

ANNEX E

Remarks by
General NEANG PHAT, Secretary of State for National Defense,
Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.
At the 2nd ASPC, Vientiane , 19 May 2005

- **Mr. Chairman,**
- **Dear Colleagues,**

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia and on my own behalf, I would like to express our deepest and profound gratitude to the Ministry of National Defence of Laos for its excellent arrangement and successful hosting the conference, and also to the chairman for its commendable and able chairman ship.

It is in deed a pleasure and honor to be part of this important event, Second ASPC and I hope that this will make a contribution to promote mutual understanding and trust among ARF member countries.

In this context, on the occasion of sitting together with our colleagues in this room, I wish to share with you on the Cambodia views on security policy.

OVERVIEW

Mr. Chairman,

Recent changes in the world security and domestic political, economic and security developments have encouraged many nations to adopt an urgent review of their strategic objectives. Despite that it has not been affected directly by the impacts of changes in defense policy especially to determine new priorities for strategic defense objectives and providing recommendations for the successful implementation of its Defense Security Policy.

ROLES OF THE ROYAL CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES & PRIORITIES

The RCAF's four basic roles have not been changed.

- The direct defense of the nation and its strategic interests;
- Promotion of national development;
- Cooperation with the law enforcement agencies, and various levels of territorial authorities, in maintaining peace, stability and social order; and
- Participation in international cooperation

However, in accordance with current security situation of the country and the decentralization policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia there will be a reduced emphasis on the RCAF's role of ensuring peace, stability and social

orders. The **RCAF** will increase its engagement in the restoration and development of national infrastructure.

Cambodia needs to change its defense priorities to adapt to the current security environment. Those priorities **are** :

- enhance border defense capabilities against transnational crimes and infiltration of terrorist activists. Increase efforts in **infrastructural** and community development in border areas.
- Maintain Navy's technological capability and resources to achieve an effective patrol capability.
- Expedite military reforms, particularly demobilization, improve soldiers' living standard, unit restructuring and the reform of the training system.
- Establish mechanism for force mobilization to ensure the **sustainability** and the quality of **the** armed force.
- Expand military participation in national development, particularly in the areas of engineering, relief operations, suppression and crackdown on small arms trafficking, in participation in safeguarding the environment (trees **planting**) and other humanitarian activities.

Mr. Chairman,

Because of the Cambodian Government's rectangle policy we have improved our forces to allow them to be a part of the international arena. This can be seen by the recent deployment of 150 RCAF personnel to the Sudan in support of the UN peace mission.

Moreover, in recent year, after the **internal** conflicts ended, the RCAF plays an important role in landmine and UXO clearance, in cooperation with Cambodia **Mine** Action Center, RCAF's engineers have been participating in clear mines thus improving the living conditions of the local **population**. The RCAF build and repair roads and bridges, thereby improving the country's infrastructure for people in the border regions and other remote areas.

On the other hand, the RCAF are readiness to help people from various natural disasters. Cambodian people are often victimized by flood and drought. The RCAF respond to natural disasters by providing emergency assistance, rebuilding homes, providing emergency supplies, and helping to replant lost crops.

The RCAF, in cooperation with the law enforcement agencies, assists in combating drug smuggling, transnational crimes, piracy, armed robberies, kidnapping, human trafficking and other illegal activities.

DEFENSE COOPERATION

Mr. Chairman;

Cambodia has not been a target for major attacks by International terrorists, but Cambodia still considers International terrorism a threat to its **security**. Since the RCAF has been given roles to ensure security and maintain social orders, the enhancement of a state of readiness against any possible consequences is prudent. The establishment of a counter terrorist capability in RCAF's Special Forces would not only provide effective measures to the Royal Government for responses to any hostile occurrences, but it would display quality in defense and promote the RCAF's reputation in national and international. Cambodia is one of the ARF who is fully committed to combat terrorism. However, its limited capabilities still required more international supports and cooperation.

Moreover, Cambodia has been maintaining defense cooperation with its security partners across the globe. Cooperation between Cambodia and its partners has a certain extent to supporting RCAF in military reform and professionalizing its personnel. Programs in this context include overseas training, academic educational opportunities and institutional and logistical supports, supporting in spirit and materials.

Currently, The RCAF has also a very good cooperative partner EU-ASAC for their difficult tasks in curbing illegal small arms and light weapons in Cambodia. EU-ASAC has been assisting the Royal Government of Cambodia in wide weapons management programs, which have been taken place in the whole country. As a result Cambodia had destroyed more than **100,000** of illegal weapons collected from the local population and the surplus weapons from the military and police inventories.

