

PRESS RELEASE

Kuala Lumpur, 7 March 1980

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SIGNATURE OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

EEC - ASEAN

- I. A second ministerial meeting between the EEC and ASEAN took place at Kuala Lumpur on 7th March 1980. On that occasion the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement was signed, and a joint declaration approved.
- II. During the ceremony presided by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Malaysia, datuk HUSSEIN ONN, the Cooperation Agreement was signed on behalf of the European Community by :
- His Excellency Mr. Attilio RUFFINI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and President of the Council ;
 - His Excellency Mr. Wilhelm HAFFERKAMP, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities.

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On behalf of the member states of ASEAN by :

His Excellency Mr. Mochtar KUSUMAATMADJA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia ;

His Excellency Tengku Ahmad RITHAUDDEEN, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia ;

His Excellency General Carlos P. ROMULO, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines ;

His Excellency Mr. S. RAJARATNAM, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore ;

His Excellency Air Chief Marshall Siddhi SAVETSILA, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

This Cooperation Agreement, the initiative for which was taken at the first ministerial meeting between the EEC and ASEAN in Brussels in November 1978, is the first agreement of this type, with a non-preferential character, made between the Community and a regional group of countries. It covers matters concerning trade, economic and development cooperation.

Referring to trade relations, the Agreement contains certain clauses by which the signatory parties undertake to accord each other most favoured nation treatment (with the usual exceptions in favour of regional groups), to develop and diversify their trade with each other as far as possible, and to consult each other on measures liable to affect their mutual trade.

Referring to economic cooperation the Agreement aims at encouraging the establishing of closer economic links, promoting technological and scientific progress, opening new sources of supply and new markets, and also creating new employment possibilities. To this end the Agreement aims in particular at favouring contacts and cooperation between companies in the two regions, and helping to improve the already favourable investment climate.

In the area of development cooperation the European Community recognises that ASEAN is a developing region, and undertakes to intensify its contribution to the development of ASEAN and to cooperation in this region, in particular in the framework of its technical and financial aid programmes in favour of non-associate developing countries.

The Agreement establishes a joint cooperation Committee in order to promote and supervise the various activities envisaged in the Agreement, the life of which is initially fixed for five years.

III. JOINT DECLARATION

1. A meeting at Ministerial level between the European Communities and their Member States and the Association of South East Asian Nations was held in Kuala Lumpur on 7 March 1980.

2. Those participating in the meeting were:

On the ASEAN side:

His Excellency Mr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia

His Excellency Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

His Excellency General Carlos P. Romulo
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

His Excellency Mr. S. Rajaratnam
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore and

His Excellency Air Chief Marshall Siddhi Savetsila
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

3. On the European side:

His Excellency Attilio Ruffini
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and
President of the Council

His Excellency Mr. Gaston Thorn
Vice-President of the Government, Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg

His Excellency Dr. C . A. van der Klaauw
Minister for Foreign Affairs of **The Netherlands**

The Rt Hon. The Lord Carrington K C M G, M C
Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

His Excellency Mr. Robert Urbain
Minister for Foreign Trade of Belgium

His Excellency Mr. K. Olesen
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark

His Excellency Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal
Republic of Germany

His Excellency Mr. M. Olivier **Stirn**
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of France

His Excellency Mr. Brian Lenihan
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland

His Excellency Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp
Vice-President of the Commission of the European
Communities

4. His Excellency Mr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja acted as
spokesman for ASEAN.
5. His Excellency Mr. Attilio Ruffini and His Excellency
Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp acted as **spokesmen for the**
European Communities and their Member States.
6. His Excellency Datuk Ali bin Abdullah, the Secretary-General
of the ASEAN Secretariat was present.

His Excellency Mr. N. Hommel, Secretary-General of the
Council of the European Communities was also present.

7. The Ministers of the European Community and ASEAN reviewed matters relating to the world economic situation as a whole as well as the areas of cooperation between ASEAN and the Community within the frame work of the Cooperation Agreement.

