South China Sea. Participants underlined the importance of not duplicating activities occurring in more specialized forums.

(b) Law and Order at Sea

52. The ISG noted that the security of regional sea lanes of communication was a matter of critical importance to ARF participants. Many of these sea lanes, however, were vulnerable because of their congested nature and their proximity to land. In this context, piracy and sea robbery were issues of particular concern to many ARF participants. The costs to shipping (both direct and indirect), the human toll in terms of injury and loss of life, and the potential threat to the environment from attacks on ships were considerable. Participants observed that onshore policing combined with maritime police action in territorial waters were the most effective weapons against piracy and sea robbery and urged ARF participants to be vigilant in their efforts to combat this problem. However, the ISG also encouraged those ARF members who have not done so already to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation 1988 (the Rome Convention). The ISG also noted the success of cooperation between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and through ASEAN in significantly reducing the incidence of piracy and sea robbery in the Malacca and Singapore Straits.

53. Some participants were interested in exploring over time possible voluntary bilateral and sub-regional cooperation between ARF participants to combat piracy and sea robbery. Suggestions included: exchanges of information; regional meetings on piracy and sea robbery; publicizing areas covered by maritime law enforcement.
 54. The ISG noted that surveillance was an important tool in the fight against piracy and other activities such as smuggling, illegal fishing and illegal pollution. Participants were encouraged to consider the voluntary exchange of surveillance information on a bilateral basis and to explore possibilities for cooperative and coordinated surveillance arrangements. In the context of the problem of illegal fishing, participants encouraged ratifying and implementing the relevant international conventions.
- (c) Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment
55. Participants observed that the region's security interests could not be seen exclusively in terms of potential military threats or conflicts and that non-military issues such as environmental damage had the potential to create tensions between states. Given the nature of the region, damage to the marine environment from pollution, overfishing, urbanisation and the degradation of marine coastal environments was a particularly important part of the environment-security equation. It was therefore appropriate in the International Year of the Ocean that the ARF supported regional efforts to protect and preserve the marine environment.
 56. The ISG encouraged ARF participants to ratify and implement UNCLOS and the relevant IMO Conventions in the area of pollution from ships. Participants also stressed the importance of implementing the commitments contained in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (protection of oceans) and paragraph 36 of the resolutions of the General Assembly at its Special Session on Agenda 21 (which agreed on the program for further implementation of Agenda 21). The ISG also supported other regional cooperative efforts in this area, including the East Asian Seas Action Plan, APEC's Marine Resources Conservation Working Group, the South East Asian Program in Ocean Law, Policy and Management (SEAPOL), the International Coral Reef Initiative, the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and technical activities under the informal Indonesian Workshop Series on Managing Potential Conflict in the South China Sea.
 57. The ISG noted cooperation among regional countries in the area of oil spill response and preparedness. There was a suggestion that the ISG consider ARF cooperation in this area, particularly in enhancing response capability. Other proposals for further consideration by the ARF of marine environmental issues were tabled. Participants stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of activity occurring in more specialized forums.

(d) Maritime Cooperation

58. There was considerable interest in further work by the ARF on maritime cooperation issues. A number of suggestions for possible ARF activities were put forward, including for cooperation between navies. Participants agreed, however, that in order to ensure that the ARF did not duplicate work best done elsewhere, and to develop a clearer sense of the areas where the ARF could add value to existing regional cooperation, it would be appropriate for a meeting of specialist officials to be convened under the ISG on CBMs to consider the issues (maritime safety, law and order at sea, protection and preservation of the marine environment) and the proposals put forward by delegations in Sydney. The ISG agreed it would be helpful if this meeting, which should include the IMO, could overlap with the meeting in the next inter-sessional period of the ISG on CBMs, with these maritime issues on its agenda, in order to allow ISG participants to consider its recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ISG decided to convey the following recommendations to the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM) to be held in the Philippines on 20-22 May 1998 for the consideration of Ministers at ARF 5.