In summary, Cambodia fully recognizes the importance of international security cooperation through which trust, confidence, and mutual interests can be built and ever protected. Despite having numerous limitations Cambodia is willing and committed to contribute through whatever means it can afford to strengthen bonds of **friendship** and cooperation with countries in the region and throughout the World.

Speech on the Second ASEAN Regional Forum Security Policy Conference

**by Gen. Xiong Guangkai, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Chinese
People's Liberation Army**

International security situation

Today, complicated and profound changes continue to take place in the international situation. Peace and development remain the themes of the times. Despite twists and turns, the trend towards world multi-polarization continues to progress; economic globalization advances, and the process of regional economic integration speeds up. However, destabilizing and uncertain factors which challenge security and stability are on the rise. The North-South gap continues to widen. The international security situation is not encouraging. The mankind still has a long way to go in promoting the cause of peace and development. The current international security situation is mainly characterized as:

First, the general international security situation is stable, and promoting prosperity and development still the mainstream in the world. Peoples share the aspiration of maintaining peace and promoting development. A new world war is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future. The opportunities that the mankind faces outweigh the challenges. Therefore it is possible to maintain peace in a fairly long time to come. At the same time, local armed conflicts still exist. Records show 36 regional wars and armed conflicts were going on last year, among which 15 are new. In other words, compared with the previous year, 4 more conflicts broke out in the past year.

Second, security threats are multiple, with new security challenges emerging. On the one hand, traditional security problems aroused by ethnic, religious and territorial disputes are yet to be removed and related conflicts crop up from time to time; on the other hand,

non-traditional security problems, such as terrorism, cross-border crimes, drug trafficking, natural disasters and epidemics, become increasingly prominent. Traditional and non-traditional security threats co-exist, interlink and interact, as a result, security threats are increasingly complicated and diversified and uncertainties in world security situation are growing in number.

Especially, the threat of international terrorism is rising again. Incomplete statistics show that 310 terrorist attacks happened last year alone, marking a 20% increase over the 260 terrorist attacks of the previous year. These attacks last year took 2700 lives and left 8100 wounded, rising by 60% and 50% respectively.

As the facts prove, factors that affect international security situation are increasingly complicated. Force alone is not the fundamental solution to the problems. The security concept and structure based on the use or threat of use of force is hardly able to maintain lasting peace in the world. People need to work together for peace and development on the basis of "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination".

Regional security situation

The Asia-Pacific region is generally peaceful. However, factors that threaten peace, stability and development of the region still exist, and sometimes even trigger tension in some parts of the region.

The trend towards unilateralism further develops. Intervention in internal affairs and encroachment of the sovereignty of other countries happen from time to time. Distrust still bothers the relations of some countries. These are traditional security problems challenging Asia-Pacific peace and security.

At the same time, an increasing number of non-traditional security problems which challenge Asia-Pacific peace and security are emerging. The spreading non-traditional security threats, such as terrorism, separatism and extremism, become increasingly prominent in some countries, and are seriously damaging regional security.

Cross-border and maritime crimes, such as piracy, drug trafficking, and illegal immigration, are increasingly rampant, which put the shared interests of the region in jeopardy. Financial security, ecological security and environmental security have become new factors which could affect regional peace and security. What deserves attention is that in an unfair and irrational international economic order, the North-South gap is further widening. Poverty is an important reason for international conflicts and social and political instability around the world. Also poverty leads to ecological deterioration, armed conflicts and even rampancy of terrorism, therefore it is against the interests of all.

Such non-traditional security threats are apparently not confined within borders, but directly affect the common interests of all countries. To resolve the non-traditional security problems, we must establish the New Security Concept featuring "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination", and jointly promote common security.

The role of multi-lateral security mechanisms should be played to the full. The UN is at the core of the international multi-lateral mechanisms. The dominant role of the UN and its Security Council in international affairs, therefore, should be jointly maintained by all. Now, ARF, the ASEAN 10+3, 10+1 frameworks, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are the major platforms for official, multi-lateral security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. Meanwhile, efforts should be made to achieve cross-border cooperation under the multi-lateral security framework, so as to stand up to the non-traditional security threats together.

To remove the non-traditional security threats, we must target both the symptom and the root cause, and address the problems with comprehensive approaches. The reason for the emergence of such problems is complicated. Anyhow, in the unfair and irrational international economic order, and when the North-South gap continues to widen, the wealthy countries becoming wealthier while

the poor countries becoming poorer; the haves having more but the have-nots having less, is definitely an important cause of non-traditional security problems. Therefore, we maintain that as comprehensive approaches are exploited to undo the harm of these problems, efforts should also be made to remove the root causes.

