

Policy Statement of the Council of Ministers

**to the National Assembly
on Monday 18 February B.E. 2551 (2008)**

6. Foreign Policy and International Economic Policy

Respected Speaker of Parliament,

The Government shall conduct a foreign policy to serve the highest interests of the country and the people, by playing a proactive role in enhancing cooperation and expanding cordial relations with all countries, in political, security, economic, social and cultural aspects; upholding Thailand's existing international commitments

through various treaties and agreements to which it is party; and abiding by its obligations under international law, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while building immunity and developing all sectors of the Thai economy to benefit from international economic relations, and shall continue with the "Team Thailand" policy so that the conduct of foreign affairs will be efficient, effective and concerted, through the following measures:

6.1 Promote and develop relations with neighbouring countries by expanding cooperation at the levels of government, the private sector, the public and the media, to enhance mutual understanding and closeness, which would lead to increased economic cooperation in trade, investment, tourism promotion, and transport and communications and other areas, under such subregional frameworks as the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS); the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) economic cooperation framework; the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT); and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

6.2 Promote cooperation with countries in Asia, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), and enhance Thailand's role in strengthening ASEAN to realise the goal of creating an ASEAN Community, and raise the profile of ASEAN in international forums during Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN.

6.3 Play a constructive role in international organizations, in particular the United Nations and other regional organizations, in order to maintain peace and security, promote the democratic process, human rights and humanity, and cooperate in addressing all facets of transnational problems that affect human security.

6.4 Strengthen cooperation and strategic partnership with countries and groups of countries that play important roles in world affairs; establish free trade agreements, both multilaterally and bilaterally, for the highest aggregate benefit to the country; create mechanisms to help operators adapt to and benefit from such free trade agreements.

6.5 Conduct proactive diplomacy for the people, culture and education, including people-to-people exchanges with foreign countries, promoting technical cooperation with developing countries, and coordination of close cooperation to enhance understanding with other religious organizations.

6.6 Protect the interests of and look after Thais and Thai workers abroad, in particular Thais who work and reside in foreign countries; promote the role of Thai communities abroad in preserving Thai identity and Thainess.