S.E.A.T.O. COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

The Council of the South-East Asia Treaty Organisation held its tenth meeting in London from May 3rd to 5th, under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Michael Stewart, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom. The inaugural address was delivered by the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, M.P., Prime Minister of Her Majesty's Government.

All member governments were represented at the Council Meeting. The Government of France was represented by an observer.

General Observations

In its discussions of the international situation, the Council recognised that the problems in the Treaty area are closely inter-related with those in other parts of the world. It expressed satisfaction that the alliance, with member nations drawn from several geographical regions, provides valuable opportunities for exchanges of views on matters of both regional and world-wide importance.

The Council noted that the exercise of a policy of restraint by the S.E.A.T.O. powers with the purpose of seeking the peaceful settlement of international disputes, together with the maintenance of their capability and readiness to take prompt defensive action if called upon, continues to serve as a stabilising factor in South-East Asia. It affirmed its belief that the rule of law should prevail and that international agreements should be honoured and steps taken to make them operative.

Noting that member nations of the alliance are pursuing policies which have promoted the well-being of their peoples, the Council agreed that greater economic co-operation among the member nations would be mutually beneficial. It undertook to seek means by which this could be achieved.

Republic of Vietnam

The Council considered at length the dangerous situation caused by the aggression against the Republic of Vietnam - an aggression organised, directed, supplied and supported by
the communist regime in North Vietnam in contravention of the
basic obligations of international law and in flagrant violation
with grave concern the increasing infiltration of arms and combat
personnel from North Vietnam into South Vietnam and the evidence
that this infiltration includes members of the regular armed
forces of North Vietnam.

The Council heard a report from a representative of
the Government of the Republic of Vietnam who attended the
closed sessions as an observer. The Council expressed the deep
sympathy and strong friendship of the member governments and
It voiced admiration for the determined resistance of the

The Council noted that the communists themselves have
proclaimed their assault on the Republic of Vietnam to be a
critical test of the tactic of infiltrating arms and trained
men across national frontiers. It agreed that history shows
that the tolerance of aggression increases the danger to free
societies everywhere.

The Council reaffirmed its conclusion at Manila a
year ago that the defeat of this communist campaign is essential
not only to the security of the Republic of Vietnam but to that
of South-East Asia, and would provide convincing proof that
communist expansion by such tactics will not be permitted.
Member governments recognised that the state of affairs in
Vietnam, as described above, constitutes a flagrant challenge to
the essential purpose for which they had associated together
under the Treaty: to resist aggression.

The Council recalled that its members also agreed at
Manila that they should remain prepared, if necessary, to take
further concrete steps within their respective capabilities in
fulfilment of their obligations under the Treaty. Pursuant
thereto, substantial assistance and reinforcement have been
given during the past year by certain member governments in
order to assist South Vietnam in resisting aggression from the
North. The member governments agreed to continue and,
consistent with their commitments elsewhere, to increase their
assistance to South Vietnam.

At the same time it was agreed that every effort should
be made to promote a satisfactory and lasting settlement of the
conflict that would ensure the right of the South Vietnamese
people to pursue their future in peace and complete freedom
from external interference.
The Council welcomed and expressed warm support for the policy of the United States Government as outlined by President Johnson on 7th April 1965, when he affirmed the determination of the United States to provide assistance to South Vietnam to defend its independence, stated the readiness of the United States for unconditional discussion with the Governments concerned in the search for a peaceful settlement, and offered the prospect of enriching the hopes and existence of more than 100 million people by a programme of economic and social assistance in South-East Asia.

The Council stated that peace could be restored to South Vietnam if the communist aggressors would honour the agreements of 1954 and 1962. It declared it to be self-evident that, if the aggression were ended, the Governments and peoples of both South and North Vietnam could live in peace and devote their energies to economic and social progress.

The Council agreed that, until the communist aggression is brought to an end, resolute defensive action must be continued.

While appreciating the position stated in paragraphs 6 to 14, the Pakistan Delegation expressed to the Council their special concern over the consequences of the continuance of armed conflict in Vietnam and voiced the hope that determined efforts would also be made to restore peace in that area through negotiations on the basis of the existing Geneva Agreements.