Toward that end, politicization and double standards should be avoided. Showing respect for the International Law and state sovereignty, countries should enhance consultation, identify the converging point of interests, and explore and open up new channels of cooperation, so as to properly and rationally resolve the non-traditional security problems.

The role of the Armed Forces in maintaining security

The role of the Armed Forces in the traditional security area, such as safeguarding state sovereignty and territorial integrity, is known to all. The role of the Chinese military is no exception. Given this, here I would only talk about the role of the Armed Forces in non-traditional security area.

Military means is one of the important approaches to comprehensively remove non-traditional security threats. Due to its special organizational structure, strict discipline, quick reaction and focused strength, the armed forces are capable of fighting terrorist violence, engaging in disaster relief operations, or dealing with widely spreading epidemics, whose advantageous role is irreplaceable by any other social organization. Hence in the foreseeable future, armed forces remain an important force to cope with the non-traditional security problems.

China attaches importance to and vigorously promotes cooperation among armed forces on non-traditional security problems. So far we have held a number of consultations with the foreign colleagues on ways to jointly cope with the challenge of non-traditional security problems. We are also steadily deepening cooperation in non-traditional security area, including joint counter-terrorism efforts, maritime search and rescue, fighting piracy, drug production and

trafficking etc.

In May 2003, the Defense Ministers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan signed in Moscow the *MOU of the Ministries of Defense of SCO member states on "Joint-2003" counter-terrorism exercise*. In August the same year, the armed forces of the 5 countries concerned successfully staged the first multi-lateral joint counter-terrorism exercise in the SCO framework at Uchalar, Kazakhstan, and at Yi-ning, Xinjiang, in China. In August 2004, the Chinese and Pakistani forces also held a joint counter-terrorism exercise with the code name "Friendship-2004" in the bordering area of the two countries. Since 2003, the Chinese naval ships have participated in a couple of joint maritime exercises offshore, which focus on non-traditional security problems, with the visiting warships from Pakistan, India, France, the UK and Australia.

According to the *Action Plan to Implement the Joint Declaration on China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity*, we shall continue to enhance consultation and dialogue in non-traditional security area with ASEAN. Through increased personnel exchange, training courses and seminars, China would exchange views with ASEAN on procedures to formulate bilateral and multi-lateral agreements and the relevant law enforcement practice relating to counter-terrorism, fighting drug and human trafficking, and combating illegal immigration and piracy, etc. China and ASEAN would also explore the possibilities to observe each other's military exercises, or even conduct bilateral or multi-lateral joint exercises. Besides, the two sides would continue to discuss ways to enhance peace-keeping cooperation as well.

Here, I will introduce the role of the Chinese Military in the tsunami relief operations in Southeast Asia.

As the tsunami hit the Indian Ocean rim last year, the Chinese government and the people, in the humanitarian spirit, did everything in their power to provide aid to the disaster-stricken countries of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Maldives, Kenya, Somali, etc. By 1

March this year, the governmental aid of China reached 686 million RMB yen, and those from private donation was 576 million RMB yen. Now over 50% of such aid, either in kind or in cash, has reached the disaster zones.

In the relief operations, the responsibilities distributed to the Chinese military are to raise and deliver the aid materials. As the Chinese government announced it would provide aid to the tsunami-hit countries, the Chinese Ministry of National Defense immediately activated its emergency management system to rapidly raise medicines, foods, tents and other most wanted materials, and coordinated with the relevant agencies to arrange the materials air-lifted to the disaster zones. On 29 December last year, the Chinese aid reached Sri Lanka, the first among all the aids, which effectively met the urgent needs of the people there. In the tsunami relief operations, the Chinese military delivered around 60 varieties of materials of 3,400 cubic meters, or over 700 tons, with 10 sorties, which in total is of 92.36 million RMB yen in value. In addition, the Chinese Ministry of National Defense did its best to provide aid in cash to the Defense and military forces in the tsunami-hit countries. Our servicemen and women also volunteered to donate for the people in the disaster zones. The above two categories combined, the armed forces provided over 1.1 million US Dollars to the region.

The Chinese Ministry of National Defense and the military will take concrete steps and continue to contribute to the international and regional cooperation in non-traditional security area.

In conclusion, in the present international and regional security situation, we need to work harder to promote peace, development and cooperation. Peace is the precondition of development and development lays a solid foundation for peace. Cooperation is an important way to achieve lasting peace and common development. Joining hands with other countries in the world and in this region, China will continue to strive for peace and stability, common development, and comprehensive promote cooperation.