1. Review of the Activities of the ISG on CBMs, including implementation of agreed CBMs
 - 1.1. The ISG on CBMs has made an important contribution to the building of confidence and trust in the region. While good progress has been made in implementing a number of agreed CBMs there is still considerable scope to further develop and deepen cooperation on confidence building measures among ARF members. In this context, the ISG on CBMs should continue its work for the foreseeable future. The mandate for the ISG on CBMs therefore should be extended for the next inter-sessional year.
 - 1.2. Pursuant to the request of Ministers at ARF 4 to review implementation of agreed CBMs, the set of matrices and tables showing the degree of implementation, contained in ANNEX D, should be presented to Ministers. These matrices should be updated on an annual basis and refined as necessary.
 - 1.3. A second Meeting of Heads of National Defense Colleges should be held in September 1998 in the Republic of Korea.
 - 1.4. The list of ARF contact points should be updated regularly.
 - 1.5. The system of numbering and compiling papers submitted to the ISG on CBMs should be continued.

2. Review of the Regional Security Environment and Exchange of Views on Security Perceptions
 - 2.1. The exchange of views on the regional security environment is a valuable and important confidence building measure and should continue in the ISG on CBMs, ARF SOM and the ARF Ministerial.

3. Defense Participation in the ARF
 - 3.1. Participation in future Leaders' Retreats at ARF SOMs should be expanded to SOM Leader plus one in order to accommodate defense representation. The participation by a second official and the composition of each delegation would be at the discretion of SOM Leaders.

4. New CBMs
 - 4.1. Two lists of new CBMs have been developed and agreed to and these should be considered by the ISG on CBMs for implementation in the near future (Basket 1) and over the medium term (Basket 2). These are contained in ANNEX G. The offers by China to host a Military Medicine Symposium on Tropical Medicine and Epidemic Control in Tropical Regions in November 1998 and by Australia to host and Co-Chair a seminar on production of defense policy documents in the next inter-sessional year are welcome. Individual participants should send their lists of CBM publications to the US for it to compile and distribute.
 - 4.2. The ISM on Disaster Relief and the ARF SOM should take forward a proposal to enhance cooperation among ARF members in disaster relief; UN Conventional Arms Register Data should be handled under the existing ISG Agenda item on the Register; and Marine Environmental Protection should be discussed under the separate Agenda Item on Maritime Issues.

5. CBMs/Preventive Diplomacy and the ARF
 - 5.1. Noting that the distinction between CBMs and preventive diplomacy was blurred, and in light of the decision of ARF 2 that the consideration of these two issues can proceed in tandem, the ISG should further consider the following tabled proposals:
 - i. An enhanced role for the ARF Chairman, particularly the idea of a good offices role.
 - ii. The development of a register of Experts or Eminent Persons among ARF participants.
 - iii. Annual Security Outlook.
 - iv. Voluntary background briefing on regional security issues.
 - 5.2. The ISG should hold two meetings of the ISG on CBMs in the next inter-sessional year with one meeting addressing the overlap between CBMs and preventive

diplomacy, including the four proposals tabled. Some participants also suggested the possibility of consideration of common approaches and understandings on preventive diplomacy.

6. Exchange of Views on Defense Policies

6.1. In view of their contribution to increasing transparency and mutual understanding, the dialogue on defense policies, the submission annually to the ISG of papers on defense policy statements and the publication of defense white papers or their equivalent on a voluntary basis should continue. Continued exchanges of views within the ISG on defense policies and programs will further contribute to increased transparency and mutual understanding.

7. Defense Conversion

7.1. ARF Participants should continue to share information and seek cooperation on defense conversion on a voluntary basis.

8. Arms Modernization in the Region

8.1. Noting the importance of transparency, thematic discussions of arms modernization within the ISG should continue.

9. Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

9.1. Attention was once again called to the ARF's earlier commitment to encouraging ARF countries to sign and ratify the global non-proliferation regimes specifically the NPT, CWC, BWC, CCW and CTBT. The urgent need to support efforts in demining, including training, in the removal of unexploded ordinance and the rehabilitation of victims was endorsed.

