

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Ottawa suspended its aid to Vietnam, in 1979, following the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia, and, in 1982, recognized the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK). Canada supports peace efforts such as those made by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and once again co-sponsored, in late 1988, a UN Resolution on the situation in Cambodia. The original Resolution of 1978 called for an end to hostilities, the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Kampuchea, and a settlement of the dispute by peaceful means. Canada has continued to support this resolution, which has undergone minor revisions, through 1988-1989. It has also continued to support the Coalition headed by Prince Sihanouk, of which the Khmer Rouge is a member. Philippe Kirsch, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada at the United Nations, told the General Assembly on 3 November 1988:

...For Canada, there has been no greater cause of concern within the South East Asian region than Vietnam's continued occupation of Cambodia.... There are hopeful signs of Vietnam's movement on Cambodia, as evidenced in their announcement of the withdrawal of their troops from Cambodia by 1990.... We welcome the Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM) which was held this July [1988] and attended by the main Cambodian parties as well as the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN countries, Vietnam and Laos.... The dialogue between Prince Nordom [sic] Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen over the past year is another manifestation of the search for a lasting and just solution to the Cambodian question and I wish to take this opportunity to express Canada's strong support for the efforts made by Prince Sihanouk.... Other interested parties outside the region also have indicated a willingness to assist and encourage the negotiating process.... We join them in seeking the comprehensive political solution.... The main elements of such a solution are clear. First and foremost is the withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces, which must be carried out in the context of that overall political solution. This must be accompanied by the cessation of all foreign interference.... We also strongly support the establishment of a Cambodian government of national reconciliation, drawn from the various Cambodian political groups. Finally, the international community must do everything possible to assure external support and to encourage and reinforce peace and stability in the region.... I cannot, however, leave the subject of Cambodia's future without expressing Canada's strong support for the call made in the draft resolution..., not to return to "the universally condemned policies and practices of a recent past".... We abhor the crimes and atrocities committed under the Pol Pot Regime [Khmer Rouge].... It is thus our collective responsibility to ensure that there is no return to these extreme violations of human rights witnessed in Cambodia.... [I]t is that same sense of responsibility which has led Canada to provide ongoing aid to Khmer refugees in Thailand. Our ASEAN friends continue to bear the brunt of the ongoing exodus.... To show our support, Canada has given tens of millions of dollars to assist refugees in these countries of first asylum, as well as further humanitarian