ARF Security Policy Conference (Vientiane, 19 May 2005)

Agenda item 1 - Voluntary briefing on the security policy of participating countries

Contribution from the European Union

The year 2004 has seen significant developments in European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), particularly in terms of Crisis Management Operations. The EU has already launched six ESDP operations (three **military**, two police and one in the field of Rule of Law). Two missions were launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina (**BiH**), two in the Former Republic of Macedonia (**FYROM**), one in the Democratic Republic of Congo (**DRC**) and one in **Georgia**.

The first **EU ESDP mission**, the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (**EUPM**) was launched on 1 January 2003. During 2004 **EUPM's** four strategic objectives were to promote police independence **and** accountability, financial viability and **sustainability, institution** and capacity building at management **level and** to combat organized crime and **corruption**. Within the context of fighting organized crime the establishment of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPS) was a mission priority. **Another significant** event of 2004 was the establishment of the Police Restructuring Commission chaired by the former Belgian Prime Minister **Wilfried Martens** with a relevant participation of **EUPM**. **The** aim of the Commission was to propose a single structure of policing for Bosnia and Herzegovina under the overall political oversight of a ministry or ministries in **the Council** of Ministers. This operation **in** BiH has made an important contribution **to** the stabilization and the association process currently under way in the **Balkans** in which the EU has invested significant **efforts and resources**. In this **regard**, the EU has taken over from NATO **the** military operation in BiH on 2 December 2004 (**ALTHEA**).

The first military crisis management operation undertaken by the EU — Operation **Concordia** — was launched on 15 December 2003. On the same day the second EU police mission — **EUPOL PROXIMA** — was **launched** in FYROM **with** a **mandate** of one year. Its mandate was extended in December 2004 for a further twelve months at the invitation of the government of **FYROM**. The objective of the extended mission is to further support the development of an efficient and professional police service based on EU standards **of** policing. **PROXIMA** police **experts will** monitor, mentor and advise the country's police, focusing on middle and senior management within 3 programmes: Public Peace and Order, Organised Crime and Border Police.

The first ESDP mission in the field of rule of Law, **EUJUST THEMIS**, was launched in **July** 2004 for a period of one year. **EUJUST THEMIS** aims to support and advise the Georgian government in developing a strategy for reform of the criminal justice sector.

The EU decided in November 2004 to launch the first civilian ESDP mission in **Africa**, **EUPOL KINSHASA**. **EUROPOL KINSHASA** will focus on monitoring, mentoring and advising the Integrated Police **in** Kinshasa (DRC), which is **charged** with providing protection and support to the transitional institutions. The mission is expected to be launched **in** the first part of 2005 with an initial mandate of **one year**.

The mission underlines the EU's commitment to the transition process in DRC and will be undertaken in close cooperation with the UN/MONUC. The EU had carried out in 2003 an ESDP military operation named ARTEMIS in order to support the UN mission.

The EU has also contributed to providing police planning and logistical support to a number of other initiatives, such as the support provided to the African Union in implementing AMIS II in Sudan/Darfur and support offered to the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process with the establishment in Jerusalem of an EU co-ordinating mechanism for donor assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police (EU Co-ordination Office for Palestine Police Support, EU-COPS).

On 21 February 2005, the council took the decision to launch an integrated rule of law mission for Iraq, EUJUST LEX, which will start its operational phase in July 2005. The EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission shall address the urgent needs in the Iraqi criminal justice system through providing training for high and mid level officials in senior management and criminal investigation. This training shall aim to improve the capacity, coordination and collaboration of the different components of the Iraqi criminal justice system.

EUJUST LEX shall promote closer collaboration between the different actors across the Iraqi criminal justice system and strengthen the management capacity of senior and high-potential officials primarily from the police, judiciary and penitentiary and improve skills in criminal investigation in full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

The training activities will take place in the EU or in the region, and the mission will be provided with a liaison office in Baghdad. Depending on the evolution of the security conditions in Iraq, and the availability of adequate infrastructures, the EU will be invited to examine the possibility of training in Iraq and if necessary, will amend its common position on this topic accordingly.

An effective strategic and technical partnership with the Iraqi counterparts shall be developed throughout the mission, particularly in relation to the design of the curricula but for the selection, vetting, evaluation, follow-up and co-ordination of personnel attending the training with the aim of rapid appropriation by the Iraqis. There will also be a need for close co-ordination during the planning and operational phases between the Mission and the EU Member States providing the training.

The mission will be secure, independent and distinct but will be complementary and bring added value to ongoing international efforts, in particular of the United Nations, as well as develop synergies with ongoing EU efforts.

