



SUMMARY RECORD
OF
THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (ARF-SOM)

BANGKOK
23-25 MAY 1994

CONFIDENTIAL

SUMMARY RECORD
OP
THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING (ARF-SOM)
23-25 MAY 1994, BANGKOK

1. The Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting (ARF-SOM) was chaired by **H.E. Mr. Pracha Guna-Kasem**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.
2. The list of delegates appears as Annex A.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda which appears as Annex B.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

4. The Meeting noted Thailand's Information Papers entitled "**Preparations for the 1st ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), 25 July 1994, Bangkok**", which appears as Annex C. and "**Tentative Programme of Activities for the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), 25 July 1994, Bangkok**", which appears as Annex D. and agreed that the 1st ARF in Bangkok should be organized in accordance with the guidelines and schedules set out in the Papers.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

5. As the establishment of the **ARF** reflected the desire of Asia-Pacific countries to ensure a peaceful and stable political and security environment for the region, the Meeting noted that the ARF was an important **forum**, constituting an integral part of the ASEAN dialogue process.

6. The Meeting endorsed **ASEAN's** intention that the ARF should be held regularly on an annual basis. It was further agreed that, as a consultative forum contributing to the promotion of regional understanding and cooperation, the ARF should function on the basis of consensus, progressing step by step at a pace comfortable for all **participants**.

7. The Meeting discussed possible elements which could be included in the ARF **Chairman's** Statement, to be issued after the Meeting of the 1st ARF, and noted that Thailand, as the Chair, would carefully consider such inputs. The Meeting, **nevertheless**, agreed that **it** would be the prerogative of the Chairman to prepare and issue the Statement in the manner he deemed appropriate.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN ISSUES

8. The Meeting discussed **ASEAN-ISIS** Memorandum **No. 5** entitled "**Confidence Building Measures in Southeast Asia**", which appears as Annex E.

9. There was a convergence of views that Southeast Asia **is** moving towards a new era of **peace**, prosperity, and cooperation. The Meeting noted, however, that it remained necessary for Southeast Asian countries to continue to work

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

towards genuine peace and security in the region. In this respect, the Meeting believed that the **ARF** could contribute meaningfully to the realization of such goals.

10. The Meeting noted **that**, as a means of promoting political and security cooperation in the region, existing regional principles for peace and security, such as those contained in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, and the ASEAN Declaration in the South China Sea, should be given wider recognition. It also noted that the establishment of a Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (**SEANWFZ**) would also contribute to this end.

11. The Meeting noted that the Workshop Series on Managing Potential Conflicts in the South China Sea, jointly organized by Indonesia and the Canadian International Development Agency (**CIDA**), was a useful forum which had contributed to the promotion of **confidence-building** and preventive diplomacy in the area and could serve as an example for cooperation efforts in other **regions**.

12. The Meeting exchanged views on the latest situation in Cambodia and expressed the hope that, as a sovereign state, Cambodia would be able to **find** a peaceful and lasting solution to its internal problems through national reconciliation.

13. Despite divergent views on progress made by the reform process in Myanmar, the Meeting noted that the process should be encouraged further.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NORTHEAST ASIAN ISSUES

14. The Meeting considered the Republic of **Korea's** paper entitled "Northeast Asia Security **Cooperation**", which appears as Annex **F**, and exchanged views on the latest political and security situation in Northeast Asia.

15. The Meeting expressed the wish to see an early resolution of the nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula. The Meeting was convinced that the issue could be amicably resolved through strict observance of the International Atomic Energy **Agency's** (IAEA) safeguards.

16. The Meeting supported the initiative for the establishment of a consultative forum on Northeast Asia security, proposed by the Republic of **Korea**, and expressed the belief that this Northeast Asian forum could complement the ARF **process**.

SECURITY COOPERATION ISSUES

17. The Meeting considered the Australian Paper entitled "Practical Proposals for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific **Region**", which appears as Annex G. and noted that the Paper, which contained specific proposals and recommendations for **confidence-building** in defence areas, was a useful contribution towards the promotion of security cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

18. The Meeting agreed that the changing international security environment has made security cooperation necessary, not as an end in itself but as a means of promoting trust, **understanding**, and habits of cooperation within the region. The Meeting noted that such cooperation could be in the form of information exchange (**transparency**), such as the issuance of defence white papers, and support for international security concepts and mechanisms, such as **ZOPFAN** and the various arms control and non-proliferation regimes.

19. The Meeting also discussed proposals on the exchange of information on peace-keeping experience and the establishment of regional peace-keeping centres.

20. The Meeting noted that the regional security environment could be favourably enhanced through a habit of constructive dialogues among countries in the region.

POLITICAL COOPERATION ISSUES

21. The Meeting considered the Canadian Papers on **Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Management and Non-Proliferation**, which appear as Annex **H**, and exchanged views on the various methods through which conflict prevention and political cooperation within the **Asia-Pacific** region could be promoted.

22. The Meeting noted that these **methods** could include the promotion of political dialogues and **consultations**, both at **the** official and non-official levels, such as the Workshop Series on **ASEAN-UN Cooperation in Peace and Preventive Diplomacy**, co-chaired by Singapore and Thailand, and the wider recognition of

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

international and regional diplomatic principles and legal **instruments**, such as the United Nations Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of **Rarotonga**).

OTHER MATTERS

23. The Meeting decided that papers presented to the ARF-SOM in Bangkok, namely the **ASEAN-ISIS** Memorandum **No.5** entitled "**Confidence** Building Measures in Southeast Asia" (Annex **E**), the Republic of **Korea's** Paper entitled "Northeast Asia Security Cooperation" (Annex **F**), the Australian Paper entitled "Practical Proposals for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region" (**Annex G**), the Canadian Papers on Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Management and **Non-Proliferation (AnnexH)**, and **Japan's** Paper entitled "**Japan's** View Concerning the ASEAN Regional Forum (**ARF**)", which appears as Annex **I**. could be treated as "resource papers" and the 1st ARF would be made aware of them by the Chairman.

24. The Meeting requested Brunei Darussalam, the next Chairman of the ARF, to **collect**, collate, and study the various resource papers, particularly the ideas and proposals raised before and during the 1st ARF in Bangkok. It was agreed that the result of the study would be submitted to the 2nd ARF, through the 2nd ARF-SOM, both to be held in Brunei Darussalam.

OTMOTMOTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONCLUSION

25. The Meeting agreed on the timeliness of the establishment and the convening of the **ARF** and expressed its intention to do its utmost to ensure the success and the continued usefulness of the ARF, as a forum for the promotion of trust, **understanding**, and cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region.

CONFIDENTIAL