

THE FOURTH  
ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

SUBANG JAYA, MALAYSIA, 27 JULY 1997



# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THE FOURTH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

SUBANG JAYA, MALAYSIA, 27 JULY 1997

1. The Fourth ASEAN Regional Forum was held in Subang Jaya, Malaysia on 27 July 1997. The Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was attended by all ARF participants. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also present. The List of Delegates is attached as ANNEX A.

## Overview of the ARF Process

3. The Ministers noted that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) has developed into an important forum for multilateral security dialogue and co-operation in the region. The process has progressed at a pace acceptable to all participants, enabling increasingly frank discussion of issues of common concern while encouraging habits of co-operation and instilling a pattern of constructive behaviour. It has played a positive role in enhancing mutual understanding and trust, promoting greater transparency as well as strengthening the commitment among participants to maintain peace and stability in the region. Recognizing the diversity in the region, the Ministers reiterated the importance of maintaining the evolutionary approach adopted by the ARF process, and of taking decisions by consensus. The Ministers agreed that a strong foundation has been laid in dealing with future challenges facing the ARF. The Ministers noted that the informal discussions at the Retreat held in the course of the ARF SOM in Langkawi had enabled an open and in-depth discussions on the future direction and pace of the ARF. The Ministers also noted that the separate informal gathering at lunch during the ARF SOM of defense and other officials had encouraged greater interaction and networking among the officials concerned in the ARF.

## Highlights of Issues Discussed

4. The Ministers discussed a wide range of issues relevant to the question of peace and security of the region. In this context, the Ministers highlighted the following:
  - 4.1. The overall security environment in the Asia Pacific region continues to improve. Notwithstanding the existence of certain challenges, the area remains stable and peaceful. Economic development has become the main focus of all countries.

The spread of prosperity has laid a solid foundation for political stability in the region. Expanding regional economic interactions and increasing contacts among the people have woven a strong safety net for countries in the Asia Pacific. The emphasis on dialogue and co-operation is gaining momentum, and the trend is contributing to peace and security. The emerging sense of community and shared interests would stand the region in good stead in addressing the regional challenges;

- 4.2. The Ministers noted that a number of confidence building arrangements or agreements made over the years have exerted positive influence on the regional security situation. The Ministers encouraged ARF participants to continue pursuing bilateral and sub regional measures suited to their needs, and applicable to their specific conditions, to advance mutual trust and confidence in a gradual and incremental manner;
- 4.3. The Ministers commended the increasingly close co-operation and mutual assistance by countries in Southeast Asia in promoting a prosperous and peaceful community of nations, including ASEAN's efforts at constructive engagement with Myanmar. In this connection, they welcomed the positive role played by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in enhancing regional peace and stability. The expansion of ASEAN membership contributes to these objectives;
- 4.4. The Ministers underlined the importance of the development of positive relations, particularly among the major countries in Asia Pacific-China, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States, in sustaining stability in the region. The Ministers, in welcoming the active, full and equal participation and co-operation of all participants for a successful ARF, recognized that ASEAN continues to undertake the obligation to be the primary driving force;
- 4.5. The Ministers welcomed the entry into force, on 27 March 1997, of the SEANWFZ Treaty which represents an important effort of Southeast Asian states towards strengthening the security in the region and towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones globally. In this connection, the Ministers welcomed the ongoing consultations between State Parties to the Treaty and the Nuclear Weapon States to facilitate accession by the latter to the Protocol of the SEANWFZ Treaty;
- 4.6. The ministers welcomed the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention which provides for a verifiable global ban on chemical weapons. The Ministers called on all states which have not ratified the Convention to do so. The Ministers expressed the hope that progress would be made in the work on

the protocol dealing with compliance and verification of the Biological Weapons Convention;

- 4.7. The Ministers took note that negotiations on a comprehensive treaty banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of anti personnel-mines will take place in Oslo in September 1997 with the intention of signing such a Treaty in Ottawa in December 1997. The Ministers also took note that the Conference on Disarmament has appointed a Special Coordinator for the issue of anti personnel landmines in an effort to find a solution to the problem. The Ministers agreed to support efforts in demining and in the removal of unexploded ordnances as well as the rehabilitation of the victims;
- 4.8. The Ministers welcomed the overwhelming adoption of the CTBT which constitutes an important step in prohibiting nuclear test explosions and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security;
- 4.9. The Ministers emphasized that an approach to non-proliferation which is universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory is urgently needed if the international community is to achieve the objective of comprehensive nuclear non proliferation. The Ministers reiterated their determination to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, and urged the Nuclear Weapon States to pursue vigorously negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament with the ultimate objective of eliminating nuclear weapons;
- 4.10. Taking into account the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament under strict and effective international control, the Ministers stressed the importance of UNGA resolution A/Res/51/54 of 1996 which, *inter alia*, decided to convene its Fourth Special Session devoted to disarmament in 1999, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objective and agendas;
- 4.11. On the South China Sea, the Ministers welcomed the efforts by countries concerned to seek solutions by peaceful means in accordance with international law, the UNCLOS, and the exercise of self restraint, in the interest of maintaining peace and stability in the region. The Ministers also noted the positive contributions made by the Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts in South China Sea;
- 4.12. The Ministers expressed concern over the latest developments on the situation in Cambodia. They took note of assurances given by H.E. Ung Huot, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia that Cambodia welcomed ASEAN's

role in helping restore political stability in Cambodia. They supported ASEAN's initiative in this regard;

- 4.13. Bearing in mind the importance of peace and security in the Korean Peninsula, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining the 1953 Armistice Agreement until a permanent peace regime is in place. The Ministers expressed their concern, over the impact of the food shortage in the DPRK on the security and the well being of the people. The Ministers welcomed the recent developments on the proposed four party talks which could paved the way to a permanent peace on the Peninsula. The Ministers also welcomed the progress made by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) in implementing the Agreed Framework of 1994 and reaffirmed continued support of the ARF to KEDO;
- 4.14. The Ministers discussed the transboundary movement of nuclear waste in the region. They emphasized that such transfer of nuclear waste should conform to the existing international safety standards and norms and that the international community should make all efforts to prohibit the export of nuclear waste to those countries which do not have appropriate waste treatment and storage facilities.

Reports of Track I & II Activities for the Current Inter-Sessional Year (July 1996-July 1997)

#### Track I Activities

5. The Ministers noted with appreciation the Reports of the Track I activities presented by the respective Co-Chairmen of the activities, namely the Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief held in Wellington on 19-20 February 1997; the Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures held in Beijing on 6-8 March 1997; the Inter-sessional Meetings on Search and Rescue Co-ordination and Co-operation held in Singapore on 26-28 March 1997; the Report of the Co-Chairmen of the ISM on Peacekeeping Operations including the Regional Workshop on Train the Trainers held in Kuala Lumpur on 10-14 March 1997 and the Seminar on Demining held in Palmerston North on 7-11 April 1997:

##### 5.1. Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief

The Ministers recognized the benefits of the First Meeting of the ISM on Disaster Relief as a valuable confidence building measure for the ARF as well as its possible contribution towards the wider objective of enhancing co-operation in the Asia Pacific region. The Ministers agreed that continuation of the ISM on Disaster Relief for another year would further contribute towards the development of the

ARF. The Ministers endorsed the list of recommendations of the First Meeting of the ISM on Disaster Relief which appears as ANNEX B.