10. United Nations Register on Conventional Arms

10.1. Taking note of the high level of ARF participation in the UN Conventional Arms Register, those ARF participants not yet submitting annual returns are encouraged to do so. All ARF participants are encouraged to circulate their returns to all ARF members. Aspects of the UN Conventional Arms Register should continue to be addressed in the ISG on CBMs.

11. Training on Regional Security

11.1. A regular integrated training program for foreign affairs and defense officials on regional security should be a permanent CBM activity. The offer by the US to conduct the first such program in Washington in September 1998 is welcomed. The offer by Canada, Japan and Malaysia to organize a peacekeeping training seminar in Japan in the next inter-sessional year is also welcomed.

12. Maritime Issues

- 12.1. The maritime environment in the Asia Pacific region is undergoing a period of rapid change and the management of maritime issues will become more complex and challenging. In this context, maritime safety, law and order at sea and protection and preservation of the marine environment are important issues appropriately considered by the ARF under the rubric of comprehensive security.
- 12.2. ARF countries should lend their full support to existing regional and multilateral arrangements and instruments in these areas, including in particular by:
- ratifying and implementing the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions and regulations in the area of maritime safety and marine pollution;
 - supporting the work of the Tokyo MOU on Port State Control in the Asia Pacific region;
 - supporting training to reduce human error as a factor in maritime disasters;
 - ratifying the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation 1988 (the Rome Convention);
 - implementing the commitments contained in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (Protection of Oceans) and paragraph 36 of the resolutions of the General Assembly at its Special Session on Agenda 21;
 - exploring possibilities for cooperative and coordinated surveillance arrangements; and
 - ratifying and implementing the UN Implementing Agreement on the Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
- 12.3. The maritime issues of maritime safety, law and order at sea, and protection and preservation of the marine environment should be further considered in the ISG on CBMs. In this connection, a meeting of specialist officials should be convened under the ISG on CBMs to develop a clearer sense of the areas where the ARF can add value to existing activities. This meeting should include the IMO and should overlap with and report to the meeting, in the next inter-sessional year, of the ISG on CBMs which includes the maritime issues noted above on its agenda.

DISTILLATION OF AGREED CBMs FROM THE FIRST UP TO THE FOURTH ARF

Substantive CBMs

Implemented

1. Develop exchanges on security perceptions on a sub-regional and regional basis (ARF 2 para 8(i)); continue dialogue on security perceptions within the ARF process including inter-sessional meetings (ARF 3 para 10.A(i)a.) and at ISG on CBMs (ARF 4 ANNEX C para 1.1.2)
2. Increase exchanges amongst national defense colleges and to this end convene meetings of the heads of National Defense Colleges (ARF 3 para 10 A. (iii) c)
3. Convene an inter-sessional meeting on the role of defense authorities in disaster relief (ARF 3 para 10 A.(v) b)
4. Exchange information on a voluntary basis on ongoing observer participation in and notification of military exercises (ARF 3 para 10 A. (v) c)

Partially Implemented

5. Develop exchanges on security perceptions on a bilateral basis (ARF 2 para 8(i)) Matrix 1
6. Increase high level defense contacts and military exchanges/training (ARF 2 para 8 iii; ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.3) Matrices 2 and 3
7. Submit to the ARF or ARF SOM on a voluntary basis an annual defense policy statement (ARF 2 para 8 (ii); ARF 3 para 10 A. (ii) a; ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.3) Table 1
8. Publish Defense White Papers or similar papers on a voluntary basis (ARF 3 para 10A.(ii) a) Table 1
9. Full participation in UN Conventional Arms Register by ARF participants (ARF 1 para 7 (d); ARF 2 para 8 (iv); ARF 3 para 10 A. (iv); ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.6) Table 1

