

CHAPTER IV

NON-INSTITUTIONAL CO-OPERATION

This chapter presents one of the general types of co-operation mentioned elsewhere in this study. Institutional co-operation has at least two requisites. It functions through a more or less organized framework; in other words, there is an administrative machinery through which effective co-operation can be obtained. It is focused upon the interests of the area; for instance, Southeast Asia as in SEATO or in ASA. Co-operation obtained within the framework of a bilateral agreement is also institutional. All the rest which do not fall under the above mentioned category is presumed to be non-institutional.

Non-institutional co-operation between states may seem less significant and thus, it has been almost always by-passed. On the contrary, the present writer is of the opinion that this type of co-operation demonstrates a more genuine spirit of collaboration, especially behind the scenes. For this reason, although relatively smaller in volume contents, this chapter is being treated separately. Moreover, dealing with it exclusively adds to the presentation of this study in a more clear-cut manner.

A. POLITICAL CO-OPERATION
IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The common aspiration of the Thais and the Filipinos that all peoples of the world live out their lives in a state of lasting peace is manifested in their solid commitment to the principles and objectives of the United Nations, a world organization dedicated to a two-fold task: that of maintaining international peace and security, and the promotion of international collaboration in socio-economic and cultural undertakings. Before attaining independence from America, the Philippines was already actively participating in vital steps leading to the formation of the international organization. Thailand and Japan, on the other hand, were the only Asian members of the defunct League of Nations, a collective security arrangement after World War I.

The Philippines obtained original membership in the United Nations by right. It was one of the twenty-six nations signatories of the UN Declaration of January 1, 1942 and was a participant in the San Francisco Conference on International Organization in April, 1945. Officially, it became a member on September 21, 1945,⁹⁸ after having ratified the UN Charter and deposited its instrument of ratification with the United States.

Thailand, although a member of the post World War I organization, was neither a signatory to the UN Declaration nor a participant in San Francisco. While the Philippines acquired membership by right, Thailand had to apply for it and thereby had to fulfill the conditions set forth in the UN Charter for admission.

In the Security Council, the Thai application met its defeat. The application was vetoed by France on the ground that it declared war on the Allies during World War II. Apparently, it was done in retaliation against Thailand for having allegedly taken back some territories from Indo-China in 1941. The Soviet delegation also opposed Thailand's admission because the former did not have any official diplomatic relations with the latter. After a process of ironing out all differences and long-drawn negotiations where the United States figured in support of Thailand, the application was approved by the Security Council and endorsed to the General Assembly for final action. The Assembly voted in favor of the application and Thailand became officially a member on December 15, 1946⁹⁹ with the Assembly's approval.

⁹⁸Goodrich, L. M. and Hambro, Evard, Charter of the United Nations, Commentary and Documents (Boston: World Peace Foundations, 1946), pp. 300, 306.

⁹⁹UN Yearbook, 1940-1949 (Lake Success, New York: Department of Public Information, 1949), p. 419.

It should be noted that the Philippines voted in favor of the admission of Thailand.¹⁰⁰

Co-operation in Principal and Subsidiary Organs

Co-operation in the principal organs can be gleaned in the support of each other's candidates to significant positions. In 1949, the Thai delegation responded favorably to the request of the Philippines for support of the candidacy of Mr. C. P. Romulo.¹⁰¹ Romulo became the first Asian President of the Assembly. Likewise, in 1958 the Philippines supported the candidacy of Prince Wan Waithayakon for the same position.¹⁰²

There are other instances to show the close tie-up between the Thais and the Filipinos in the principal organs of the United Nations and the following requests for support in the election of respective candidates may be cited:¹⁰³

1. The Philippine government requested Thai support of the candidacy of Justice Pedro Tuazon for a vacant seat in the International Court of Justice. The Thai government delegated the discretion to comply with the request to its Head Delegate;

¹⁰⁰Ibid.

¹⁰¹Philippine Embassy File: Bangkok

¹⁰²Ibid.

¹⁰³Ibid.

2. Thailand requested Philippine support of its election to the Economic and Social Council during the eleventh regular session of the General Assembly. The Philippines granted the request;

3. The Thai delegation cast its vote in favor of the Philippines for one of the non-permanent seats in the Security Council during the same session of the General Assembly;

4. Thailand supported the re-election of the Philippines to the Economic and Social Council during the eighth session of the General Assembly.

There are also instances to show support given in the elections of respective candidates in specialized agencies as well as subsidiary bodies of the United Nations. In this connection, the following may be cited:¹⁰⁴

1. Philippine support of Thailand's candidacy to one of the vacant seats in the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) during the ninth FAO Conference held in Rome, Italy in November, 1957.

2. Thailand supported Philippine candidacy for membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization at the election held during the twelfth session of the General Assembly of ICAO;

¹⁰⁴Ibid.

3. Thailand supported the candidacy of Salvador P. Lopez to the membership of the Third Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the fourteenth regular session of the General Assembly;

4. Thailand voted in favor of the re-election of the Philippines in the International Labor Organization (ILO) in June, 1960;

5. Thailand openly cast its vote in favor of the re-election of the Philippines to the Civil Aviation Organization in June, 1960;

6. The Philippines supported Thailand's membership to the executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) vice Afganistan which term expired during the thirteenth WHO Assembly in Geneva in 1960;

7. Thailand supported the candidacy of Salvador P. Lopez to the UNESCO Executive Board vice Mrs. Geronima Pecson during the twelfth session of the UNESCO General Conference. In turn, the Philippines voted for Mr. Abhai Chandavimol as member of the UNESCO Board, also;

8. The Royal Thai Government pledged to support Philippine nomination and election to the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva in June, 1963;

9. Thailand requested for support for election in the Council of the FAO in Rome in November, 1963. The Philippines supported the election;

10. Thailand supported the candidacy of Ambassador Jose D. Ingles as Vice-Chairman of the Political Committee of the General Assembly in June, 1963.

The above mentioned instances may be those of "horsetrading maneuvers" to insure the election of each other's candidates. However, these are considered to be significant because they demonstrate the link between two countries aspiring for and dedicated to common goals--the preservation of lasting peace and that of the identity of Asia as a solid ground for the institution of individual freedom.

Co-operation During the Korean Crisis

The Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950. Thailand and the Philippines along with Nationalist China were the only Asian countries which volunteered military and relief assistance. The following simple table depicts how much concrete contributions the Philippines and Thailand made for the Korean cause: