

PREFACE

From the functional approach of international law, an appraisal is an assessment of decision functions according to policy preferences. It is primarily along this line that this paper directed.

Being essentially an assessment of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration by ASEAN nations and the announced desires of other South-East Asian nations outside ASEAN that this region be recognised and respected as a zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality, this paper may appear to be limited to policy considerations of what seem to be mere aspirations rather than anything legal in nature. Admittedly, the absence to date, of an accepted or even a proposed formal legal prescription to affect such a declaration in spite of the four-year lapse, contribute to such an impression.

But taking international law in the broadest sense and sympathetic to the arduous nature of law creating process in international law, this paper hopes to be justified as an exercise in legal analysis by devoting a part of it to an attempt to formulate a framework of a neutralisation treaty acceptable to the region.