5.2. The Inter-sessional Support Group on Confidence Building Measures

The Ministers noted the frank but cordial discussions at the ISG on CBMS, *inter alia* on the regional security environment and security perceptions, regional confidence building activities, defense policies and the comprehensive nature of security. The Ministers stressed the importance of consultation and dialogue in enhancing understanding and trust among the ARF participants and in maintaining regional stability. In this context, the Ministers recognized that the ISG on CBMs had marked a step forward in the discussions of the ARF. The Ministers also welcomed the offer by China to compile papers on CBMs submitted by ARF participants as well as the offer by the Philippines to host a Meeting of the heads of national defense college or equivalent institutions on 6-9 October, 1997. The Ministers noted new elements proposed for the work of the ISG particularly possible areas of maritime security. The Ministers endorsed the list of recommendations which appears as ANNEX C.

5.3. Inter-sessional Meeting on Search and Rescue Co-ordination and Co-operation

The Ministers endorsed the Report of the Second ISM on SAR and, in particular, the List of Principles and Objectives for Search and Rescue Co-operation and Co-ordination which appears as ANNEX D.

5.4. Inter-sessional Meeting on Peacekeeping Operations

The Ministers endorsed the Report of the Co-Chairmen of the ISM on Peacekeeping Operations which appears as ANNEX E. The Ministers also took note of the Report of the Workshop on Train the Trainers and the Seminar on Demining which were convened to implement the specific recommendations of the ISM on PKO and endorsed the recommendations of the Workshop and Seminar which appear as ANNEXES F & G with the understanding that these activities could proceed without the formal extension of the ISM on PKO.

## Track II Activities

6. The Ministers took note of the written Reports prepared by the Chairmen of the Track II Seminars, namely on Preventive Diplomacy convened in Paris in November 1996, co-sponsored by l'Institut Francais des Relations Internationales and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) of Indonesia and on Non-Proliferation convened in Jakarta in December 1996, co-sponsored by CSIS of Indonesia, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik of Germany and Australian National University which appear as ANNEXES H & I respectively.

Programme of Work for the Next Inter-Sessional Year (July 1997-July 1998)

Track I Activities

7. Pursuant to the recommendation of the ISM on Disaster Relief, the Ministers agreed that this ISM continue to be co-chaired by New Zealand and Thailand for another year. The Ministers welcomed the offer of Thailand to host the next ISM on Disaster Relief in early 1998. Similarly, the Ministers agreed to extend the ISG on CBMs for another year and welcomed the offer of Brunei Darussalam and Australia to co-chair the next ISG on CBMs. On the ISM for SAR, the Ministers welcomed the offer of Singapore to conduct an annual SAR Training Course for ARF participants, and to convene a SAR Conference in December 1997 for SAR planners and officials. In the area of PKO, the Ministers welcomed the offer by European Union to host a follow-up Workshop on Approaches to Training for Peacekeeping Operations in Ireland in the first half of 1998.
8. In agreeing to the extension of the mandate of the various inter-sessional activities, the Ministers directed that each ISM/ISG undertake a comprehensive review of all proposals which have been agreed upon but had not been implemented to date.

Track II Activities

9. The Ministers welcomed the proposal for a Track II Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy to be co-sponsored by the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies of Singapore, Institute of International Affairs of Singapore and the International Institute of Strategic Studies of the United Kingdom to be held in Singapore, 9-11 September 1997.

Other Issues

10. Recalling the decision of the 3rd ARF that the 4th ARF consider the question of drug trafficking and other related transnational issues such as economic crimes, including money laundering, the Ministers agreed that such issues would be more appropriately addressed, at this time, at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences.
11. The Ministers noted the continuing interests shown by a number of countries to participate in the ARF. In this regard, the Ministers agreed that the next ARF SOM begin consideration of the applications on the basis of the guiding principles and criteria agreed to at the 3rd ARF.



## Future Directions of the ARF Process

12. The Ministers agreed that the evolutionary approach to the development of the ARF process and the practice of taking decisions by consensus shall be maintained, taking into consideration the interests of all ARF participants and, at the same time, demonstrating the continued consolidation of the process through increased activities in relevant areas.
  
13. The Ministers held a useful exchange of views on the future direction of the ARF process and in this connection, on the relationship between confidence building and preventive diplomacy. It recalled that the 2nd ARF had agreed that where subject matters at Stage I and Stage II overlap, such matters can proceed in tandem with Stage I. The Ministers agreed to request the ISG on CBMs to identify such matters and ways and means of addressing them while maintaining the focus on CBMs.

# SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON DISASTER RELIEF

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, 19-20 FEBRUARY 1997

## Introduction

As agreed by Ministers at the third ASEAN Regional Forum in Jakarta on 23 July 1996, an ARF Inter-sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief was held on 19-20 February 1997 in Wellington, New Zealand. The meeting was organized by New Zealand and Thailand, and jointly chaired by Mr. Neil Walter, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, and Dr. Sukhum Rasmidatta, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

The meeting was attended by 19 ARF members. The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated as guest speakers. The meeting welcomed in particular the delegates from India and Myanmar, noting that this was the first ARF inter-sessional activity attended by those countries. In addition to Foreign Ministry and Defense officials, many countries were represented by other agencies involved in disaster relief work. Their participation was welcomed as contributing to a substantive discussion and marking a further expansion of the scope of the ARF's activities. A list of delegates is attached as ANNEX A.

The Agenda is attached as ANNEX B. A number of countries, as well as the UNDHA and IFRC representatives, made presentation under particular agenda items, which helped to stimulate a free-flowing discussion. The following is a summary of the key points made.

Item 1: National delivery of disaster relief (i.e. the domestic response to disaster)

- All participants agreed on the importance of discussion of disaster relief as an aspect of comprehensive security, and a valuable confidence building measure for the ARF. Country presentations underlined the enormous capacity of disasters to damage local economies and social stability and hence the security of states.
- In addition, participants recognized that major disasters do not respect political boundaries, but are a common problem for all states of the region. Partnership and cooperation among states are essential in dealing with disasters.
- Although the role of defense authorities in relation to disaster relief varied between ARF members, it was agreed that their role was always significant, in view of the unique resources, skills, discipline and assets available to national defense forces.

- There was broad agreement on the benefits of a comprehensive approach to disaster management, involving national plans of action, effective coordination and clear lines of authority. The importance of a proactive approach in terms of enhanced preparedness and prevention was also emphasized, in order to mitigate the incidence or impact of disasters.