LAOS

The Council expressed concern that the Geneva Agreement of 1962 continues to be violated by the presence of North Vietnamese military forces and supplies in Laos, by the activities of the Pathet Lao, and by North Vietnamese use of the territory of Laos to send men and material to the Viet Cong in South Vietnam. It regretted that the International Control Commission is unable to act effectively to investigate violations in the communist held sections of the Kingdom where they occur. The Council expressed its support for the 1962 Geneva Agreement and for the efforts of the Government of National Union under the Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma, to preserve the sovereignty, independence, unity, territorial integrity and neutrality of Laos.
South Vietnam - Australian Aid - Australian Battalion 1965
THAILAND

The Council noted with concern evidence of increasing communist subversion from outside the country against Thailand, notably in the North Eastern part of the country. It noted the announcement by a clandestine radio of the establishment of a "Thai Independence Movement" which urges the overthrow of the Government of Thailand and endorsement of the "Movement" by Radio Peiping and Radio Hanoi.

The Council also noted the statement of the Communist Chinese Foreign Minister that Thailand would be the next target and that there might be a guerrilla war going in Thailand before the year is out. The Council members expressed their determination to do whatever is necessary to assist their ally to meet this threat.

MALAYSIA

The Council also expressed grave concern at the situation arising from Indonesia's confrontation of Malaysia as constituting a serious threat to peace in the area of South-East Asia. Certain member Governments noted that they had provided both military forces and other aid to assist in the defense of Malaysia and it was recognised that the strength and determination of this support had contributed materially to the stability of the area. The Council expressed the hope that an honourable and secure settlement would be arrived at on a basis acceptable to the Asian nations concerned.

The Pakistan Delegation expressed its concern at the continuance of the Indonesian-Malaysian dispute and stressed the view that this dispute could be resolved by peaceful means, that efforts should be pursued towards that end and that nothing should be done further to aggravate the existing conflict.

Counter-Subversion

The Council agreed that communist subversion continues to be a serious threat to the Asian member nations, although effective counter-measures are being taken. They agreed to continue to contribute material and other aid at the request of those countries.

Economic, Medical and Cultural Co-operation

The Council reviewed the progress of S.E.A.T.O. projects in the fields of economic development, medical research and cultural interchange. These projects
include, among others, the S.E.A.T.O. Graduate School of Engineering, the skilled Labour Projects, the Regional Community Development Technical Assistance Centre, the Thai-S.E.A.T.O. Vehicle Rebuild Workshop, the Research Fellowships, Under-Graduate and Graduate Scholarships and Professorships, and the S.E.A.T.O. General Medical Research Laboratory, the S.E.A.T.O. Cholera Research Laboratory, and the S.E.A.T.O. Clinical Research Centre. The Council agreed that emphasis should be placed on such projects in the years ahead.

Military Planning and Exercises

The Council approved the report of the Military Advisers and expressed satisfaction at the way in which the Military Planning Office continued to function.

The Council reaffirmed its belief that the capability and readiness of defence forces serves as a deterrent to aggression and thus contributes to peace. It stated that S.E.A.T.O.'s Military Defence Exercises have provided valuable experience to the armed forces of the member nations, an important asset to the alliance should it be called upon to act to meet the common danger.

Staff Changes

The Council announced that Lieutenant-General Jesus M. Vargas of the Philippines has been appointed by the Council to serve as Secretary-General as of July 1st, for a term of three years.

The Council expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General, Mr. Konthi Suphamongkhon, whose tour of duty is expiring. The Council placed on record its recognition of his untiring efforts in improving and strengthening the organisation.

Secretariat-General

The Council expressed its warm appreciation to the Staff of the Organisation for their valuable services.

Next Meeting

The Council accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of Australia to hold its next meeting in Canberra.

Expression of Gratitude

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FRANCE

The French Observer indicated that as he had not participated in preparing this Communiqué the French Government does not consider itself to be committed by it.

Delegations

The leaders of the delegations of participating countries were:

- **Australia**
  - Mr. Paul Hasluck, Minister for External Affairs

- **France**
  - Mr. Achille Clarac, Ambassador to Thailand (Observer)

- **New Zealand**
  - Mr. Dean Eyre, Minister for Defence

- **Pakistan**
  - Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Foreign Minister

- **Philippines**
  - Mr. Librado D. Cayco, Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs

- **Thailand**
  - Mr. Thanat Khoman, Foreign Minister

- **United Kingdom**
  - Mr. Michael Stewart, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

- **United States**
  - Mr. George F. Ball, Under Secretary of State