In addition to launching more civilian ESDP missions, the EU has taken forward in developing its civilian capabilities. In November 2004, the EU Member States reaffirmed their commitment to civilian ESDP at a Capabilities Commitment conference. They agreed that monitoring should be a new priority area for civilian ESDP, in addition to the existing four priority areas, police, rule of law, civilian administration and civil protection. As the next step, the EU decided in December 2004 the Civilian Headline Goal 2008. Work is now moving forward on

implementing **the objectives set**, which will include developing scenarios and requirements lists and identifying shortfalls. The process will lead to a civilian capabilities Improvement conference later this year. Work on the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 will take account of **concurrent** work on the Military Headline Goal 2010.

The Management of Non-traditional Security

By: LtCol. Bounmyvieng VIENGNHOUTTHASAT
Director of ASEAN Division,
Foreign Relations Department, MOD, Lao PDR.

I. Introduction

It is a common knowledge that Non-traditional security likes terrorism, drug trafficking, territorial disputes, religion and minority conflicts etc... extends closely to the military term. One of them is the terrorism as a grave concern and a main factor in creating new strategic uncertainty, which brings full-scale threat to peace and stability in the region.

II. Terrorism

September 11, is an evidence of the great of shock and anger of a human being around the world; it had noted as the entrance of the latest non-state player. Since then the international terrorism has become an international politics that need to address.

Despite, the cooperation on counter-terrorism has been broadening around the region and still could not prevent the terrorist acts. Of cause, failure to check and to respond the spread of the terrorist activities could lead to instability in the region; therefore, the task of the fight against terrorism is an urgent task of the whole region and the worldwide.

In this regard, Laos has set out policy to cooperate with international community in the struggle against terrorism and supported every effort to combat international terrorism through the formulation of international conventions and the international law and the UN Charter, particularly, the implementation of the Resolution 1373 of the UN Security Council.

Eventhough, there is no international terrorist network operation in Laos, in order to join hand with international community in fight against terrorism and in order to prevent Laos from international terrorist infiltrations and avoid using the Lao territory as a shelter of the international terrorists, the Anti-terrorist Committee of Laos was established in 27th December 2002 and some security measures have been adopted like:

- Controlling and inspecting measures at the airport and land border - check points,
- No issuing any Lao Visas to the suspected persons who are associated to the terrorist movements or terrorist groups to Laos.
- Investigating the transactions and freeze the terrorist assets in all commercial banks in Laos that have taken all possible measures within

their capacity. Now, Laos is cooperating with ADB and IMF in finalizing to draft the law on Anti-Money Laundering/ financing of terrorism.

- Laos has also been signed, for bilateral extradition treaties with four neighboring countries, which aiming to prevent and suppress transnational crimes and terrorist acts
- Setting out measures on guaranteeing safety for foreign embassies, consulates and international organizations.
- On private security companies have taken into service 24 hour protections of various public and private places, at diplomatic and international sites.

Laos has ratified 8 International Conventions and Protocols which relate to the terrorism. issue.

The fight against terrorism requires perfect evidence, clear target and conformity with the purpose and principle of the UN Charter, is not a conflict between ethnic groups and religions. Divers civilization must be recognized and respected other cultures. The principle of respect the independence, sovereignty and non-interferes of other internal affairs must be held up and strictly respect. The double standard in the fight against terrorism must be rejected.

III. Drug Trafficking

As other countries, Laos is also affected by drug issues such as heroin, marijuana and amphetamines.

Since 2000, the Lao government has been cooperated with the UNDCP and international community, started the implementation of national strategic plan on the eradication of opium poppy cultivation by reducing a balanced approach comparing four main components:

- Alternative development to replace the socio-economic incentive to produce opium poppy
- Demand to eliminate the need of addicts for opium
- Law enforcement by the sanction from the local community institutions to give up both production and trafficking for internal and external markets
- Civic awareness to ensure relevant communities is mobilized in community drug control and prevention.

By doing so, the opium poppy cultivation and numbers of opium addictions have gradually reduced. The government plan targets to complete basically eradication of the opium poppy cultivation by the end of 2005. And by the year 2015 the issue of narcotic drugs will be totally ended.

In order to fight against drug trafficking in Laos, several legal measures were adopted including the amendment of Criminal law, particularly the capital punishment for drug dealers. The Drug Control and Suppression Committee were set up and its branches are also in every province to handle with drug crimes.

Laos joined other ASEAN countries to sign the joint communique at the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, which called the designation of 2002-2003 as "ASEAN

Drug Awareness Years", in the frame of drug cooperation; ASEAN will strive to achieve an ASEAN Drugs-Free Zone by 2015.

IV. Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the act of exploitations, violations of human rights and undermines human dignity, which serious threat in the region. Laos supports every effort in combating human trafficking in order to address this crime.