Item 2: International Delivery of Disaster Relief (i.e. international reprise to disaster in another country)

- Participants recognized the value of international cooperation in providing disaster relief in cases when national authorities request assistance. Regional cooperation of this nature could enhance mutual confidence and hence regional security and reinforce the sense of good neighbourliness among ARF participants.
- Nonetheless it was noted that international cooperation must be fully sensitive to the needs and approaches of the recipient country. International efforts should supplement, not supplant, national mechanisms. They should foster self-sufficiency, and enhance local preparedness.
- Information and communications were acknowledged as key elements in effective relief.
- Public awareness of the work of ARF members in this area was felt to be beneficial to the ARF's wider objective of enhancing cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- It was noted that there is no single patterns of relations between countries relating to disaster relief. Existing arrangements within the region, ranging from formal bilateral agreements, to multilateral guidelines, and less formal understandings between states were useful.
- Responses needed to be flexible, appropriate to need, and well-targeted. There was often a place for military teams in dealing with the aftermath of disasters, whether provided by individual countries or through the UNDHA. Cash donations are often the most valued form of immediate relief assistance. They make it possible for all to contribute according to their means and thus demonstrate the benefits of cooperating among neighbours.
- The delegates emphasized both from the donor and recipient points of view, the importance of delivering assistance with the full involvement of the recipient government.

Item 3: Enhancing cooperation in delivering disaster relief among ARF members

- There was a useful exchange of information on existing sub-regional cooperation including in the South Pacific, in ASEAN, in North America and in the European Union. The synergy between diverse national capabilities and regional cooperation was emphasized.
- The presentations underlined a common appreciation of the need for a comprehensive approach to disaster management, including attention to all stages of prevention, mitigation, relief and recovery. They also agreed on the value of building on the existing momentum of sub-regional activity, and to explore scope for further strengthening cooperation.

- Participants agreed that activity in the ARF should complement efforts underway in other fora related to disaster relief, including the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The meeting noted that UNDHA plans to organize a regional meeting of military and civil defense authorities involved in disaster relief in Indonesia later this year.
- It was recognized that further cooperative activities should be voluntary, and undertaken in a step-by-step manner.

## Conclusion

All participants agreed that the meeting had been useful in underlining the scope and value of regional cooperation in disaster relief. Discussions were conducted in an excellent atmosphere. The following points were agreed:

- Key points of contact in national disaster relief organizations to be exchanged.
- Exchange of information and informal networking on national approaches to disaster relief is useful and should continue.
- Value of continuing discussion on this topic, including perhaps a further ISM to be hosted by Thailand.

In addition a number of innovative and useful proposals were made, which warrant further study:

- Cooperation in enhancing disaster preparedness in the region, in particular through the sharing of expertise, research and training, for example:
  - a “train the trainers” workshop, and other courses in areas of national expertise;
  - making wider use of the training resources of existing national and regional institutions within the region, such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Bangkok;
  - establishment of expert groups and a directory of experts;
  - exchanges and cooperation on preventive, preparedness and response measures on maritime disasters in the region; and
  - exchanges and cooperation in meteorological services to provide early warning of disasters.
- Enhancement of operational delivery of disaster relief in the region:
  - building upon existing regional cooperation and development of common approaches to disaster management appropriate to the Asia-Pacific region;
  - exploring scope for standardization of procedures in such areas as communications, possible delivery points, planning, medical support, airspace clearances and customs facilitation, as well as integration of prevention, mitigation and preparedness initiatives;
  - a regional data-base of national disaster relief capabilities/assets and requirements building on existing arrangements; and
  - facilitation of faster exchanges of information and responses when a disaster occurs.

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

BEIJING, CHINA, 6-8 MARCH 1997

## Introduction

1. Pursuant to the agreement at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Jakarta, Indonesia, 23 July 1996, the Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG) on Confidence Building Measures, co-chaired by China and the Philippines, held a meeting in Beijing, China on 6-8 March, 1997. The Meeting was attended by all the ARF participants, and most members had defense officials in their respective delegations. During the Meeting the participants visited a Chinese military unit and watched military drills.
2. The ISG Beijing Meeting was conducted in the consistent ARF spirit of dialogue and consensus, focusing on common ground. The participants had lively and productive discussions in a frank and cordial atmosphere. They found the process very helpful for enhancing understanding and trust among the participants.
3. Given the improved security environment of the Asia-Pacific region, the participants reiterated the importance of strengthening dialogue and cooperation with a view to safeguarding lasting peace and stability in the region. The participants explored the various confidence building measures and reached broad agreements. They saw ARF dialogues as a useful process to consolidate the security and stability of the region and agreed to continue the process on the basis of respecting the sovereignty and security interests of all the members, and according to the principle of starting from easier ones, voluntary participation and consensus building. The Meeting marked a step forward in the CBM discussions of the ARF.
4. The agenda of the Meeting is attached as ANNEX A, the program of activities as ANNEX B, the list of delegates as ANNEX C, and the list of ARF contact points as ANNEX D.

## Summary of the key points discussed

Agenda item 1: Exchange of views on regional security environment and security perceptions

5. The Meeting agreed that the overall security environment in the Asia-Pacific region continues to improve. The region is witnessing a unique period of general peace. Economic development has become a focus of all countries. The rapid economic growth and wide-spread prosperity have laid a solid foundation for political stability in the region. Expanding regional economic and trade interactions have woven a strong safety net for countries in the Asia-Pacific. The emphasis on dialogue and cooperation is gaining momentum, and the trend is contributing to maintaining security through peaceful means, such as consultations and cooperation. It was noted that stable relations among the major countries in the region could contribute to regional stability.
6. Some delegates mentioned that there still exist challenges in the region, such as unresolved territorial disputes and the situation in the Korean Peninsula. A number of member countries expressed serious concern over certain nuclear safety issues especially the transboundary movement of radioactive wastes which may affect the security and environmental safety of the region concerned. The Meeting welcomed the efforts of the countries concerned to ensure stability in the South China Sea and to continue the efforts for peaceful solution to the disputes. Some other transnational issues that may affect future security of the region were mentioned, such as environmental pollution, depletion of resources, drug trafficking and illegal immigration.
7. In view of the rich diversity of the region, it was the view of the participants that efforts to maintain regional security should be based on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and such principles relevant to the region as peaceful coexistence, amity and cooperation among states, respect for national sovereignty, peaceful solution of disputes among nations and the comprehensive view of security.

#### Agenda item 2: Exchange of information on regional CBM cooperation

8. The participants informed the Meeting of their respective defense contacts and CBM activities. The Meeting agreed that such exchanges of information have been useful to promote confidence and understanding among ARF members. They welcomed the submission of the papers by several countries on their defense contacts.
9. The Meeting noted that a number of confidence building arrangements or agreements made over the years in the region have exerted positive influence on regional peace and stability. In this context, the Meeting positively noted the signing of the Shanghai Agreement between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the People's Republic of China and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India Border Areas. The Meeting encouraged ARF participants to continue pursuing bilateral and subregional measures suited to their needs and applicable to their specific conditions to advance mutual trust and confidence in a gradual and incremental

manner. The participants agreed that ARF activities in confidence building represent an important regional effort which should be enhanced and deepened to maintain regional peace and stability.

#### Agenda item 3: Exchange of views on defense policies

10. The participants exchanged views on their respective defense policies. Many participants also submitted defense policy statements, which contained, among others, their defense doctrine, military thinking and military strategy. The Meeting continued to encourage the regular publication of defense white papers or similar papers by ARF participants on a voluntary basis. The Meeting agreed that continued exchanges on this subject will contribute to growing transparency and this be conducive to regional peace and stability.
11. The participants also expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairmen for the Compendium of various papers submitted at the previous ISG CBM meetings. Papers submitted to the Beijing Meeting will be compiled by the Co-Chairmen.

