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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Asia Oceania Working Group

dated : 25 November 1999

Subject: Meeting of the Asia/Oceania Working Group, Brussels, 25 November 1999. Report

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

1. INDIA

On the basis of delegations' comments, the Troika will raise various aspects of the Kashmir issue during the Senior Officials and Ministerial talks with India on 2 and 3 December 1999.

2. PAKISTAN

The Group invited HoMs in Islamabad to continue the monitoring of the political situation in the country, to report regularly - once in two months - on the evolution and to make appropriate recommendations for EU action. In this context, HoMs are also invited to look into the possibility of enhancing co-operation with NGOs in the fields of protection of human rights and the strengthening of civil society and democracy.

3. EAST TIMOR

EU HOMs in Jakarta are invited to reiterate the Union's concerns to the Indonesian Government regarding the slow rate of refugee return to East Timor in the light of the results of the forthcoming visit to both West and East Timor by Commissioner Nielson.

Member States are reminded of the request to provide information, by coreu, on their existing and planned contributions to East Timor. They are encouraged to provide such information by the end of the month in view of the forthcoming donor conference in Tokyo.

4. BURMA/MYANMAR

EU HOMs are invited to offer any further reflections on the objectives for a possible second Troika Mission to Rangoon/Yangon to continue the Union's efforts to establish a meaningful political dialogue, and to do so in the light of their forthcoming meetings with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and a senior representative of the Burmese/Myanmar regime. The Group will discuss the possibility of sending such a Troika Mission at its meeting on 10 January 2000.

5. ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)

Member States and the Commission are invited to offer further comments on the Presidency's paper on EU policy towards the ARF (coreu HEL/1360/99) by coreu.

6 LAOS

EU HOMs in Vientiane are invited to report on latest developments in Laos, in particular the arrest of a number of members of the opposition, and to examine the scope for EU action.

7. MACAU

- Commission communication on Macau

Partners are invited to communicate to the Presidency any observations on the draft Council conclusions on the above Communication circulated by the Presidency (Coreu HEL 1368/99) by 12h00 on 30 November. These conclusions would then be submitted via the Political Committee on 6 December and via Coreper II (item "I") on 8 December with a view to approval as a "A" item by Council on 10 December.

II. OTHER POINTS

EU-US EXPERT LEVEL TALKS ON ASIA

The Presidency drew attention to the report of the Troika's talks with the USA in Washington DC on 18 November 1999 (coreu SEC/1843/99) and, in particular, to the key points for follow-up: the US suggestion that the EU increase its funding for KEDO, the US plea that it and the EU stay in step over moves to lift the embargo on the sale of arms to and suspension of military contacts with Indonesia, and the US wish to stay in touch on any attempt to offer assistance to electoral reform in Pakistan. The Group agreed that the incoming Presidency should seek to include, as suggested by the US, the issue of non-proliferation at its political dialogue meetings with China.

INDONESIA

The Group took note of the deletion of Indonesia from the agenda of the Council of 6 December. The Group also agreed upon the text of a declaration on Indonesia (and, in particular, the situation in Aceh) which was made by the Presidency on behalf of the EU later on 25 November.

EAST TIMOR

The Commission briefed the Group on the World Bank led mission to assess East Timor's reconstruction needs which had visited the territory earlier this month. It also drew attention to the attempts of the European Parliament to establish a separate budget line for East Timor.

EU-ASEAN RELATIONS

The Group came close to but did not reach consensus on adding to the draft agenda of the proposed EU-ASEAN SOM the item "possible EU-ASEAN FMM in Asia in 2000". It agreed to revert to the issue at its meeting on 10 January. It was also agreed that an FMM, should it be held, should address the situation in Burma/Myanmar.

The Group noted the intention of the Council Secretariat to prepare an "I item" note proposing to Coreper that the modalities agreed for the participation of non-parties to the EC-ASEAN Agreement in the sub-committees of the JCC be extended for another year when they expire on 31 December 1999.

ARF

Finland noted that it would welcome offers from partners of participation in or other input to the seminar on "Approachs to Confidence Building" which it hoped to organise as an ARF activity in Helsinki in the early autumn of 2000. The Group took note of the proposed dates for the next ARF ISG, due to be held in Tokyo from 4-6 April. The Commission suggested the organisation of an EU "brain-storming" on the ARF.

DPRK

- EU-relations with DPRK

The Group was briefed by Italy on its intention to establish diplomatic relations with the DPRK. Some partners expressed their views on this in the context of EU-DPRK relations in general

- Debriefing of the political dialogue meeting of 24 November 1999

The Group took note of oral reports by the Presidency, Portugal and the Commission on the above meeting. It had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the results of the meeting and on follow up. It is to continue this discussion at its next meeting (16 December).

The Secretariat will issue a report on the dialogue meeting by Coreu shortly.

ASEM

- Follow-up to the ASEM SOM of 2/3 November 1999 in Rovaniemi

The Group reviewed the results of the above meeting. Portugal indicated that the next SOM will take place in Lisbon on 13/14 April next. The next meeting of Coordinators will be held on 18 February next.

The Commission indicated that, following discussions in the Group on 11 November, a letter had been sent to economic coordinators on follow-up to the TFAP and IPAP issues.

The UK, referring to the need to choose a new director of ASEF, suggested that this appointment be made by open competition. A number of partners agreed with this view. This item will be

discussed at a later meeting.

INDIA

The Group noted the Presidency's draft agenda for the Senior Officials and Ministerial Troika with India in Helsinki on 2 and 3 December 1999. After final consultations with India, the Presidency will circulate the definitive version by Coreu (HEL1409/99).

The Group welcomed the timely and relevant HoMs report on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (Coreu HEL 1308/99) and decided to resume its discussion on a comprehensive EU approach to the Kashmir problem and the India-Pakistan relations in the light of the outcome of the forthcoming Senior Officials and Ministerial Troikas with India at one of its next meetings.

INFORMATION

CHINA

- state of preparation for the EU-China summit

The Presidency indicated that the EU-China Summit is now scheduled for the 21 December in Beijing.

Following a request by some partners the question of the Falun Gong will be discussed by the Group on 16 December next.

JAPAN

The Presidency indicated that the next meeting of the EU-Japan Asia Experts has been postponed.