8. They agreed that the signing of the ASEAN-EC Cooperation Agreement marks the beginning of a new stage in cooperation between the two organizations and their member states. In affirming their commitment to the principles and to the concrete measures contained in the documents, they confirmed that the Cooperation Agreement is a strong manifestation of the political will of both sides to intensify ASEAN - EC cooperation.

A. International Relations

9. They emphasised that the increased economic inter-dependence between nations requires continued cooperation in the search for solutions that reflect the mutual benefit, common interest and the responsibilities of the parties concerned.

10. They underlined the urgency of engaging in a new joint effort at international level to deal with major economic issues including those in the field of raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance and to formulate a new international development strategy for the Third UN Development Decade. They stressed the importance of the endeavours now underway to start global negotiations in order to deal with these issues of

development and growth and pledged to cooperate constructively in resolving outstanding issues in UNCTAD, the North-South dialogue, UNIDO, GATT and in other international and specialized agencies for the restoration of world economic stability leading to a new international economic order.

11. The Ministers welcomed the agreements reached at the GATT MTN. The Community hopes that the ASEAN countries will accede to the results of the Tokyo round, especially the various agreements, and will collaborate actively in putting these into effect. The ASEAN Ministers however noted that the results fell short of ASEAN's expectations. The Ministers welcomed agreements reached in UNCTAD including the Integrated Programme for Commodities as adopted and the International Natural Rubber Agreement. They agreed that these agreements should be implemented speedily in a spirit of cooperation. The Ministers expressed their willingness to continue to cooperate closely to establish other individual commodity agreements or arrangements of mutual interest to the two regions. They also expressed the hope that the current negotiations on the articles of the Agreement on the Common Fund would reach a rapid and successful conclusion, thus enabling the Fund to be put into operation in 1980.

12. The Ministers agreed on the need to maintain free and open trading conditions in order to avoid protectionism and to promote the recovery and restructuring of the world economy through expanding international trade. The Community and ASEAN will improve their commercial cooperation and will extend and diversify their mutual trade relations through strengthened consultation.

B. Community-ASEAN Relations

13. The Ministers of the European Community and ASEAN expressed their genuine and sincere desire to give impetus and substance to the Cooperation Agreement in a spirit of cooperation and consultation - on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit - in order to meet the mutual needs and aspirations of the two regions and in particular to accelerate economic development of the ASEAN region to enhance its role as a corner stone of political stability in Southeast Asia.

14. The Community expressed its appreciation of the positive steps taken by the ASEAN countries to strengthen their regional cooperation. The Community reiterated its willingness to provide all possible assistance for ASEAN efforts towards closer regional cooperation.

15. ASEAN Ministers welcomed the commitment from the Community to respond to the needs of the region, particularly in further developing an enlightened and positive approach within the framework of its assistance for non-associated developing countries. In particular, ASEAN expresses the hope that the Community would within the framework of its programme develop an evolutionary approach so as to further take into account the specific nature of the development of ASEAN countries which requires long term support. This would enhance and consolidate ASEAN-EC relations in the coming decades. Both parties agreed that there is a need to expand financial resources that can be made available especially

through co-financing of projects by the Community and its **Member States.**

16. They reviewed the areas where cooperation between ASEAN and EEC should be developed in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement they have signed.

17. Commercial Cooperation

- a) The Community and ASEAN agreed on the need to develop, expand and diversify their two-way trade to the fullest extent possible.
- b) Both sides undertook to take fully into account their respective interests and needs for, and agreed to work towards, improved market access for manufactures, semi-manufactures and primary products as well as the further processing of resources.
- c) Both parties undertook to consider favourably the possibility of promoting suitable arrangements among economic operators concerning long-term supply of raw materials and commodities, including the field of mining, taking into account commitments in multilateral arrangements such as international commodity agreements as well as **producers'** processing interests and needs including their desire for the expansion of processing activities and for remunerative and stable earnings.

- d) The Community reaffirmed its attachment to the basic objectives of the generalised scheme of preferences and stated that it would continue with the implementation of this scheme after 1980 in a way which will take fully into account the economic development needs of developing countries including ASEAN.