#### Agenda item 4: Exchange of views on defense conversion programs

12. The Meeting had a useful exchange of experience in and information on defense conversion programs of several ARF members, which were seen as useful not only for promoting regional and global disarmament but also for economic development. The Meeting acknowledged the difficulties facing the countries undertaking defense conversion process and encouraged the ARF members to continue sharing information and seeking cooperation on this activity on a voluntary basis.

#### Agenda item 5: Exchange of information on some of the on-going observer participation in and on-going notification of military exercises among ARF countries

13. The Meeting discussed the suggestion of implementing the notification and observation measures starting from joint military exercises (i.e. exercises by two or more countries). Other proposals were also put forward including having each ARF member consider the voluntary application of these CBMs to at least one of the exercises in which it participates. Although there was no consensus on these suggestions, the Meeting agreed to keep this matter on the agenda.

#### Agenda item 6: The UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNRCA)

14. General support was expressed for the UNRCA as a useful endeavor for global and regional confidence building. The Meeting called for a universal participation in the UNRCA and further encouraged ARF members that had not done so to join the Register. Suggestions

were made for enhancing the operation of the Register, possible establishment of a regional register and a regional workshop on UNRCA, to which different views were expressed. The Meeting noted the voluntary circulation by some participants to ARF members of their UNRCA data.

#### Agenda item 7: Support for arms control and disarmament efforts

15. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the considerable progress made in controlling the spread and inhibiting the use of weapons of mass destruction. General support was expressed for internationally recognized non-proliferation and disarmament conventions, treaties and regimes, and general acknowledgment was made of the contribution of these to regional security. Attention was called to the ARF's earlier commitment to sign and ratify the major non-proliferation regimes (NPT, CTBT, BWC, CWC), and to support efforts to establish nuclear weapon free zones.
16. The Meeting discussed the issue of anti-personnel landmines, and noted the participation of several ARF members in multilateral and individual initiatives in this regard. The Meeting agreed to support efforts in demining and rehabilitation of victims.

#### Agenda item 8: Non-military CBMs

17. The Meeting agreed that regional security should be viewed in a comprehensive manner. The participants recognized that understanding and confidence in the region would be enhanced if non-military as well as military issues are addressed by the ARF. For this reason, while military CBMs are of primary importance, the Meeting acknowledged the growing relevance of non-military CBMs. The Meeting noted a number of issues which could be discussed under this item and agreed to explore possible cooperation on CBMs in some of these areas. The Meeting stressed that activities in this area should have relevance to regional security and the overall objectives of the ARF, and should not detract from the traditional security issues and military CBMs of ARF nor should they duplicate other efforts.

#### Agenda item 9: The implementation of the agreed CBMs

18. The Meeting agreed to continue updating the list of ARF contact points of member countries.
19. The Meeting welcomed the offer of the Philippines to host a meeting of heads of national defense colleges or equivalent institutions in September 1997 in the Philippines. The Philippines expressed its intention to consult other ARF members on the possible agenda of the meeting.



## Agenda item 10: Other proposed CBMs

20. Several participants proposed the discussion of a number of maritime security issues. The Meeting agreed to discuss some of these issues in the next inter-sessional period with an agenda to be refined and agreed to by the ARF participants.
21. A number of participants notified the Meeting on certain military exercises to be conducted by them this year.

## Conclusion

22. The Meeting decided to convey the following recommendations to the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM) to be held in May in Langkawi, Malaysia:
  - 22.1. Exchange of views on regional security environment and security perceptions
    - 22.1.1. In view of the rich diversity of the region, it was the view of the participants that efforts to maintain regional security should be based on the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, and such principles relevant to the region as peaceful coexistence, amity and cooperation among states, respect for national sovereignty, peaceful solution of disputes among nations and the comprehensive views of security.
    - 22.1.2. Dialogues on regional security environment and security perceptions should be continued at the ARF ISG CBM meetings.
  - 22.2. Exchange of information on regional CBM cooperation  
The participants were encouraged to continue their bilateral and sub-regional efforts in CBM cooperation suited to their needs and specific conditions on the basis of a gradual and incremental manner.
  - 22.3. Exchange of views on defense policies  
ARF participants were encouraged to continue dialogues on defense policies and to submit papers on defense policy statement and defense contacts on voluntary basis.
  - 22.4. Exchange of views on defense conversion program  
The ARF members should continue to share information and seek cooperation on defense conversion on a voluntary basis.
  - 22.5. Exchange of information on some of the on-going observer participation in and on-going notification of military exercise among ARF countries  
The Meeting discussed the suggestion of implementing the notification and observation measures starting from joint military exercises (i.e. exercises by two or more countries). Other proposals were also put forward including having each

ARF member consider the voluntary application of these CBMs to at least one of the exercises in which it participates. Although there was no consensus on these suggestions, the Meeting agreed to keep this matter on the agenda.

22.6. The UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNRCA)

General support was expressed for the UNRCA as a useful endeavor for global and regional confidence building. The Meeting called for a universal participation in the UNRCA and further encouraged ARF members that had not done so to join the Register. The Meeting noted the voluntary circulation by some participants to ARF members of their UNRCA data.

22.7. Support for arms control and disarmament efforts

22.7.1. Attention was called to the earlier ARF's commitments to sign and ratify the major non proliferation regimes (NPT, CTBT, CWC, BWC), and to support efforts to establish nuclear weapon free zones.

22.7.2. The Meeting agreed to support efforts in demining and rehabilitation of victims.

22.8. Non-military CBMs

Regional security should be viewed in a comprehensive manner, and non-military as well as military security aspects should be addressed by the ARF, without detracting from the traditional security issues and military CBMs of ARF nor duplicating other efforts.

22.9. The implementation of the agreed CBMs

22.9.1. A meeting of heads of national defense colleges or equivalent institutions will be convened in September 1997 in the Philippines with the agenda to be developed after consultations with the other ARF members.

22.9.2. The list of ARF contact points should be updated periodically.

22.10. Other proposed CBMs

Several participants proposed the discussion of a number of maritime security issues. The Meeting agreed to discuss some of these issues in the next inter-sessional period with an agenda to be refined and agreed to by the ARF participants.

23. A system of compiling papers submitted to the Meeting by the ISG CBM Co-Chairmen should be established.

24. As ARF ISG CBM has been an important process in promoting trust and understanding, the mandate for the ARF ISG CBM should be extended for another year.