10. Circulate submissions to UNCAR to other ARF participants at a time of UN submission on a voluntary basis (ARF 3 para 10 A. (iv)b) Table 1
11. Sign and ratify global non-proliferation and disarmament regimes including NPT, CTBT, CWC, BWC, and CCW (ARF 3 para 10 A. (v) d; ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.7) Table 2
12. Exchange views on the contents of annual defense policy or defense white papers (ARF 3 para 10 A. (ii) b; ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.3) on Sydney agenda
13. Exchange views on defense conversion programs on a voluntary basis (ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.4) on Sydney agenda

Organizational CBMs

Implemented

14. Complete and update a list of ARF contact points (ARF 3 para 10 A. (v) a; ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.9.2)
15. Circulate compilation of papers submitted to ISG on CBMs (ARF 4 ANNEX C 2)

Partially Implemented

16. Submit papers on defense contacts and other defense exchange programs to the ARF SOM (ARF 3 para 10 A (iii) b; ARF 4 ANNEX C 1.3) and on other dialogues (ARF 3 para 10.A. (i)b.)
17. Increase defense participation in ARF inter-sessional activities (ARF 3 para 10 A. (iii)a)

LIST OF NEW ARF CBMs

The list is divided into two baskets. The first basket consists of new CBMs recommended for consideration in the near future (i.e. over next two inter-sessional years). The second basket consists of new CBMs which was felt were likely to need more time and on which agreement was more likely over the medium term.

First Basket

- Encouraging ARF members to exchange visits of their naval vessels on a voluntary basis
- Multilateral exchanges and cooperation in military logistic and academic research in fields such as military medicine and military law
- Compilation of lists of publications and contact points on CBMs
- Multilateral communications network
- ARF Foreign Affairs and Defense officials training/seminar
- Seminar on the production of defense white papers or other defense policy documents
- Encouraging visits to military establishments
- Media support for the activities of the ARF
- Defense language schools conference

Second Basket

- ARF liaison with other regional fora
- A second ARF SOM
- Counter-narcotics project
- Preventing and combating illicit trafficking in conventional small arms
- Shootfest among riflemen

THE FIRST ARF MEETING OF HEADS OF DEFENSE COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES, 7-8 OCTOBER 1997

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting of Heads of Defense Colleges and Institutions was held in Manila on 7-8 October 1997. It was organized and chaired by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP). The ARF Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures during the meeting in Beijing in March 1997 and the 4th ARF meeting in Subang Jaya in July also of this year welcomed the invitation of the NDCP to host the meeting in conjunction with their 34th Anniversary Celebration. The programme of activities which already includes the agenda for the meeting are attached as ANNEX A. The meeting was chaired by NDCP President Brigadier General Eduardo T. Cabanlig. Attached as ANNEX B is the Chairman's opening statement.
2. Defense Secretary Fortunato U. Abat delivered the keynote address at the opening of the conference. In his address, Secretary Abat welcomed the participants and stressed the important role of defense colleges, universities and similar institutions in shaping the security perceptions of policy makers and in developing habits of cooperation in the region. He considered the conference a constructive effort in strengthening the ARF process and in broadening the range of confidence building measures being undertaken by the ARF.
3. Participants from 18 of the 21 ARF member countries and dialogue partners attended the conference.
4. The meeting affirmed the importance of cooperation on security education and research in enhancing confidence building in the region and recognized the meeting as an opportunity for the heads of defense colleges or similar institutions to network and build people-to-people contact. The participants agreed that the conference contributed to the growing awareness and recognition of the vital role of defense officials in the ARF process.
5. The participants gave a brief description of the institutional profiles and orientation of their respective defense learning institutions and shared their experiences on security education and research, particularly in the area of regional security. A number of participants cited such areas as structuring of curricula, development of bibliography, student and faculty exchanges and training programs, and agreements with counterpart institutions as examples of existing joint activities that the participants can work on and

expand further. The exchange elicited general support for the need to strengthen the regional dimension of security education and research.

