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Notes on a meeting held in the Secretary-General's office on
Friday, 15 May 1981, at 12.10 pm

Present: The Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Ling Qing, Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Mr. Chu Kuei-yu, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

Mr. Rafeuddin Ahmed

Ambassador Ling Qing expressed his Government's pleasure over the forthcoming visit by the Secretary-General to China. He said that they were working on a programme and it would seem possible to arrange a visit to Xian and a trip down the Yangtse gorge. The Secretary-General again thanked the Ambassador for his Government's kind invitation and said that he was very much looking forward to meeting with the Chinese leaders. He hoped there would be an opportunity for an exchange of views with Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, Deputy Prime Minister Deng Hsiao-ping and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Huang Hua. The Ambassador promised to convey the Secretary-General's wishes to his Government.

Ambassador Ling referred to the question of convening a conference on Kampuchea. He said his Government endorsed the initiative of the ASEAN countries. It hoped that the Secretary-General would take measures to convene the conference in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly and not be deterred by the negative attitudes of some countries. A failure to do so would damage the prestige of the United Nations. The Secretary-General said he felt it was his duty to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly.

Mr. Essaafi has been in contact with the ASEAN countries on his behalf and he had taken careful note of the statement made by General Romulo following the recent meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN countries in Djakarta. In the past few weeks, he has also had an opportunity to meet with Foreign Minister Mochtar of Indonesia and Foreign Minister Siddhi of Thailand. He had conveyed to the ASEAN representatives in New York that he accepted the recommendation of their Governments to hold the conference in New York in July and had even proposed the firm date of the thirteenth.

As regards participation, the Secretary-General told Ambassador Ling that he intended to invite only governments and only those recognized by the General Assembly. The Ambassador supported the Secretary-General's intention.

During his recent visit to Moscow, the Secretary-General's interlocutors had told him that they were opposed to the holding of such a conference. He had made it clear that, as Secretary-General, it was his duty to convene it.

The Ambassador then mentioned that his Government was against the idea of UNICEF setting up a permanent office in Pnom Penh in support of activities which would go beyond the relief provided during the emergency phase. His Government had supported the emergency programme but felt that the United Nations and its programmes and agencies should not engage in development and rehabilitation activities. The Secretary-General took note of the Ambassador's views and pointed out that the question of setting up an office by UNICEF in Pnom Penh would probably be discussed in that agency's Executive Board. The Chinese delegation there should make its views known.