- e) ASEAN expressed its appreciation for the assistance given by the Community in the past in the field of trade promotion. The Community confirmed its willingness to improve and expand the trade promotion activities for ASEAN and welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN Trade Promotion Centre in the Community.

- f) Both parties reiterated their commitment made in the Cooperation Agreement that they will seek the other party's views insofar as possible where measures are being considered which could have an adverse effect on trade between the two regions.

- g) The Community Ministers noted the interest of the ASEAN Ministers in guarantees within a global context for the stabilization of the export earnings of developing countries, taking into account ASEAN's needs.

18. Economic Cooperation

- a) Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the substantial success of the Jakarta Conference on Industrial Cooperation and pointed out the necessity to follow-up and build upon the result of this Conference. The Community confirmed its intention to continue and intensify the promotion of contacts between economic operators of the two regional groupings in particular through the organization of conferences of a more specific nature and meetings for individual sectors.
- b) The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made towards the establishment of the EEC-ASEAN Business Council for relevant business organizations and will support measures to help its formation and its functioning. This Council should provide the natural framework for establishing and fostering the contacts and deepening the mutual knowledge between private economic operators already initiated in Jakarta in 1978. The Ministers stressed that they welcomed positive initiatives for soundly based projects especially those that promote greater regional and inter-regional cooperation.
- c) Both sides recognized the importance of a further expansion and intensification of processing of ASEAN

commodities within the region with comparative economic advantage which would have a great impact on and offer wider scope for ASEAN economic development.

- d) The Ministers confirmed their mutual interest in encouraging **Community Member States investments** in the ASEAN countries. They recognized the continuing efforts of ASEAN countries to improve the investment climate in the region and affirmed their readiness to encourage investments in productive fields to enhance development, employment, and the transfer of technology. Accordingly, the Ministers reaffirmed their desire to improve the already favourable investment climate through encouraging the conclusion of investment promotion and protection arrangements between the countries concerned.
- e) Both parties agreed on the necessity to develop their overall cooperation in the economic field with particular stress on the field of mining and energy, particularly non-conventional sources of energy.
- f) The Ministers recognised the increasing importance of the role of science and technology in promoting social and economic development of the developing countries and undertook to intensify scientific and technical cooperation. The Ministers agreed to initiate joint studies to identify priority areas

of cooperation between EEC and ASEAN, to strengthen the national scientific and technological capabilities of the ASEAN countries, and to assist in the provision of fellowships, training and consultancy services to ASEAN countries.

19. Development Cooperation

- a) The Community recognises that ASEAN is a developing region. The Community welcomes and will encourage any positive step taken by ASEAN to strengthen its regional cooperation.

- b) In parallel with the projects proposed by individual countries, the Community will take all possible measures to intensify its support, in the framework of its programme in favour of the non-associated developing countries, for ASEAN regional projects. ASEAN undertook to work closely with the Community to facilitate the identification and implementation of regional projects. The Community re-emphasised its willingness to coordinate the development cooperation activities of the Community and its Member States in the ASEAN region, especially in relation to ASEAN regional projects.

- c) Both parties expressed their willingness to cooperate for mutual benefit on projects including self-sufficiency on food production in the ASEAN regions, storage and distribution,

land development, water utilisation, transportation and communications. Such development cooperation should cover both programmes specifically needed in ASEAN member countries and those covering the region.

- d) Both parties expressed their willingness to strengthen the already existing cooperation in the field of transfer of technology and training assistance. In this context, the Community will continue financing the current programme of seminars on transfers of technology and will expand the training and educational assistance programme for scientific, technical, industrial and related personnel from the ASEAN countries.
- e) The Ministers recognised the importance of encouraging and facilitating greater cooperation in the field of finance, through the promotion of intensified contacts between private and public finance institutions in the Member States of the Community and in the ASEAN region.

20. The Ministers reviewed the work of the Joint Study Group and expressed satisfaction with the results achieved so far. In order to give effect to the objectives of the Cooperation Agreement, they agreed that the Joint Cooperation Committee, established under the agreement, should meet as soon as possible, the venue of such meetings to alternate between ASEAN and the Community. The Ministers welcomed the offer of the Philippine Government to host the first meeting of the Committee.