6. The participants agreed to enhance regional cooperation on security education and welcomed specific proposals on this initiative. Among the activities identified in which cooperation could be considered were faculty and student exchanges, training seminars and academic conferences on mutually-agreed topics, country visits, faculty development programs, exchange of publications and greater interaction among heads and senior members of the institutions involved. It was also agreed upon to maximize the use of Internet and E-Mail as a means of facilitating communications. Meetings of this nature may be held periodically with the host country providing secretariat services to assure conference success.
7. The participants exchanged views on regional security arrangements and the emerging Asia-Pacific security environment. Australia presented a paper on “Some Aspects of the Developing Regional Security Architecture”. Japan presented a paper on “Japan’s Defense Policy”. The Philippines presented a paper on “The Emerging Asia-Pacific Security Environment and Regional Security Arrangements, A Philippine Perspective”. The United States presented a paper on “Post-Cold War Security Arrangements in the Asia-Pacific Region: A U.S. Perspective”. South Korea presented a paper “Security Situation on the Korean Peninsula”. The meeting agreed that security education programs need to continuously relate existing regional security arrangements with the emerging Asia-Pacific security environment from the academic perspective.
8. The meeting agreed to forward the Chairman’s Report and the proposals to the Co-Chairs of the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures (Brunei and Australia) as well as to the ARF Senior Officials Meeting for their consideration.
9. The participants agreed to continue cooperation on security education and research among defense colleges. They considered that further meetings of heads of defense colleges and similar institutions would be valuable and that a follow-up meeting in the near future is most welcome. Several participants suggested that South Korea may host the next meeting, a suggestion that the South Korean delegation accepted. With the acceptance of South Korea to host the next meeting, the Chairman announced that all suggestions pertaining to the conduct and formatting of future meetings of heads of defense colleges and the selection and wording of agenda items would be collated and transmitted to South Korea as inputs to their preparations. Attached as ANNEX C is the Chairman’s Closing Statement.
10. The meeting was held in a warm and cordial manner. The participants expressed their appreciation to the NDCP for the generous hospitality accorded to them. The participants also expressed their commendation of the host for the manner with which the meeting was conducted.

CONFERENCE ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

SINGAPORE, 9-11 SEPTEMBER 1997

1. The 3rd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Track Two Conference on Preventive Diplomacy was jointly organized by the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies (IDSS) Republic of Singapore and the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) in the United Kingdom, using the network of the Council for Security Co-operation in the Asia-Pacific. This conference was co-sponsored by the Republic of Singapore and the United Kingdom/European Union (EU). The proposal for this conference was endorsed by the ARF Senior Officials' Meeting in Langkawi (Malaysia) from 18-20 May 1997, and was welcomed by the ARF Ministers at their 4th meeting in Subang Jaya (Malaysia) on 27 July 1997. The Conference was jointly chaired by Ambassador S.R. Nathan of IDSS and Dr. Gerald Segal of IISS. The agenda and programme for the meetings are attached at ANNEX A.
2. At the 2nd ARF meeting, the Ministers agreed that where the subject matters at Stage One (Confidence-Building) and Stage Two (Preventive Diplomacy) of the ARF overlapped, such matters could proceed in tandem. At the recently concluded 4th ARF meeting, this view was reiterated and the Inter-sessional Group of CBMs was tasked to identify ways of addressing these matters. In this regard, the primary objective of this Conference was to discuss concrete measures which could be adopted by the ARF to advance to Stage Two.
3. The meeting noted the work already done in the ARF Track Two process on Preventive Diplomacy, and in particular the ideas put forward at the Preventive Diplomacy Seminars in Seoul and developed in the subsequent seminar in Paris, as well as in the series of CSCAP Meeting. Representatives from all ARF participants were present. The list of those who attended the meeting is attached at ANNEX B.

The following is a summary of the key points discussed.

Session 1 – Overview

The Conference reviewed the recommendations and conclusions of preceding CSCAP and Track Two Conferences on Preventive Diplomacy, and re-affirmed its usefulness. It was accepted that the different circumstances and actual conditions in the Asia-Pacific would often call for different approaches from those employed in other parts of the world. With that in mind, some felt that CBMs, as one element of Preventive Diplomacy, had the best prospects of success in the immediate future and efforts should be focused on them.