# CO-CHAIRMEN'S SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SECOND INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

SINGAPORE, 26-28 MARCH 1997

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum Second Inter-Sessional Meeting on Search and Rescue Co-ordination and Co-operation (2nd ARF ISM SAR), jointly organized by the Republic of Singapore and the United States of America, was held on 26-28 March 1997 in Singapore. This was as recommended by the First ARF ISM SAR in Honolulu on 4-7 March 1996 and agreed to by the ARF Ministers at the Third ARF Ministerial Meeting in Jakarta on 23 July 1996. The 2nd ARF ISM SAR was jointly chaired by Ambassador Chew Tai Soo, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, and Mr. Charles Kartman, Acting Assistant Secretary of State of the United States of America.
2. The primary objective of the 2nd ARF ISM SAR was to explore possibilities for enhancing SAR co-operation and co-ordination among the ARF participants; to co-operate on a regional basis to raise the overall level of SAR expertise among countries in the Asia-Pacific; to help build mutual trust and confidence; and to promote greater co-operation and co-ordination among the ARF participants' civilian and military SAR agencies. In this regard, the 2nd ARF ISM SAR looked into the following:
  - i. Further explore areas of SAR co-operation agreed to at the First ARF ISM SAR with a view to operationalizing them;
  - ii. Examine possibilities for enhancing regional co-operation on SAR including regular workshops among Asia-Pacific SAR agencies, SAR training programmes and courses, and SAR training centres;
  - iii. Prepare a set of guiding principles and code of conduct on SAR co-operation to manifest the ARF member countries' commitment to work towards closer co-operation on SAR matters so as to enhance regional effectiveness and efficiency in the conduct of SAR missions; and
  - iv. Facilitate interaction among existing SAR agencies, whether civilian or military, among ARF participants, as a confidence building measure.
3. The agenda of the ARF ISM SAR is attached at ANNEX A. The programme of activities is attached at ANNEX B. The list of participants who attended the Meeting is at ANNEX C.
4. The ARF ISM SAR was attended by 19 ARF participants. Representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) were present as Observers. Mr Kishore Mahbubani, Permanent

Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, and the Vice-Admiral Roger T. Rufe, Commander, Pacific Area, United States Coast Guard, gave keynote addresses. As with the First ARF ISM SAR, the Meeting was attended by senior representatives and officials from the Foreign, Defense, Aviation, Communications, Transportation, Maritime, and other Ministries and Agencies involved in ARF policies and SAR matters. This helped continue the process started at the First ARF ISM SAR of realizing the ARF as an avenue to strengthen regional co-operation and confidence building.

5. The discussions centered on two key themes, namely, SAR Co-operation and SAR Training, through six sessions over two days. Delegates from thirteen countries, as well as the representatives from ICAO and IMO, made presentations. A list of presentations is at ANNEX D. Separate lunches were hosted for military and civilian delegates respectively on the second day. A practical search and rescue demonstration involving the Republic of Singapore, the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia was also conducted on the last day, to illustrate the benefit of close co-operation among regional ARF participants.
6. The following is a summary of the key points discussed.

#### Topic 1: SAR Co-operation

7. The Meeting agreed unanimously on the value of greater SAR co-operation and co-ordination among ARF participants for the purpose of saving lives. Several ARF participants identified areas of co-operation to work towards, such as greater contacts amongst ARF SAR agencies through all available channels of communication, continued sharing of information, including on regional SAR contact points, through all available means like facsimile messages and the setting up of internet websites; holding of joint SAR exercises on a voluntary basis; and co-operation in SAR training including the provision of SAR training assistance to ARF participants.
8. The Meeting also agreed on the importance of good media management of maritime and aviation incidents, and the importance of timely and accurate information. Several delegations shared information on their respective countries' experiences in these areas. The Meeting also noted the importance of having a media spokesman and training RCC officials to handle the media. The Meeting recognized that there was scope for ARF participants to exchange experiences on media management, to learn from each other.
9. The Meeting noted the importance of bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements as frameworks within which SAR agencies operate. Several ARF participants briefed the Meeting on their respective bilateral SAR agreements and arrangements with

other countries, particularly those with other ARF participants. The Meeting also noted the growing multilateral co-operation in SAR among ARF participants. The Meeting agreed on the importance of expeditious facilitation of search and rescue into the incident area for the sole purpose of saving lives.

10. The Meeting noted the usefulness of modern technological communications systems, like the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite rescue system and Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), in enhancing the effectiveness of SAR operations. The meeting discussed ways of simplifying SAR procedures, to render speedy humanitarian assistance during the mounting of SAR operations, with due consideration to and respect for territorial sovereignty.

## Topic 2 : SAR Training

11. The Meeting had a fruitful and productive discussion on the possibilities for SAR Training Co-operation among ARF participants. Such training co-operation could take place at either bilateral or tripartite level, taking into account the context, needs and level of expertise of the participating countries; and could be multifaceted to include table-top exercises, attachments and training of trainers. Many delegations acknowledged the usefulness of the wealth of information provided at the Meeting, and recognized the important function the ARF was performing in enhancing regional SAR training co-operation. The Meeting welcomed the idea of the designation of existing national SAR training institutions as ARF SAR Training Centers (ARF SARTCs), which could form a basis for the continued sharing of information and pooling of regional resources, and contribute to tangible confidence building and the raising of overall SAR expertise in the region. To form the basis of an in-depth consideration by ARF participants of the proposal, a Concept Paper will be circulated by the proponents. Singapore, Australia and China indicated their willingness in this respect. Various ARF participants circulated papers on their national SAR organization, capabilities, RCCs, training centers and courses.

## Conclusion

12. The Meeting was very successful and productive, and accomplished the objectives laid out. The discussions were frank, substantial and constructive. The Meeting recognized that greater SAR co-operation and co-ordination contributed positively to increasing comfort levels and building confidence among ARF participants, and that such ARF inter-sessional meetings were useful in this regard. The Meeting also noted the importance of integrating national SAR agencies, and strengthening bilateral and multilateral SAR arrangements and co-operation.
13. The Meeting noted the positive steps made by various ARF participants to implement recommendations by the 1st ARF ISM SAR in Honolulu in March 1996 to enhance

greater search and rescue co-ordination and co-operation among ARF participants. These include continuing exchange of information among ARF SAR agencies through all available means, updating the directory of regional SAR contact points resulting from the 1st ARF ISM SAR, setting up of SAR internet websites, and offers of assistance and co-operation in SAR training and exercises. The Meeting also agreed that a matrix of existing bilateral SAR agreements and arrangements be produced, with the assistance of IMO and ICAO, to enhance closer regional SAR coordination and co-operation.

14. The Meeting agreed to the proposal to compile a list of ARF SARTCs for submission to the ARF Senior Officials to be recommended to the ARF Ministers for endorsement. The Meeting welcomed Singapore's offer to conduct an annual 9-week SAR Training Course for ARF participants, and to convene a SAR Conference in December 1997 for SAR planners and officials. The Meeting also welcomed Singapore's offer of up to 15 Training Awards per year for developing ARF participants in the region for the 9-week SAR Training Course, as well as Thailand's offer to invite observers to their annual SAR exercises, New Zealand's offer of two places to ARF participants for their Air Directing Officer course, and Australia's offer to re-open its national SAR courses to participants from 1998.
15. To guide further work on SAR co-operation and co-ordination under the ARF framework, the Meeting agreed to recommend the following list of principles and objectives to the ARF Senior Officials for consideration and adoption by the ARF:

*Recognizing that Search and Rescue (SAR) operations are essentially humanitarian mission;*

*Recognizing that all SAR agencies, ships and aircraft in the vicinity of a maritime or aviation accident are obliged under IMO and ICAO conventions to respond appropriately on receipt of a distress signal or when a ship or aircraft requiring assistance is detected;*

*Recognizing the importance of providing immediate assistance to persons, ships and aircraft in distress;*