On the bilateral front, Laos has strengthened cooperation with neighboring countries in the field of information exchange and victim repatriation. Laos also has the assistance from the Australian government in prevention of people trafficking under the program call "Asia Regional Cooperation to prevent people trafficking"

In the framework of ASEAN which has "ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons "particularly women and children, on the greater Mekong Sub-region, also has the MOU on "Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons " as well.

V. Conclusion

In order to defeat the issues of non-traditional security, there are needs appropriate responses from the international community, particular the close efforts of ARF including strong national mechanisms, legal measure cooperation, information sharing. In this regard, Laos supports to cooperate with international community in the fight against terrorism and transnational crimes on the basic principle of international law and the UN Charter for safeguarding national interest, peace and stability in the region and in the world as well.

Remarks by

GENERAL PHAN TRUNG KIEN

Deputy Defence Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
At the Second ARF Security Policy Conference (ASPC II)
Vientiane, Laos People's Democratic Republic, 19 May 2005

Your Excellency Mr Chair man, General Ay Souliyaseng, Vice
Defence Minister, Laos People's Democratic Republic,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of Ministry of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and on my own behalf I would like to express our sincere thanks to General Ay Souliyaseng, Vice Defence Minister Laos PDR for inviting us to the second ARF Security Policy Conference. This forum provides the opportunity for the ASEAN Regional Forum members to meet, promote mutual understanding, strengthen our dialogue and cooperation in the defence field, exchange views on the mutually concerned issues, particularly the regional and international situation, on the role of their respective armed forces in natural disaster relief, prevention of epidemics and managing the non-traditional security threats. On this occasion I wish the Conference a great success. I would like to have a few words on the regional situation

Asia - Pacific in general and Southeast Asia in particular, is a region of strategic significance and has a number of potential hotspots, including the nuclear issue. The security situation in the region at present and in the near future will continue to evolve in the

unexpected manner. Here are in existence of rivalry among big powers for influence in the region, concerning issues left by the history and newly emerged as follows:

1. *Economic developments:* Regional economies continued to recover with the highest rates of growth in recent years. The trend, however, seems to slow down due to the impact from some factors, including storms and flooding as well as epidemics. .

Economic integration and cooperation among nations, subregions, interregions continue to be promoted on the basis of recently signed initiatives and agreements such as the Strategy for subregional Cooperation, ASEAN Integration Initiative... The trend towards signing Bilateral and Multi-lateral Trade Agreements has been encouraged. These include Singapore's Bilateral Trade Agreements with Australia, USA; framework agreement on comprehensive cooperation (signed 2002) between ASEAN and China...

2. *Political security:* political security and stability have been maintained and no big changes have occurred. However, there may be some potential destabilizing factors. The general trend is that every country in the region wishes to have the internal political stability in order to focus on their economic development and responses to the new challenges in relation to sovereignty and territorial integrity; racial and religious conflicts; proliferation of and threat to use weapons of mass destruction; non-traditional threats such as terrorism, transnational crimes, illegal immigration, environmental degradation...

3. *Foreign relations:* The cooperative trend prevails in the region in recent years in both bilateral and multilateral relations. ASEAN countries have been trying to implement the Bali Joint Declaration, ASEAN Vision 2020. Cooperation between ASEAN and other partners has made progress through the signing of a range of documents.

4. *Security and defence:* Regional nations have promoted cooperation in the fields of national defense and security and confidence-building measures through joint exercises, cooperative agreements and implementation of new cooperative initiatives.

Besides regularly planned joint exercises, the year 2004 has witnessed a wide range of new exercises between the USA and Thailand, the Philippines and India. Meanwhile, at the 10th ASEAN Summit in Laos, ASEAN leaders adopted Vientiane Programme of Action to realize the Initiative on ASEAN Security Community and the ASEAN Declaration on countering human trafficking, especially children and women trafficking. In early 2004, Indonesia coordinated with Australia to organize a Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism and establish a Center for Information and Training on Counter-terrorism and transnational crimes.

In short, in spite of much negative influence by government changes, power transformation as well as democratization process in the world, economic, political and security situations in the region have remained stable.

The trend of cooperation among regional, subregional and inter-regional nations in particular and the world at large, especially with big powers has been persistently promoted to deal with new threats and avoid tense confrontation. Terrorism remains one of the top threats to peace and stability in the region. Furthermore, non-traditional threats have been also reemerged, causing concerns for both the region and the world that require new security cooperation mechanisms to deal with.

We think that the threat to the territorial integrity and security, and the territorial disputes is a highlighted issue, affecting directly the regional security and stability. Vietnam is ready to settle the problem through peaceful negotiations in reasonable manner. On the disputes in the East Sea (South China Sea), Vietnam advocates the settlement of the problem through peaceful negotiations in the spirit of equality, mutual understanding and respect; adherence to international laws and the United Nations 1982 Law of the sea Convention. While striving for negotiations in order to reach a basic and long-term solution to the issue, stability should be maintained on the basis of status quo. Parties concerned should refrain from, shall not implement any activity to make the matter worse, shall not use or threaten to use force, and should look for relevant cooperation measures.