Session 2 – The European Union Experience in Preventive Diplomacy

The meeting addressed the experience of the EU in Preventive Diplomacy, which provided examples spanning CBMs and Preventive Diplomacy. It was suggested that key factors influencing the efficacy of the EU's Preventive Diplomacy were the particular circumstances of conflict, the will of the actors to engage in Preventive Diplomacy beyond third party mediation, and the degree of incentive for parties concerned. Much of the discussion focused on the varying applicability of the EU experience to circumstances in the Asia-Pacific.

Session 3 – Preventive Diplomacy in Southeast Asia

The meeting exchanged views on the prospects for further efforts in Confidence Building and Preventive Diplomacy in Southeast Asia and focused in particular on the South China Sea and Cambodia. The meeting noted the ongoing preventive diplomacy efforts in the region and acknowledged the contribution of Indonesia organized workshop on the South China Sea. The meeting affirmed the importance of bilateral negotiations and took note of the useful role which third parties might play in facilitating diplomacy.

Session 4 – The Chinese Perspective on Preventive Diplomacy

In response to the presentation of the Chinese perspective, the meeting noted the importance of CBMs in the entire process of Preventive Diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific and agreed that bilateral and multilateral CBMs should be explored and exploited more fully by the states in the region. The meeting focused on the importance of consensus in the practice of Preventive Diplomacy. However, some participants expressed that in certain circumstances, third parties' good offices could be valuable in helping to resolve disputes.

Session 5 – Preventive Diplomacy and Map Exercises

The meeting was briefed on the nature of Map Exercises. They were defined as simulation exercises designed to enhance multilateral understanding and co-operation in crises. As such, they were deemed to be good examples of cooperative measures to foster comprehensive security.

Session 6 – Preventive Diplomacy: Freedom of Navigation

The meeting discussed the term “Freedom of Navigation” and “Navigational Rights”, and the possibility of an ARF declaration on the latter as a CBM. Given the diversity of views, it was recommended that the issues raised be discussed in the CSCAP Working Group on Maritime Security.

Session 7 – Preventive Diplomacy – Towards Track One

The meeting considered options which would enable the ARF to enhance its Preventive Diplomacy role. To that end, it considered; the role of the ARF chair; the possibility of intensifying the consultative process at the level of officials; drawing on UN experience; provision of training; and early warning capabilities. But different views were expressed at this meeting in this regard.

Dinner Commentary – The Role of the UN Secretary-General

The meeting welcomed the presentation on the good offices role of the UN Secretary-General by Mr. Francesc Vendrell of the UN and re-affirmed the UN's important role in maintaining international peace and stability.

Conclusion

The Co-Chairs agreed to forward the following proposals to the current Co-Chairs of the Inter-Sessional Group on CBMs (Brunei and Australia) as well as to their ARF SOM for their consideration.

- a. The codification of principles regulating international behavior in the region.
- b. An enhanced role for the ARF chair or other third parties in providing good offices in certain circumstances.
- c. Explore the relevance of Sino-Indian and Sino-Russian experience in CBMs for Preventive Diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region.
- d. Multilateral co-operation as a form of Prevention Diplomacy on trans-national issues such as drug trafficking; shipment, storage and disposal of nuclear waste; major movements of population etc, where directly linked to security.
- e. An annual Security Outlook to be discussed in Track One, but produced at a Track Two level.

The Co-Chairs agreed to forward the following proposals to the current Co-Chairs of CSCAP (Malaysia and Japan) with the suggestion that CSCAP explore further:

- a. The utility and feasibility of Map (Simulation) Exercises.
- b. The issues raised in the paper on Freedom of Navigation.

The meeting endorsed the view that close co-operation be enhanced between CSCAP and ARF.

The Meeting was held in a warm and constructive spirit. The participants expressed their appreciation to Ambassador Nathan and Dr Segal for their able co-chairmanship. They also thanked the Republic of Singapore and the United Kingdom/EU for sponsoring the Conference and for the generous hospitality accorded to them.