C. Cultural Cooperation

21. ASEAN and the Community agreed to enhance cooperation in the cultural field. In particular :

- (a) The Ministers agreed to intensify cultural exchanges so as to promote better understanding among the peoples of the two regions: towards this end, they agreed to promote contacts between cultural institutions, visits and study tours of both regions in specialized fields.
- (b) Some Member States of the Community and the Commission agreed to award more scholarships to ASEAN member countries, inter alia, in the fields of arts, theatre, library, media, museum, traditional sports and games, languages and literature, archeology, and other aspects of culture and information. They also agreed to coordinate such offers in consultation with ASEAN.

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The Ministers agreed that the Cooperation Agreement has ushered in a new era in the relations between ASEAN and the Community and expressed their determination to fully implement the provisions of the Agreement to the mutual benefit of the Governments and peoples of the Community and ASEAN.

IV. On the same occasion the Ministers of Foreign Affairs approved the following :

JOINT STATEMENT ON POLITICAL ISSUES

1. On the occasion of the second ASEAN/EEC Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 7 - 8 March 1980, the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community held informal meetings during which they conducted an intensive exchange of views on regional and international problems and developments since the meeting in Brussels in November, 1978. They reaffirmed their commitment to world peace, international cooperation and understanding, economic development, social justice and human rights. They further emphasised the need for all states to observe strictly the following principles: respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of states; non-resort to force or threat of the use of force and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. They agreed that these principles are of vital importance to inter-state relations. The discussions took place in a spirit of great cordiality and mutual friendship.

2. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community, having analysed current international developments, expressed deep concern over the emergence of new and dangerous sources of tension, at a time when no solutions have been found for other serious difficulties already posing formidable problems. They

noted that the tension and the difficulties are focused mainly in regions of the Third World where a climate of peace and international cooperation is indispensable to the achievements of progress in the economic and social fields. They urged the international community, especially the United Nations and its Secretary-General, to work actively for the resolution of problems in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

3. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community expressed great concern over open armed interventions by foreign powers against two non-aligned countries in Asia, namely the continuing Vietnamese intervention in Kampuchea and the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. They strongly deplored the armed interventions against these two countries, which have as a common denominator the imposition of will on small independent states by foreign powers through the use of force in open violation of international law, thereby threatening international peace and security. They called for an early implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolutions No. 34/22 of 14 November 1979 and No. ES-6/2 of 14 January, 1980 including total withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

4. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community

deplored the denial of self-determination to the peoples of Kampuchea and of Afghanistan who should be allowed to decide their political future without foreign interference, coercion or intimidation. They further expressed their deep concern for the suffering of the Kampuchean and Afghan peoples, who have been forced to leave their countries on account of external aggression and for whom material assistance is now essential for their survival.

5. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community, taking into consideration the results of the Meeting of the Nine in Rome on 19 February, 1980 and the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad on 27 - 29 January 1980, appealed to all States to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan. In this context, they took the view that the crisis could be overcome constructively through the emergence of a neutral, non-aligned Afghanistan, outside competition among the powers.

6. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community noted with deep concern that the peoples in the Indochinese Peninsula, after many years of war and suffering, have yet to find peace and that this dangerous situation may be aggravated and spread to neighbouring countries. They agreed that peace and

stability in Southeast Asia are essential. However, this and the establishment of friendly and cooperative relations among all the states of the region depend upon a political solution to the Kampuchean question on the basis of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Kampuchea, and self-determination for the Kampuchean people. They called for the early establishment of an independent and neutral Kampuchea with a genuinely representative government, free of all foreign military presence and maintaining friendly and peaceful relations with all countries in the region. They also emphasised the necessity of strict observance of non-interference in all forms in the internal affairs of states in Southeast Asia. They strongly urged the parties involved, and all countries in a position to bring influence to bear on them, to exert utmost efforts in order to avert the possible spill-over of hostilities into neighbouring ASEAN countries and widening the area of conflict.

