

(TRANSLATION)

Vientiane, 15 March 1996

Your Excellency,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to convey to Your Excellency our desire and interest to become a member of ASEAN and accordingly to make this application for membership.

Having acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia signed in Bali on 24 February 1976, the Lao PDR has participated as an observer, made necessary preparations as well as stated her firm determination to become a member of the Association. In connection with this application, I have the honour to declare that the Lao PDR endorses the purposes and principles of the Association stated in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and will observe the obligations and conditions contained in the Declarations and Agreement establishing ASEAN. Upon being **admitted** to membership of ASEAN, Lao PDR will subscribe to the ASEAN Declaration signed in Bangkok on 8 August 1967 establishing ASEAN, to the Declaration of ASEAN concord signed in Bali on 24 February 1976 and to the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality Declaration signed in Kuala Lumpur on 27 November 1971, and will accede to the Agreement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Secretariat signed in Bali on 24 February 1976.

I should be grateful, therefore, if this letter of application could be submitted to governments of the member states of ASEAN for consideration.

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Your Sincerely,

(Signed)

Somsavat LENGSAVAD
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

His Excellency AH Alatas,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Indonesia
Concurrently
Chairman, ASEAN Standing Committee