*Recognizing that such assistance should be provided regardless of the nationality of such ships and aircraft and their passengers and crew;*

*Understanding that the provision of effective and expeditious SAR services is crucial to save lives and reduce suffering during maritime and aeronautical accidents;*

*Understanding that the mounting of SAR operations solely for the purpose of saving lives should be consistent with applicable national laws, rules and other regulations and with relevant international laws and conventions and other bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements and should respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries;*

*Noting that co-operation and co-ordination among countries will significantly enhance SAR operations and increase confidence building in the region;*

*Desirous to improve the level of SAR expertise among ARF participants; and*

*Desirous to enhance and promote regional co-operation and co-ordination on SAR within the broader framework of ARF co-operation and confidence building.*

*Affirm that all areas of co-operation and co-ordination in SAR to be developed will be consistent with existing international laws and rules of procedures of the IMO and the ICAO on SAR operations, and agreed to work towards:*

- a. Establishing effective co-ordination measures and communications procedures on SAR matters, including the continuing exchange of information on Search and Rescue Points of Contact, current SAR resources available to ensure mutual knowledge of regional SAR capabilities;*
- b. Co-operating to allow the employment of all available and appropriate means as are deemed practicable and necessary for SAR operations to minimize suffering and anguish to the survivors, regardless of the nationality or status of such a person or the circumstances in which that person is found;*
- c. Simplifying procedures to facilitate co-ordinated and expeditious response of SAR units for the purpose of SAR operations;*
- d. Standardizing SAR training manuals and procedures, consistent with the procedures and recommendations laid down by the IMO and the ICAO;*
- e. Increasing co-operation in SAR training and exercises to raise the level of SAR expertise in the region; and*
- f. Realizing the ultimate goal of a seamless, well-co-ordinated, integrated, effective and expeditious global search and rescue system by way of mutual regional and bilateral agreements and arrangements consistent with IMO and ICAO conventions.*

The Meeting also noted that nothing in the above list of principles and objectives shall compromise or affect existing or future agreements and arrangements entered into by ARF participants.

16. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ARF cordiality and solidarity. The Meeting also expressed appreciation to the Republic of Singapore and to the United States of America for their able co-chairmanship, and thanked the Republic of Singapore for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to the participants to the Meeting.

## REPORT OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN ON THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 10-14 MARCH 1997

PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND, 7-11 APRIL 1997

1. At the Third Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF III) in Jakarta on 23 July 1996, Ministers extended the mandate of the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Peacekeeping Operations (the ISM on PKO) to coordinate the implementation of the specific recommendations adopted by this ISM.
2. Malaysia and Canada as Co-Chairmen of the ARF ISM on PKO are pleased to apprise the ARF Senior Officials Meeting of the progress in the implementation of specific recommendations adopted by the Third ARF Meeting in Jakarta.

### Inter-sessional Activities on Peacekeeping Operations

3. The following two key recommendations were implemented:
  - i. Malaysia and Australia co-sponsored the "Train the Trainers" Workshop in Kuala Lumpur from 10-14 March, 1997. The Summary Report of the Workshop is attached as ANNEX I.
  - ii. New Zealand hosted a Technical Demining Seminar for Peacekeepers in Palmerston North, Auckland from 7-11 April, 1997. The Summary Report of the Seminar is attached as ANNEX II.

### Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel

4. 7 ARF member countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Russian Federation, United States of America) and most of the EU are signatories to the Convention. As of 9 May 1997, 11 countries, including 2 ARF member countries (Singapore and Japan), had become Parties to the Convention. 22 ratifications are required for the Convention to enter into force. Several ARF member countries have indicated that they are undertaking the necessary national procedures to become Parties to the Convention.

### Training for Peace Support Operations

5. The 1996 ARF ISM on PKO in Kuala Lumpur had recommended greater voluntary sharing of peacekeeping experiences and expertise among ARF participants. The first step in this process is to gather information about the training options available, and identify contact points and mechanisms for the distribution of peacekeeping information.



6. The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) manages a database which contains information on courses offered by member states. The database is currently available electronically to many Permanent Missions to the UN; hard copies can also be requested from the UNDPKO. The database is maintained and updated whenever new information is obtained from Member States. A list of contacts is also maintained to allow the UNDPKO to inform the appropriate agency or organization in a Member State regarding peacekeeping issues and peacekeeping publications.
7. Information about Peacekeeping Training Institutions in Asia Pacific is contained in the survey conducted by ISIS-Malaysia, following the ARF Track Two seminar organized by ISIS-Malaysia and Canada hosted by Brunei in March 1995. Submissions were received from Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and United States.
8. The International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres (IAPTC) was created in July 1995. The IAPTC is an open and voluntary association of various centres, institutions, programmes and individuals which deals with peacekeeping and peacekeeping research, education and training. The Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre is the secretariat for the IAPTC. The third annual meeting of the IAPTC, held in Malta in April 1997, considered the theme of "The Role of Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations in International Peacekeeping". Through its electronic network, the IAPTC also maintains a current mailing list. ARF members are welcome to add their contact points to this list. The IAPTC also regularly publishes a newsletter containing contributions from its readers. Further information about the association, its members and activities is available from the Pearson International Peacekeeping Training Centre, and on the Internet at: [www.cdnpeacekeeping.ns.ca/iaptc.htm](http://www.cdnpeacekeeping.ns.ca/iaptc.htm)

#### Personnel serving with United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations

9. The last meeting also encouraged ARF member countries to support the peacekeeping capacity of the UN through loan of military and civilian personnel and through bilateral arrangements. Currently, 9 ARF member countries, namely, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Singapore and United States of America have a total of 35 personnel serving with UNDPKO on Government Loan. In addition, there are 3 personnel from Canada, Malaysia, and Russian Federation on the Permanent Secretariat staff of the UNDPKO.

#### Standby Arrangements

10. A progress report on the Standby Arrangements for Peacekeeping was issued by the United Nations Secretary-General on 24 December, 1996, as document S/1996/1067. The report indicates that globally, 62 UN Member States had confirmed their willingness to participate and 41 had provided information on specific capabilities for inclusion

in the database. At that time, 10 ARF member countries (Australia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United States, and most of the countries belonging to the EU participated in the UN Standby Arrangements system. In addition, Singapore, since January 1997, had also subscribed to the UN Standby Arrangements.

#### Recommendation

11. In their recommendation about ARF PKO ISM activities, and in consultations with the Co-Chairmen, ARF members have indicated that they are in favour of pursuing further cooperation in the field of peacekeeping operations. In the view of the Co-Chairmen, the momentum is sufficiently strong for this peacekeeping cooperation to continue among interested ARF countries without the requirement for a formal extension of the ISM on PKO.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM  
WORKSHOP ON “TRAIN THE TRAINERS”  
ARF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 11-14 MARCH 1997

Introduction

1. An outcome of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional (ARF ISM) on Peacekeeping Operations conducted in Kuala Lumpur in April 1996 was to organize a peacekeeping ‘Train the Trainers’ Workshop. This was endorsed at the Third ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Jakarta in 1996.
2. The ARF ISM ‘Train the Trainers’ Workshop was held in Kuala Lumpur from 11 to 14 March 1997. It was attended by 76 participants, representing 18 ARF Members and representatives from the United Nations. The participants comprised representatives from the Armed Forces, Police, Electoral Commissions, Foreign Affairs and Defense Departments.
3. The Workshop was Co-chaired by Ms. Siti Azizah Abod, Under Secretary, Policy Division, Ministry of Defense, Malaysia and Commodore Geoff Smith, AM, RAN, Commandant of the Australian Defense Force Warfare Centre.
4. The participants approached the Workshop in a frank, open and cooperative manner that contributed to reaching successful outcomes.