Other security threats, including non-traditional security threats, stemmed from deep causes of poverty and inequality. No single country in the world can solve the problem by itself. Vietnam shares this concern with other countries and condemns terrorist acts in any form. We support international efforts in fighting terrorism on the basis of observing the United Nations Charter. Viet Nam is ready to learn the experience from and share information related to activities by terrorist and transnational criminal gangs; non-harboring of terrorist elements; arrest and suppression; anti-money laundering and terrorist finance freeze; strengthen confidence-building measures in the region. ARF members can and should coordinate their efforts in pushing back and preventing these challenges.

Those are the remarks to make at the second ARF security policy Conference. Once again, I wish all participants good health, happiness and success; the cooperation among ARF members be further developed. I wish the Conference a good success.

Thank you for your attention.

ASEAN Regional Forum Security Policy Conference
Vientiane, Laos
Role of Armed Forces in Disaster Assistance

- The role of armed forces in disaster relief and consequence management is an issue in which the ARF can play a strong role in enhancing cooperation among nations and enhancing regional capacity.
- Given the increasing role that the U.S. military has played in relief operations, the U.S. government has been reviewing the role that U.S. forces can play and how to improve U.S. capabilities in this area.
- I would like to 1) discuss U.S. views concerning the role of the military in consequence management and considerations for making effective military contributions and 2) opportunities for the ARF to cooperate.
- Before I do so, however, it is important to distinguish between disaster relief and consequence management. Generally, consequence management refers to the aftermath of man-made disasters, something akin to a chemical/biological/nuclear attack or something like an improvised explosive device or dirty bomb. Disaster assistance refers primarily to natural disasters. The ARF must organize regionally now for consequences of these man-made disasters.
- Additionally, there is a new potential disaster with the spread of infectious diseases such as the avian influenza. There are very real security considerations the ARF should consider in the context of infectious diseases.

U.S. Military Role in Disaster Relief

- The U.S. military role in disaster response is always part of a comprehensive U.S. Government (USG) approach in which the civilian U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is typically the lead agency, with its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance managing efforts on the ground.
- USAID is responsible for determining appropriate U.S. contributions and coordinating the overall USG disaster response, even in cases where the military contribution to the relief effort is preponderant.
- The U.S. military is typically a provider of last resort in disasters because other agencies, both within the USG and internationally, are designated as the first responders.

- The U.S. government, for **example**, determines its military involvement in disaster response with the following factors in mind:
 - the urgency of the disaster situation;
 - the availability of the requested military support;
 - the wider repercussions within the host nation of U.S. military involvement; and,
 - the impact of providing **such** support on other military operations.

- The decision to commit the military to large-scale disaster events is usually determined by the urgency of the situation and the military's:
 1. unique assets
 2. ability to mobilize quickly to respond to immediate life-threatening circumstances; **and/or**
 3. unique capability to reinforce over-taxed civilian response **capabilities**, particularly local providers.

- Unique military assets and capabilities that contribute to relief can be broadly categorized into six areas:
 1. Tailored medical support intended to provide immediate medical requirements and impede a potential follow-on medical crisis:
 - Trauma medicine
 - Mortuary affairs
 - Preventative medicine (medical reconnaissance/surveillance)

 2. Rapid mobility of people and relief supplies:
 - Strategic air and sea lift
 - **Intra-theater** airlift (hub-hub distribution), high-speed vessels
 - Rotary wing (heavy/medium lift) and amphibious ships/assets for point distribution
 - Facilitating airspace management and management of airfield traffic are critical related skills.

3. Engineering capabilities such as:
 - Fresh water and water purification
 - Restoration of utilities
 - Infrastructure repair (but not reconstruction)
 - Demolishment of unsafe structures.

4. **Security** to help the host nation restore order and to provide security and protection for relief aid workers and the affected population as well as relief supplies.

5. **Planning:** Often military establishments are the only ones capable of the comprehensive planning necessary to identify requirements, integrate assets, and provide the kind of support needed by civil authorities to conduct relief operation in the relief phase of the crisis. Planners also will provide the crucial products necessary to plan the transition from relief to reconstruction.

6. Command and control:
 - Manages needs with resources with capabilities
 - Host countries leading the crisis response in their own countries.

