

March 16, 1979

**Notes on a Meeting held in the Secretary-General's
Office on Friday, 16 March 1979, at 10.30 pm**

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Summary:

Ambassador Chen Chu and Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim discuss the situation in Indochina.

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File: China
ref Top
SEA:1

CONFIDENTIAL

**Notes on a meeting held in the Secretary-General's office
on Friday, 16 March 1979, at 10.30 am**

Present: The Secretary-General

**H.E. Mr. Chen Chu, Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations**

**Mr. Chou Nan, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations**

**Mr. Kuo Chia-ting, First Secretary, Permanent
Mission of the People's Republic of China to
the United Nations**

Mr. Rafeuddin Ahmed

The Secretary-General referred to the just-concluded debate in the Security Council on the situation in Indochina and expressed the view that it was wise on the part of China to vote in favour of the resolution. Now he was preparing his travel programme for Asia, in the light of the debate on this question, in which the great majority of speakers had welcomed his offer of good offices. He intended to visit Viet Nam and the ASEAN countries in connexion with his trip to Manila to open UNCTAD V. In that context, he also wished to visit China and asked the Ambassador to convey this to his Government. Moreover, he was planning to visit North and South Korea.

The Ambassador stated that, as the Secretary-General was aware, China had withdrawn its troops from Viet Nam and had proposed to have bilateral talks with that country; whether these negotiations would begin depended on Viet Nam's sincerity. At present, the crucial issue, therefore, was to force Viet Nam to withdraw from Kampuchea. He recalled that when he had met the Secretary-General last time he had asked if the Secretary-General was ready to exert his influence to force Viet Nam to withdraw from Kampuchea. Now that the draft resolution which welcomed the Secretary-General's offer of good offices had been rejected, due to the Soviet veto, would the Secretary-General not lack a mandate to undertake such a mission? The Secretary-General replied that, on the contrary, he felt that his mission at this time could even fill a gap and it could offer a chance to discuss this problem with the Government of Viet Nam with a view to securing their withdrawal from Kampuchea. As Secretary-General, it was within his prerogatives to take such an initiative. He would

plan to start his trip by visiting Singapore, from where he would take a special plane for Hanoi and, after a stay of about two days, proceed to Peking to inform the Chinese Government of the results of his peace efforts. After Peking, he would go to Pyongyang and Seoul, from where he would proceed to Manila. After that, he would visit the other ASEAN countries. The Ambassador thanked the Secretary-General for informing him in detail about the proposed travel programme. The Secretary-General was an old friend of China's and he would promptly report to his Government the Secretary-General's wish to visit China.

Mr. Chou Nan enquired about the purpose of the Secretary-General's proposed visits to North and South Korea. The Secretary-General replied that he had been repeatedly invited by both countries and, in view of the recent resumption of talks between them, he wished to see how he could be helpful in furthering the process of negotiation.

The Ambassador asked about the approximate timing of the Secretary-General's arrival in Peking, to which the Secretary-General replied that it would be some time in the last week in April.