Scope, Conduct and Methodology of the Workshop

5. The Workshop covered diverse subject areas as follows:
  - a. Session 1. An Overview of UN Peace Operations presented by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO);
  - b. Session 2. An Overview of UN Training presented by the UN DPKO;
  - c. Session 3. Panel Discussion on Civil and Military Roles in Peacekeeping Operations is presented by Canada, the UN High Commission for Refugees, and Malaysia;
  - d. Session 4. Review of a Case Study on the Training Perspective for Peace Operations in Somalia, presented by Australia;
  - e. Session 5. Sharing of Peace Operations Training Experiences and National Criteria for participation in UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) by delegates,

- presented by Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States of America;
- f. Session 6. The main focus of the Workshop was conducted during Session 6. It involved both presentations and sub-groups discussions on the Approach to Training Requirements for Peacekeeping Operations; and
  - g. Session 7. An Overview of the Complexities of Supporting UN Peacekeeping Operations and a presentation on the UN and ECOWAS Operations in Liberia by Canada and Malaysia.
6. The methodology used for the conduct of each session varied dependent upon the Workshop aims. The overview and panel discussion sessions were designed as scene setters to reflect the nature of complex multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations. The case study provided the opportunity for interaction within three sub-groups which prepared draft recommended approaches prior to the full Workshop focusing on the discussions of training requirements for military observers, military contingents and police monitors.
  7. The Workshop reaffirmed the importance of integrating all components involved in UN peacekeeping operations. Military, police, civilian and other UN agencies must focus on the successful completion of the overall mission. The central role of the UN in peacekeeping and the need to understand the role of the UN peacekeeping operations within the total UN framework was highlighted. Success of complex multi-dimensional peacekeeping operations also requires an understanding of the mandate and other associated arrangements in place such as Status of Forces Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding, and the execution of duties in conformity with the provision of the mandate and these documents.
  8. Success of peacekeeping operations is linked to achieving common acceptable standards of training by troop contributing nations (TCN). It was the need for this orientation towards training that led to Workshop reaching an understanding on an approach to peacekeeping training as attached at ANNEXES A to C.

## Recommendations

9. The workshop submits the following recommendations to the Co-Chairmen of the ARF ISM on PKO for consideration:
  - a. The ARF ISM on Peacekeeping Operations be extended for another year for a follow up workshop on approaches to training for peacekeeping operations.
  - b. Members should be consulted whether any subsequent workshops may want to consider the further development of an approach for military contingent training standards with a view of submission to the UNDPKO.

- c. The outcome of the training approach for military observer and police monitor be offered to the UNDPKO in order to assist a review of the current UN training guidance documents.
- d. The outcome of the training approach for military contingents be offered to the UNDPKO for consideration in formulating UN training guidance for military contingents.
- e. It was suggested that the UNDPKO might specify the desirability of including experienced personnel when seeking support for short warning deployments of military observers and CIVPOL monitors.
- f. It was suggested that the UNDPKO develop mission specific training guidance for use by TCNs.

Annexes:

- A. ARF ISM Workshop Approach to Training for UN Military Observer
- B. ARF ISM Workshop Approach to Training for CIVPOL Monitors
- C. ARF ISM Workshop Approach to Training Military Contingents

# SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ARF DEMINING SEMINAR

PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND, 7-11 APRIL 1997

## Introduction

1. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Demining Seminar was held from 7-11 April 1997 in Linton Military Camp, Palmerston North, New Zealand, in accordance with the offer by New Zealand at the ARF ISM on Peacekeeping in April 1996 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to host such a seminar.
2. The Seminar was attended by most ARF members. There were presentations from a representative from the Mine Clearance Policy Unit of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, and by representatives of the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the Lao Unexploded Ordinance Programme and the Mozambique Accelerated Demining Programme.
3. The meeting was chaired by Col Paul Southwell, Chief of Staff, Support Command, New Zealand Army. The chief of the New Zealand Defense Force, Lt. Gen A.L. Birks and the Deputy Secretary of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Colin Keating, addressed the opening session of the meeting.
4. The Seminar considered the following issues: measures currently being undertaken by the international community to address the world-wide landmine problem; New Zealand's landmine policies and perspective; the New Zealand Defense Force approach to and involvement in international demining operations; the United Nations and demining; the practicalities (political, organization, operational, training, personnel and technical) of a demining operation, and the lessons learned and the way ahead. Consideration of these issues was augmented by a field demonstration of demining operations and techniques and case studies of the Cambodian, Lao and Mozambique demining operations.
5. A formal report was not produced for endorsement by the seminar participants. The following summary prepared by the New Zealand Chair endeavours to capture the sense of the seminar on a range of demining issues. A set of proposed recommendations is included for consideration by the ARF SOM.
  - 5.1. The Worldwide Mine Problem and International Responses to Control Landmines

- 5.1.1. Participants noted that forging an international consensus on this complex issue would remain elusive.
- 5.2. National Statement on Demining
  - 5.2.1. A number of participants took the opportunity offered by the Chair to make statements on their national demining policies. The Seminar noted that such exchanges of information were useful in promoting confidence and understanding among ARF members.
  - 5.2.2. Participants agreed that there should be continued international efforts to assist those countries with significant mine infestation.
- 5.3. Practical Aspects of Demining Operations
  - 5.3.1. The Seminar participants welcomed the opportunity to view, compare operational techniques and gain first-hand experience of some of the practical elements and techniques associated with field demining operations.
- 5.4. Case Studies: Mozambique, Laos, and Cambodia
  - 5.4.1. The participants noted that the Cambodian, Lao and Mozambique programmes were good examples of how local management and international technical expertise could be combined to create an effective demining programme.
  - 5.4.2. The Directors of the Cambodian, Lao and Mozambique demining programmes highlighted the value of their being given the opportunity to meet and discuss demining issues with counterparts from similarly mine infested countries.
- 5.5. Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead
  - 5.5.1. The important role of United Nations in international demining operations was acknowledged.
  - 5.5.2. There was agreement on the desirability of the UN creating a single body under the direct control of the Secretary-General to manage and implement all aspects of UN demining operations.
  - 5.5.3. There was general support for further exchanges of demining ideas and techniques as provided for by the ARF Demining Seminar.
  - 5.5.4. The participants agreed that the Seminar proceedings should be made available to all countries who are afflicted by mine infestation.

## Recommendations

6. The following Recommendations are included for consideration by the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting in Langkawi:
  - 6.1. National Statement on Demining
    - 6.1.1. That ARF participants be encouraged to continue to support international efforts to assist those countries with significant mine infestation.
  - 6.2. Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead
    - 6.2.1. That the ARF participants make a recommendation to the United Nations that responsibility for all aspects of UN demining operations reside within a single UN body under the direct control of the UN Secretary-General.
    - 6.2.2. That the ARF participants consider, where possible, further exchanges of demining ideas and techniques as provided for by the ARF demining seminar.
    - 6.2.3. That the ARF participants make the seminar proceedings available to all countries afflicted by mine infestation.