- Of all the things crucial to meeting the relief needs, early command and control is the most important:
 - Effective, expeditionary command and control ensures coordinated disaster assessments to accurately determine needs and to partner effectively with host nations, NGOs, and the United Nations.
 - Command and control also marshals regional and international responders to match assets to needs such as medical resources as well as coordinating mobility assets such as intra-theater airlift, rotary wing lift, and sealift.

- A regional military response must be coordinated carefully. Unsolicited contributions from the military risk burdening a disaster area with **unneded** or nonessential resources and can potentially slow or even stop the delivery of more urgent supplies at air or sea ports in the host nation.

- Military involvement outside of extremis terms also risks diverting military personnel and materiel from core military missions.
- Military involvement also has the potential to generate host nation concerns that would not exist with a strictly civilian response and therefore, explicit approval from the host nation must always precede any military involvement in a disaster response.
- In the United States, we acknowledge that from the outset any USG response, including military assistance is in support of the host nation, who we believe and expect should take leadership and responsibility for its own relief from the beginning.
- To ensure the most effective response, the U.S. military seeks to conduct combined, or at least coordinated, needs assessments with USAID personnel to pool expertise and ensure a common operational picture of requirements.
- The U.S. military also seeks to ensure transparency and maximum coordination with United Nations agencies other international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.
- Lastly, host nations must ensure that reconstruction planning starts early. This requires careful, phased withdrawal of military assets to ensure that there is no discontinuity of support

Future Cooperation in the ARF:

- At the first ASPC in Beijing last year and again at the ARF ISG in Potsdam, the U.S. delegation suggested consequence management as an area for cooperation. The tsunami shows there is a need for this cooperation to respond to natural as well as man-made disasters.
- In terms of future cooperation on consequence management and disaster assistance by ARF member armed forces, we ask you to consider several areas of cooperation:
- Disaster or Consequence Management constitutes actions taken in the aftermath of a disaster. To collectively enhance our ability to manage the immediate aftermath of a disaster, be it man-made or natural, we must establish common definitions; de-conflict and delineate intra- and interagency roles, responsibilities, and plans; and develop streamlined, clearly defined response channels.

- The United States is reviewing its own response to the Indian Ocean tsunami and sharing lessons learned within our own government.
- During the recent Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand, participants also reviewed the international response to identify lessons learned so that all of us can enhance our ability to manage the results of a disaster. We should comprehensively study lessons learned as an organization.
- The United States has learned that:
 - A fast response is essential to save lives, minimize effects, protect public health and safety, and limit damage to the environment, and
 - Careful planning ensures that response, management, and support teams are knowledgeable, trained, equipped, and ready for the unique challenges presented by a disaster.
- The U.S. experience in the most recent tsunami response was that regional cooperation is necessary to enhance the speed of response by military forces.
 - In particular, the offer of host nation facilities by regional partners allowed us to quickly establish air and sea hubs for the transshipment of humanitarian relief supplies.
 - Access to airspace (both within disaster-affected regions and overflight clearances necessary for efficient routing to disaster areas) and territorial waters.
 - Grants of legal status for forces, as needed.
 - Countries can give consideration now to how they will react in an emergency to grant access to vital facilities. ARF members all have different means for approval. We should think now about how to fast-track these decisions to facilitate rapid cooperation. It should be an interagency response.
- ARF members can also cooperate in preparing military forces to be first responders to disasters. Various countries have specialized capabilities whether mobility assets, engineers, or medical capabilities, which in an emergency, can be contributed rapidly to achieve efficiencies in response. We should capitalize on these niche capabilities.
- Very importantly, ARF members should consider planning seminars to discuss organization for command and control, contribution of facilities/forces, and liaison between/transition to civilian relief.

- **ARF** members can exchange views on disaster preparedness and relief operations, possibly through table top seminar games. We are prepared to assist in this effort.
- ARF should also consider similar cooperation by national administrations/ministries for disaster preparedness and management to discuss areas such as:
 - civil defense preparedness (tsunami/typhoon warning) and evacuation;
 - fire and rescue response;
 - national medical capacity for handling mass casualties in the thousands;
 - disaster victim identification;
 - infrastructure management to deal with relief activities and the needs of displaced persons (potentially numbering in the hundreds of thousands); and,
 - chemical/biological/radiological incident response forces (if they are not fire/rescue forces).
- In summary, many of the challenges we face from natural and man-made disasters are challenges to national security and regional stability. The militaries of the ARF are eminently capable of making early and significant contributions to emergency relief, consequence management, civil-military integration, and transition.
- The lessons of the recent years in terms of the **Sarin** gas attack on the Tokyo subway, 11 September, the Asian tsunami, the Nias earthquake relief, and the potential implications of the H5N1 Avian influenza provide significant opportunities for the ARF to prepare for future crises. We should begin now to create this unique ARF role for the stability of the region.