7. To solve on a political basis the Kampuchean problem the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community appealed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to explore all possibilities contained in the Resolution on Kampuchea adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 November 1979. These possibilities include the convening of an international

conference on Kampuchea and the Foreign Ministers strongly urged all parties concerned to work for it. The Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community expressed firm support for the ASEAN proposal for a greater international presence on the Thai-Kampuchean border in order to defuse the explosive situation, pending an overall political solution to the Kampuchean problem. Together with the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States, they appealed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other parties concerned to give strong support to increase the number of personnel of the United Nations and of relief agencies along the critical border areas and to consider the stationing of United Nations observers on the Thai side of the border. The Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community expressed their appreciation that in calling for a political solution to the Kampuchean problem, the ASEAN member countries were motivated by the desire to ensure that all countries of the region can enjoy peace and stability, based on the respect for the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and freedom from subversion or coercion by outside powers, and the desire to secure Southeast Asia as a region free from interference by outside powers.

8. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States further urged the international community to mobilize additional resources for increased quotas and speedier resettlement of Indochinese

"land" and "boat" cases in order to relieve the political, economic and social pressure being created by these refugees on ASEAN countries. Noting the generous international response at the UN Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in Southeast Asia, held in Geneva in July 1979, and the United Nations Pledging Conference for Emergency Relief of the people of Kampuchea in November 1979, the Foreign Ministers of the European Community reaffirmed the intention of the European Community and of its Member States - which have contributed to the international efforts to solve the problem - to pursue further their action towards this goal and appealed to other States and organisations to continue their efforts in that direction. They expressed their appreciation that the ASEAN countries and other territories of first refuge in the region have admitted refugees/displaced persons from the Indochinese Peninsula on humanitarian grounds. They noted that the ASEAN countries deemed the extension of first refuge depends on commitment of resettlement in third countries and the avoidance of residual problems in the area. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States welcomed the cooperation of the European Community and of its Member States in the solution of such a grave and tragic problem. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community noted that at the UN Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in Southeast Asia, held in Geneva in July 1979, the Government of the

Socialist Republic of Vietnam made pledges relating to the departure of refugees. They expressed the hope that Vietnam will adhere to these pledges. The Foreign Ministers of both sides agreed that a durable solution must be urgently found to resolve this refugee problem of both "land" and "boat" cases.

9. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community stressed the urgent need to ensure that the international efforts being made to bring humanitarian assistance to the stricken people of Kampuchea are successful. In this context, the Foreign Ministers appealed once again to all parties in that country to do everything in their power to ensure that the relief supplies urgently needed do in fact rapidly reach those suffering hardship, without discrimination of any kind. They urged them, in this connection, to give full support to the humanitarian work being carried out in this area by the United Nations and by other international, national and private relief organisations.

10. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community viewed with great concern the situation of the refugees along the Thai-Kampuchean border. They appealed to the parties in conflict in Kampuchea to refrain from any action which might endanger the refugees.

11. The Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community reaffirmed their support for the vigorous endeavours of the ASEAN Member States and of ASEAN as a whole towards greater self-reliance through their internal efforts and through their increased cooperation with other countries. They recognised that ASEAN has achieved increased political cohesion in addition to its goal of economic and social development and cultural cooperation. Accordingly, they reiterated their belief that the unity of ASEAN, especially in the present difficult circumstances, is and continues to be an important element in the maintenance of peace and stability in the South-east Asian region. They expressed their keen appreciation of the efforts of the ASEAN Member States to establish a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia, as a positive contribution to regional peace and stability.

12. The Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN Member States appreciated the role played by Europe of the Nine as a factor of economic and political stability and as an element of balance in international relations. They especially noted the intensification of the Community's constructive relations with the Third World in general and with the ASEAN countries in particular. They expressed their appreciation of the Community's positive contributions to the solution of critical problems between developed and developing

countries. They also expressed their keen appreciation of the unfailing efforts which the Nine have made to promote detente which by its very nature should be global and indivisible, and stability in international relations.