# SEMINAR ON PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

PARIS, FRANCE, 7-8 NOVEMBER 1996

The Institute Francais des Relations Internationales and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies jointly sponsored an ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on preventive diplomacy in Paris on 7-8 November 1996. The Seminar was attended by academics and officials from ARF members in their private capacities.

## Principles

Consistent with the statement by Chairman of the third ASEAN Regional Forum, the meeting developed proposals for preventive diplomacy based on principle set out in the UN Charter, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Five Principle of Peaceful Coexistence and the 1992 Manila Declaration on the South China Sea.

## Definition

The meeting noted that a good starting point is the definition of preventive diplomacy by UN Secretary-General Mr. Bhoutros Bhoutros Ghali in his 1992 Agenda for Peace, namely, that preventive diplomacy is “action to prevent existing disputes arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur”. The meeting also noted that there were various other understandings of the definition of preventive diplomacy.

## Areas for consideration

The meeting agreed that ARF preventive diplomacy can help address subject areas of potential crisis such as: territorial disputes, proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, non military transnational concerns such as drug trafficking, terrorism, water and other resource problems, smuggling, environmental degradation, maritime safety, piracy and unregulated population movements.

## Proposals

The Paris meeting concluded that the ARF needs to explore its capacity for preventive diplomacy, subject to the strict maintenance of consensus amongst all ARF members. It considered several categories of preventive diplomacy measures and it identified three broad-areas covering measures which should be conveyed to the ARF for consideration.

1. The meeting agreed on the need for an annual security outlook, and the gathering of relevant information and analyses. These activities are now appropriate for Track Two consideration, in fora such as CSCAP. The meeting also discussed the prospect in the future of creating a regional research and information center. Some participants also expressed the desirability of ARF establishing an early warning system and to act as a repository of information on preventive diplomacy, including monitoring outcomes of specific cases.
2. The meeting agreed that a core list of CBMs specifically oriented towards preventive diplomacy be identified. It proposed that these CBMs be considered by the March 1997 Inter-sessional Support Group on CBMs to be jointly chaired by China and the Philippines. The meeting discussed the range of preventive diplomacy measures that could be available to the ARF, which could include CBMs, (as set out in ANNEX A of the ARF Concept Paper attached to the Second ARF Chairman's Statement): fact-finding, good offices, mediation, moral suasion, and third party mediation. It specifically recommended, as an example, the simultaneous circulation amongst themselves of ARF member's contributions to the UN arms register.
3. The meeting agreed to recommend an ARF role in preventive diplomacy through the expansion of the good offices of the Chair, guided by the principle of consensus amongst ARF members. The meeting discussed the reinforcement of network of bilateral preventive diplomacy measures: establishing a register of experts on preventive diplomacy; ad hoc procedures such as committees, working groups and the appointment of special representatives; and norm-building. As a longer term measure, some participants expressed the desirability for the ARF chair to consider proposals for an ARF risk-reduction center. The meeting noted a number of measures to service the ARF Chair in its possible implementation of preventive diplomacy: for example, the establishing of an ARF unit which will operate on the basis of equal and full participation of all ARF members.

## Funding

The meeting noted the need for ARF to give serious consideration to appropriate funding mechanisms to promote the ARF role in preventive diplomacy.

# SEMINAR ON NON-PROLIFERATION

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 6-7 DECEMBER 1996

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta, the Peace Research Centre (PRC), Canberra and the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Munich, jointly organized an ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) seminar on non-proliferation in Jakarta, on 6-7 December 1996. The seminar was attended by more than 50 academics and officials in their personal capacities, including representation from every ARF member.

## ARF 96 Chairman's Statement

The Chairman's Statement from the Third ARF, held 23 July 1996 in Jakarta, included a reference to this as an ARF 'Track Two' seminar.

## Purpose

The ARF Track Two Seminar was convened to discuss 1) challenge of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Asia Pacific region; 2) the adequacy of the currently available international and regional instruments for meeting the challenge; and 3) measures that might be adopted to strengthen the barriers to proliferation and to encourage further disarmament.

This Statement reflects the Chairs' sense of the tenor and conclusions of the discussions.

## Main Conclusions

In their deliberations, seminar participants were guided by the vision of a world eventually free of all weapons of mass destruction. On balance, the structural changes in world affairs in the past few years have been beneficial for non-proliferation and disarmament. The seminar endorsed the integral linkage between nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, which is part of the NPT package. Biological and chemical weapons too need to be given attention and importance commensurate with the gravity of the problem posed by their proliferation potential. Participants acknowledged that considerable progress has been made in controlling the spread and inhibiting the use of weapons of mass destruction, and that cautious optimism is not misplaced. Some credit for the progress achieved must be given to internationally recognized regimes which impose technical, normative, legal and political

barriers to proliferation. However, the agendas for non-proliferation and disarmament of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery remain incomplete.

The global non-proliferation norm is embedded in the NPT, to which almost every ARF country adheres. Participants concluded that global regimes make demonstrable contributions to regional security. There was consensus that the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region have flowed at least in part from the widespread adherence by regional countries to the non-proliferation norms and regimes. Coordination, consultation and cooperation have become established norms in the region, as exemplified in the ARF processes. These also contribute to regional security by forming additional pillars of the global non-proliferation architecture.

### Recommendations

Participants agreed that the Track Two Seminar should come up with practical and relevant recommendations which can be taken up for consideration by the ARF Track One or Two processes.

#### *First Track*

Participants urged ARF countries to sign/ratify the major global non-proliferation regimes (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Biological Weapons Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention) and vest them with the requisite political will, and administrative and financial support, in order to reinforce and adapt them to the evolving needs of the Asia Pacific. The Third ARF Chairman's Statement encouraged, as a suitable confidence building measure for ARF member countries, active support for the above four internationally recognized agreements. In this regard, ARF countries should provide support for implementation of Decision Two: Principles and Objectives of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, in particular the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear weapons free zones, nuclear disarmament, and the immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on the Convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear explosive devices. In addition, participants urged the immediate ratification of START II and the early commencement of negotiations on START III.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of the adherence by ARF countries to the existing norms of peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Some participants suggested that the ARF explore the possibility of the establishment of an appropriate forum to encourage enhanced transparency in the Asia Pacific.

## *Second Track*

Participants discussed the dangers of cross-regional spillover of proliferation. In that context, and recalling the Third ARF Chairman's Statement which described regional dialogue on non-proliferation/disarmament issues as a confidence-building measure in itself, participants urged the Chairs to consider convening an ARF Track Two seminar on the CTBT in India, in order to facilitate an exchange of views. The ARF might also consider the convening of in-country seminars on non-proliferation led by eminent strategic experts.

The Seminar urged the ARF to establish a Study Group on the most appropriate formulation and mechanism to assure non-nuclear weapons states against the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Next step

The Chairs agreed to forward this Statement to the ARF Senior Officials for consideration.

