

wird, einigte man sich jedoch auf einen Namen der beide Aspekte abdeckt "The Third International Conference of the Daughters of the Buddha". "Daughters of the Buddha" ist die Übersetzung von "Sakyadhita", einer internationalen buddhistischen Frauenorganisation, die 1987 im Anschluß an die erste Konferenz gegründet wurde. Anders als bei der zweiten Konferenz sollen bei der dritten Konferenz schwerpunktmäßig zwei Themenkomplexe parallel zueinander behandelt werden. Zum einen sollen interessierte Nonnen und Akademikerinnen die Möglichkeit haben, sich miteinander intensiver über Fragen der Einrichtung bzw. Wiedereinrichtung des buddhistischen Nonnenordens und des Vinaya auszutauschen, zum anderen Neuinteresenten und Laienanhängerinnen, sich mehr allgemeinen Fragen der Praxis, der Rolle der Frau im Buddhismus, der Kindererziehung usw. zu widmen. Auch soll die nächste Konferenz bessere Übersetzungen bereitstellen. Dieses Mal wurde neben der Konferenzsprache Englisch nur eine Übersetzung in Thai angeboten. Teilnehmerinnen aus Indien, Bangladesh und Korea fiel es daher beispielsweise schwer, vollständig zu folgen.

Es mag zum Abschluß erwähnt sein, daß kürzlich eine deutsche Übersetzung eines ausführlichen Berichtes der Ersten Konferenz in Bodhgaya unter dem Titel "Töchter des Buddha" im Diederichs-Verlag erschienen ist (vgl. Rezension in diesem Heft). Es bleibt zu hoffen, daß auch die Vorträge der zweiten Konferenz publiziert werden.

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International Roundtable on "Prospects for Regional Security Cooperation in Southeast Asia in the 1990's"

Bangkok, 4. bis 6. November 1991

As a follow-up to an earlier conference held in Manila in June 1991 this International Roundtable was again jointly sponsored by the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Department of Foreign

Affairs. Spiritus rector of both events was Dr. Sarasin Viraphol, Royal Thai Ambassador to the Philippines.

In Bangkok a number of observers and journalists joined the more than 60 participants, including government officials, diplomats and scholars from Southeast Asia, East Asia, Australia, New Zealand, North America and Europe. Chairman of the Roundtable was Thailand's elder statesman Dr. Thanat Khoman.

It was primarily the superb Thai organization, inspired and directed by ambassadors Phan and Sarasin, that helped the participants to maintain and cultivate an atmosphere which had already prevailed during the seminar in Manila; again in Bangkok there was a relaxed mood most suitable for dissemination of information, exchange of ideas, and reflections on proposals. People spoke to the point but off the record and did so in their personal capacity.

The foreign ministers of Thailand and the Philippines both stressed the need for intensified cooperation. Arsa Sarasin emphasized economic efforts while Raul Manglapus focused on military aspects, hoping for an "Aseanization" of U.S. military installations in the region.

In his unassuming and highly impressive way, Anand Panyarachun, Prime Minister of Thailand, summed it up for the participants: Military might alone is no longer an adequate guarantee of national security. ... no nation can feel secure as long as its citizens are deprived of the freedom of political expression and of the opportunities for a better and more meaningful life.

To deal with the complex topic of the Roundtable, seven sessions were held: summary and conclusions of the Manila meeting, presentation of ASEAN-ISIS proposals (the Institutes for International Studies and Security in the individual member countries), presentation of the issues framework, political, military and socio-economic dimension of security cooperation as well as a concluding session which summarized the proceedings and highlighted the recommendations made during the Roundtable (here a marvellous job was done by the documentors). All this was no comprehensive subject. It was made easier, however, by the material provided; most notable here the *Issues Framework* drafted by Dr. Sarasin Viraphol. On just nine concise pages he admirably mapped out a full range of relevant issues and dimensions. He condensed them into 95 thought-provoking questions interwoven with rich analytical comments.

ASEAN finds itself in a rapidly changing environment. People say that the time has come for initiatives, that the dialogues must be

broadened. We are told that the Association is at a crossroads, that economic and political cooperation must complement each other, so that ASEAN can better develop its own viable and efficient organisational framework. ASEAN members regard their Association as a model of regional cooperation, but in saying this they realize that over the years most of the controversial issues have been shelved. A delicate consensus maintenance kept the Association together, avoiding e.g. decision by majority vote. A main driving force was the need to react to outside pressure.

Proposals made quite often contain lots of commonplaces and truisms. Wording is vague and terms used lack clear definitions. Some of them are not new at all but can already be found in the report of the ASEAN Task Force.

Initiatives recommended during the Roundtable also tended to be somewhat short-winded and soft-pedaled; an important criterion seems to be that they must be acceptable to as many as possible.

Of significance were the flexibility and undogmatic realism displayed for example by participants from the People's Republic of China and Vietnam, and the interpretation of motives and problems which were discussed freely by government officials from a good number of countries. Most valuable was the amount of information dispensed during the sessions, informal meetings and private talks. In this respect the Roundtable was a cornucopia.

Of course European institutions and approaches cannot serve as a model. But after a couple of years perhaps something might evolve that will serve as a kind of Southeast Asian Conference for Security and Cooperation. I do not intend to slip into the role of a fortune-teller but I am convinced that if and when something along that line comes into being, the two seminars, and in particular the Roundtable in Bangkok, will be regarded as a germcell.

Werner Pfennig