

July 16, 1971

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC COUNCIL

Reference: This Joint Communique is also published in X DFA TS No. 1, p. 60.

1. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Council, comprising Australia, the Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic of Vietnam was convened in Manila, Philippines, from July 14 to 16, 1971. Representatives from the Khmer Republic and the Kingdom of Laos participated as observers at all sessions of the Meeting. The presence of the Indonesian representative at the opening and closing sessions as a special guest of the host Government was warmly welcomed by all the Ministers.
2. His Excellency Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines, welcomed the visiting delegates and all participants in the Meeting and expressed his wishes for the success of the Conference. President Marcos described ASPAC as a platform for mutual counsel and a forum for peace through which it would be possible to reconcile the diverse interests and conflicting wills of nations in Asia and the Pacific. He suggested an expanded role for ASPAC in shaping the peace and stability in the region. Affirming that one of its basic principles is adherence to the right of peoples to self-determination, he proposed an attitude of realistic circumspection in order to achieve stability and establish the essential conditions for the social and economic development of the region.
3. The Ministers deliberated on a wide range of vital issues and outstanding problems affecting intra-regional relations. They undertook a comprehensive review of the events and various developments in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres within the region and the underlying questions of peace and regional security.
4. In their frank and constructive exchange of views and statement of national purposes, the Ministers explained their respective positions on current problems and their attitudes on the policies of major Powers in the world as these affected the region. While recognizing the diversity of their cultural backgrounds and national interests, they reaffirmed their common need for greater cooperation and unity. They reiterated on particular the need to reduce international tensions and to work closely with one another as well as with other countries for this purpose. They reaffirmed the basic responsibility of Asian and Pacific countries to solve the problems of the region. They also reaffirmed their profound conviction that the less powerful nations of the area are entitled to the full recognition, scrupulous observance, and strict respect, by more powerful States, of their desire to live in peace, independence and harmony.
5. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Republic of Vietnam to continue the normal processes of its democratic system, as evidenced by its

scheduled elections in the midst of trying circumstances. They expressed their concern over the situation existing in the Khmer Republic and the Kingdom of Laos. They reaffirmed their sympathy for the efforts of the Khmer Republic, the Kingdom of Laos and the Republic of Vietnam to preserve their freedom, independence and territorial integrity. They also expressed the hope that the efforts for a just and lasting peace in Vietnam, as well as in the whole of Indo-China, would result in a ceasefire, under international supervision, and put an end to the war.

6. Expressing concern over the continuing tension prevailing in the Korean Peninsula caused by provocative and aggressive acts against the Republic of Korea, the Ministers welcomed the statement made by the President of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Korean independence calling up North Korea to renounce the use of force and to undertake constructive efforts toward the easing of tension in the Peninsula. They warmly commended the continuous economic progress achieved by the Republic of Korea under trying conditions while making efforts to safeguard its national security.

7. Reviewing the recent developments on the Chinese mainland, a number of Ministers including the Foreign Minister of the Republic of China expressed their respective views. The Ministers agreed that these developments should be studied closely.

8. The Ministers took note of the proposal of the Malaysian Government made during the past year for the neutralization of Southeast Asia under joint guarantee by the major Powers as a means of insuring the independence, peace and stability of the countries in that region. 9. The Ministers agreed that an important factor in building for peace in the Asian and Pacific region on a long-range basis is a balanced economic prosperity and viability. They pledged to work for further cooperation and collaboration among the developed and developing member-countries to attain this goal.

10. The Ministers welcomed in principle the idea of an exchange of youth among the member-countries in order to promote mutual understanding and the spirit of regional cooperation and agreed to refer the matter to the Standing Committee.

11. The Ministers took note of the suggestion made by the Philippine Government concerning the establishment of a Food Processing Centre to be located in the Philippines. It was agreed, to refer the proposal to the Standing Committee.

12. Welcoming the generalized scheme of non-reciprocal, non- discriminatory preferences for developing countries soon to be inaugurated, the Ministers expressed the hope that the third UNCTAD to be convened in Santiago, Chile, early in 1972, would open a fresh avenue for economic development and trade expansion for the benefit of developing countries.

13. The Ministers noted the report of the Standing Committee and expressed their gratification at the progress of the organization as recorded in the report, and their appreciation of the work of the Chairman and the members of the Committee.

14. Recognizing the continuing need to intensify cooperation among ASPAC member-countries, the Ministers agreed that ASPAC served as an important forum for frank and constructive consultation. They reaffirmed the organization's outward-