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NATTANIPA BURUSAPAT : THE UNITED NATIONS' ROLE IN THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA.

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The Thesis aims to examine the roles of the United Nations in restoring peace and establishing a government in Cambodia between 1988 and September 1993, when the UN successfully completed its peace-keeping mission. The study employs an analytical framework which focusses on three concepts, namely, the principle behind peace-keeping operations, the international environment, and the principle of self-determination.

The findings of the research show that the UN's success was due to rapprochement among great powers, i.e. the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, and the United Kingdom, as well as other interested countries including ASEAN, Australia and Japan. In particular, the end of the Cold War led to increased cooperation among these countries in the search for a resolution of the Cambodian problem. Another important development was that international opinion favoured the UN's commitment to satisfy Cambodian aspirations for self-determination. As a result, the international community supported the UN's subsequent efforts in Cambodia.

Nevertheless, United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) encountered problems and obstacles in fulfilling its mission in Cambodia. These problems were compounded by the fact this was first time that the UN assumed control of five key ministries of a sovereign state in order to maintain law and order and to create a neutral political atmosphere prior to the holding of general elections. In spite of these problems, UNTAC succeeded in holding these elections and establishing a government in Cambodia. This success was made possible by the efforts of the UN and other major countries in nurturing the peace process within the framework of the 1991 Paris Accords which was signed by eighteen countries.